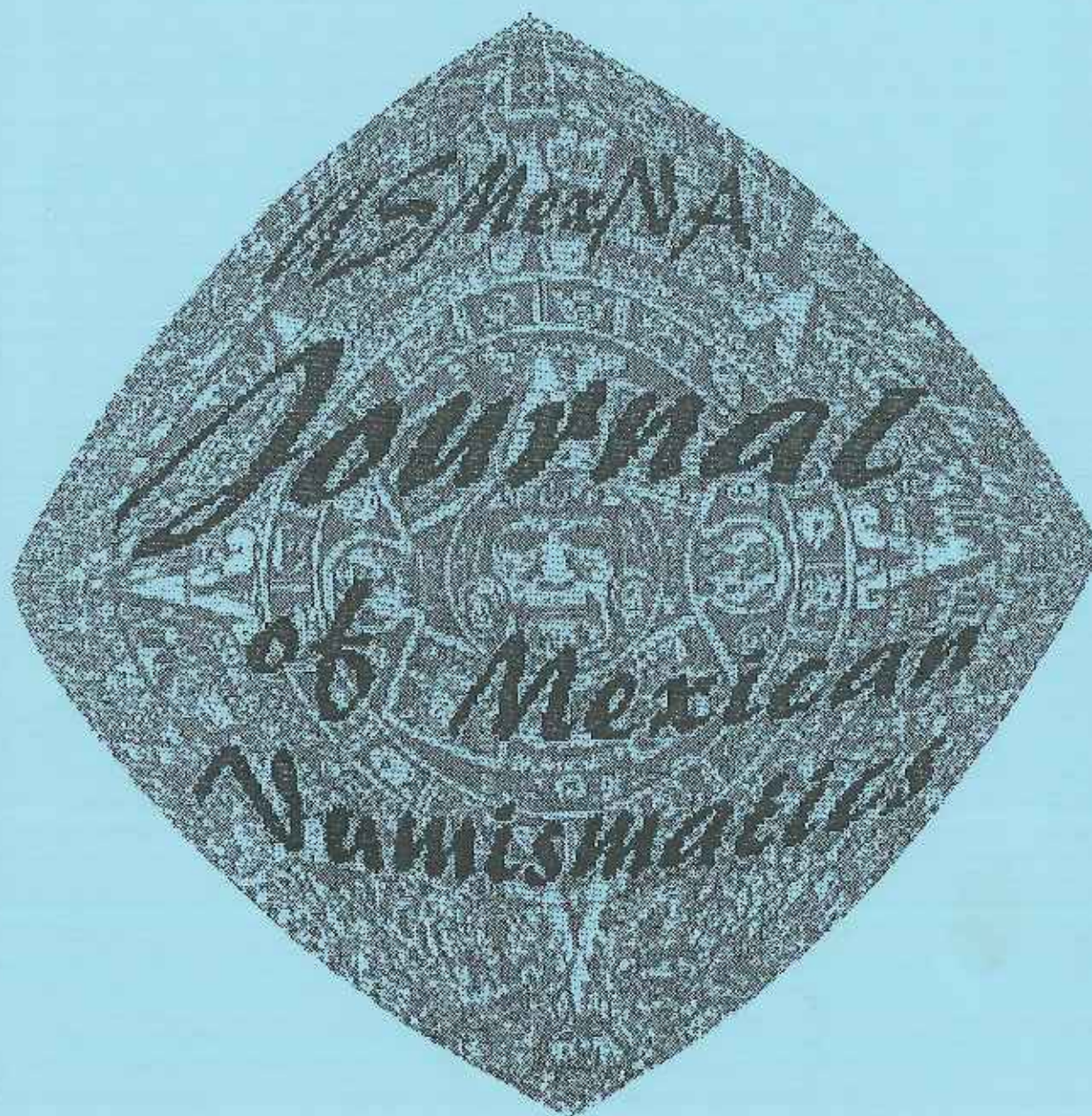


VOL. II

DECEMBER 1998

NO. IV



U.S. MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
Don Bailey, Editor, P. O. Box 98, Homer, MI 49245-0098

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP GROWS

The Association as of December 9th has reached a total membership of 250, with 11 new requests for membership sent out within the past week. The response has been very good. And thanks to so many that have helped. Rick Ponterio, Richard Long, Harry Hanks who have put mentions in their advertising, and or catalogs have been a boost. Other dealers have put applications, or mentioned the association on their price lists, and this all has been a big help, along with the general members who promote the association, through contacts within their collecting circle, and at the various coin shows. At almost every coin show at which we have been setup around the country, and in Mexico we are having people come to the table and introduce themselves as members. If you have a friend who is interested in Mexican numismatics who is not a member please sign them up.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST FOR 1999

Starting with January 1st sponsors of new members will be logged in, and a record maintained of the current members who have signed up the most new members within 1999. There will be awards made after the end of the year.

Joc Flores, the membership chairman may be contacted for membership application blanks, and just sign your name and membership number in the lower right hand corner. Your Executive Director and other board members will not be eligible for this membership drive.

Three awards will be presented to the current member who sign up the most members. Joc Flores may be reached at P. O. Box 4484, Stockton, CA 95204, or applications can be obtained from the Association's office.

ARQ. ANABELLE FERNANDEZ CASTRO APPOINTED AS
USMexNA's YOUTH CORDINATOR FOR MEXICO

Arq. Anabelle Fernandez Castro has agreed to serve as the Association's coordinator for Mexico. Anyone who desires to assist Anabelle there can contact her at: Jose Lopez Portillo #12, Colonia Los Pinos, (Antes Bugambillas), C.P. 45235 Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico.

The Chairman of the Association's Youth Program is Sal Falcone, who can be reached at 1230 Lincoln Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

If you know of a junior who might be interested in becoming a member of our Association please check with Sal and let us bring the badly needed youth into the Mexican numismatic field.

GHCC HOUSTON MONEY SHOW – INTERNATIONAL IS FAST APPROACHING.

The first efforts of this Association to co-host an International Numismatic Convention is coming to reality next month. The dates are January 22 – 24, and is being held at the Houston Astro Hall next to the Astro Dome. The 30 table foreign section is getting sold out very fast, with only a few tables left. We will be holding a membership meeting Saturday afternoon at 4:00 P.M. with Clyde Hubbard speaking on the Municipal Monies of Mexico.

There will be a Special "Best Mexican" award presented to the exhibitor who has the highest score in the regular judging. Anyone desiring to exhibit can contact the Greater Houston Coin Club at P. O. Box 2963, Houston, Texas 77252-2963. Let's have a real good turn out for the meeting, and for the convention.

USMexNA SCHEDULES MEMBERSHIP MEETING, AT THE FEB 24 – 27 INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONVENTION IN Mexico City.

The Association, with the support of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, has scheduled a membership meeting at 6:00 P.M. Friday, February 26. The speaker has not been named as of this publication. The meeting will be in the Hotel Del Prado, where the convention is being held.

USMexNA SCHEDULES MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT THE MARCH 12 – 14 ANA NATIONAL MONEY SHOW IN SACRAMENTO, CA.

The Association, as a member of the American Numismatic Association will conduct a membership meeting during the ANA Convention in Sacramento at the Sacramento Convention Center. The meeting is tentatively set for Saturday afternoon. Members please check the Convention program, or stop by my table \$231 for additional information.

These above meetings are attempts to bring the Association to the many members across the United States, and within Mexico. We are also planning on a membership meeting during the ANA's World's Fair of Money, August 11 – 15, 1999 at the Rosemont Convention Center, Chicago.

If anyone would like to assist in any of these meetings, it would be deeply appreciated.

THE REVOLUTIONARY CORNER

By Joe Flores C-2

These 10 Centavos coins were struck in the state of Chihuahua for the Ejercito del Norte (Army of the North), the state where the coins were struck for circulation by the order of one of the main principles of the revolution of 1910 – 1920 born as Doroteo Arango, or better known as *PANCHITO VILJA*.

These coins are known to have one obverse die, call it "A", and four reverse dies as "# 1, 2, 3, & 4", all with plain edge struck on copper and brass planchets, brass being scarcer than the copper counterpart using Mr. Verne Walrafen's chart. I have created a very simple chart to distinguish the four known reverse dies.

I had the opportunity to purchase a 10 centavo struck on an aluminum planchet as per the photo listed as #1. This coin must be a trial strike or pattern not listed by anyone other than it being the same die on Mr. Verne Walrafen's charts as A-1.

Coin Owner
Joe Flores
P. O. Box 4484
Stockton, CA 95204



COB COINAGE OF PHILIP III

Philip III

Philip III, King of Spain and the Indies, was the son of Philip II and his fourth wife, Ana, daughter of Maximilian II, rector of Bavaria. Like his great grandmother Johanna, he ruled in name only, but for a different reason. She was deranged therefore, her son served as co-regent. Philip III had a sound mind and was known for his extreme piety, but he was more concerned with affairs of court than matters of state. His monarchical activity, or lack thereof, continued the decline of Spain's power and influence that had begun during his father's reign which was most remembered for the defeat of the great Spanish Armada by England's naval forces in 1588. Philip III ruled from September 13, 1598 until his death on March 31, 1621. Because of his lack of interest in statecraft, he named duke Lerma to handle governmental affairs. In 1609, the final expulsion of the *Moriscos* from Spain was decreed and caused an economic disaster. Following that fiasco was the loss of the valuable Northern Provinces (Netherlands) by granting them independence. When Lerma died in 1618 Philip, still rejecting his royal responsibilities, chose Lerma's son Uceda to implement Spain's internal and external policies. As a result of the economic difficulties at home, Spanish officials were even more interested in exploiting riches of the New World.

General Comments

Cob coinage of Spain and its Overseas Provinces¹ is usually quite crude when compared to other contemporary coins. In fact, most European countries, including Spain, had been producing "round" coins for hundreds of years prior to Columbus' discovery. Spanish mint masters obviously possessed the necessary skills to strike state of the art pieces as evidenced by non-cob examples and Royal Strikes. Therefore, the question "Why do such a thing?" begs asking and the answer is not as complicated as it might seem. First, Spanish officials were anxious to exploit the fabulous silver deposits found in the Americas. That the government intended for cobs to be an expedient conversion of the riches into transportable form to more rapidly carry them to Spain and then on to Belgian banks for repayment of loans seems apparent. Those lending institutions probably cared little about the coins' appearance being more concerned with whether or not they had the full amount of silver. It is likely that the commercial houses converted many cobs into bullion. Second, the time factor led responsible officials to authorize production of the cobs despite knowing that the mints would have to use crude methods, tools and machinery plus operate under harsh if not horrendous conditions. Since the Spaniards had natives and/or slaves to do the work, there was no shortage of

¹Spain did not refer to the lands she claimed in the New World as colonies. They were considered to be a part of Spain, albeit far removed.

cheap labor. While modern machinery and more attention to detail in New World mints would have resulted in coins that were more pleasing to the eye, such equipment would not have made their worth any greater. The key factor for both the producers and the recipients was that the coins contained the correct amount of precious metal. Once the ore was mined, refined and turned into coins or bullion, the next task was to transport it to Spain. A voyage from the Americas usually took months. Every passage was hazardous as a *galeón plata* was forced to navigate poorly charted waters, weather storms or hurricanes, elude or outfight enemy naval vessels, and finally, avoid or defeat pirates who were sometimes interchangeable with wartime adversaries like the English or Dutch or both. At times the terms buccaneer and privateer were synonymous.

Even though some maintain that cobs weren't intended for general use being instead an expedient form for transporting the gold and silver from the Overseas Provinces to Spain and/or the European banks that had loaned her money to finance internal and external endeavors, as is often the case, necessity brought the unexpected. The extreme shortage of coins in the New World, including the English colonies, led to the everyday use of cobs in South, Central and North America. Despite their crudeness, the consistent fineness and weight caused them to be readily accepted by the hardy souls who left Europe behind to find better lives in the New World. They judged others by what they did rather than how they looked or what they said, and apparently felt the same about their coins. To them, substance was preferred over form. The largest silver denomination, the *ocho reales* or "piece of eight" became their standard of exchange. In fact, when the United States began producing its own coins in the 1790's, some two hundred fifty-odd years after the opening of the mint in Mexico City, law required that the US dollar contain the same amount of silver as did the *ocho reales*. Nor were the Americas the only part of the world where eight reales became the monetary standard.

Many *ocho reales* made their way to the Far East, usually via Manila (founded in 1571). By the 18th Century they had achieved "trade dollar" status against which all other coins were measured.² While not always aesthetically pleasing, cobs have an allure that congers up rugged pioneers opening new frontiers, swashbucklers, high seas adventure and lost treasure. For these reasons, and more, cobs have become part of our heritage.

The Term Cob

A cob coin is called a *macuquina* in Spanish. The word may be related to the Quechua language of the Incas, for in most areas of Latin America the word would be *macaca*.

² For a brief but very descriptive account of the advent of *ocho reales* as trade dollars, see Dunigan, Mike and Parker, J. B., *RESPLANDORES: Cap and Rays 8 Reales of The Republic of Mexico 1823 - 1897*, Beverly Hills, CA, Superior Stamp & Coin, 1997, pp. xii - xiv.

macaco or *monclón*³. Why non-Spanish speaking people use the word *cob* to refer to these particular hand struck coins remains an intriguing conundrum. No one has yet been able to ascertain the etymology of the word *cob*. Three explanations are usually proffered, allowing the reader his or her choice.

One, it comes from the Old English "*cob*" meaning a small mass or lump, *i. e.*, a dirt *cob*.

Two, it arose out of the Spanish slang "*coba*" meaning trick or deception but with a secondary definition of an "*un real or bit*" (12½¢ piece, the Spanish monetary unit for silver according to Beals in *Numismatic Terms of Spain and Spanish America*).

Third, it derived from the Spanish term, "*cabo de barra*", literally "the end of the bar", as the pieces to be made into *cobs* were clipped or cut from a bar of silver or gold. English pronunciation would have been "*cahb*" and spelled *cob*. This explanation is given by Pradeau⁴ and seems, at least to this writer, to be the most likely.

How Cobs Were Made

The silver or gold ore was mined, smelted to the correct fineness and formed into bars. Workers using large scissor-like devices sheared pieces that were the approximate size and weight desired from the bars. The chunks of metal were weighed against the standard and then filed or clipped until they were the correct weight. The actual size and/or shape were of little importance as long as the weight was within tolerance. It is interesting that there are some pieces with semi-specific shapes which have led researchers to speculate that mint workers would sometimes produce examples, either for personal reasons or for others who desired a certain shape and were willing to pay for it. For example, heart shaped pieces from some mints are encountered at times and are highly desirable, even today.

Because the manual laborers were largely illiterate and usually lacked technical knowledge, *cobs* were often produced with misspelled words or other errors, but as long as the coins contained the correct amount of silver or gold, apparently those mistakes were insignificant to either the mint officials or the recipients.

Once the desired weight was attained, the blanks were heated in an oven making them

³ Sedwick Daniel and Sedwick Frank, *The Practical Book of Cobs*, 3rd Edition, Orlando, FL, by the authors, 1995, p. 7., hereinafter referred to as *Cobs*.

⁴ Pradeau, Alberto Francisco, *Numismatic History of Mexico from the Pre-Columbian Epoch to 1823*, Whittier, CA, Western Printing Company, 1938, p. 42., hereinafter referred to as *Numismatic History*.

more pliant and better able to take on the intended design from the dies. And, too, this probably extended the life of the dies. Since no collars were used die breakage was a constant and vexing problem.⁵ The hot blank was placed onto a stationary die, which was probably mounted in an anvil. The second die was then positioned on top of the blank. Another worker, using a hammer, promptly struck the upper die with enough force to produce the coin. Since the surface of the blank was irregular and nearly always smaller than the die, not all of the details were transferred from the dies to the coin. This is especially true in the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 *reales* though it is common in the 4 and 8 *reales* also. The Spanish officials' primary duty was to insure that the coins contained the correct fineness and amount of silver or gold. Most surviving coins are testimony to the mint workers' attempts to position the dies so that the mintmark and the assayer's initial(s) were included when the coin was struck. The mintmark showed where the coin was made, and the assayer's initial verified that the coin was of the legitimate value. As a result, other details such as the date and or legends are missing more often than not. Frequently, though not always, the design of the coin had the assayer's initial in close proximity to (usually directly above or below) the mintmark⁶. The myriad of shapes and sizes combined with the irregular placement of the dies on the blanks resulted in what can be called the snowflake phenomena, *i. e.*, no two were alike. Another factor that added to the cobs' diversity was that there were frequent double or multiple strikes. As the upper die was hand held, it often rotated and/or shifted between strikes creating a variety of overstrikes, doubling, and other anomalies so often encountered in surviving examples. After striking, the cobs were blached (scalded) imparting a sheen that is usually referred to as "mint lustre".

Royal Strikes

These pieces are perfectly round, or nearly so. They contain complete legends and dates, when dated, not all were. The strikes are well above average with two or more hammer blows being normal. Therefore, they frequently show some evidence of doubling. A fair percentage of surviving examples are holed, possibly because individuals who somehow acquired one decided to make it into a pendant or necklace. It is thought that the mint officials went to special lengths to produce a few "Royal Strikes" each year. Some believe the Royals were intended for presentation to the king as proof of the quality of work being carried out at the overseas mints. They are scarce - Luis I $\frac{1}{2}$'s are seen fairly often - to extremely rare. More than a few dates are not known to exist. The numismatic community is particularly grateful for them because

⁵ For a more detailed description of coin making at the Mexico City mint, see Nesmith, Robert I., *The Coinage of the First Mint of the Americas at Mexico City*, (Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 131), New York, American Numismatic Society, 1955, pp. 29 - 33., hereinafter referred to as *First Mint*.

⁶ Some Pieces of Philip II are found with the mint mark on one side of the shield and the assayer's initial on the other. This is not unlike late series *Carolus y Juana* coins.

the Royal Strikes show us what the commonly produced coins would have looked like had they been made with better techniques and/or more modern equipment. It appears that the Mexican Royal Strikes of Philip III were confined to 4 and 8 *reales*. At this time this author knows of no Royal Strike $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 or 2 *reales* that were produced at the Mexico City mint during the reign of Philip III. Obviously, Royal Strikes are much sought after by collectors.

Assayers of the Mexico City Mint

Philip III coins are found with three different assayer's initials. They are in chronological order; F, A, and D. Unfortunately, that is about all we can surmise. Who they were and the exact dates they served are unknown at this time. We are aware that Melchor de Cuéllar was appointed Foundryman and Chief Assayer on January 29, 1611 and confirmed on May the 8th of the same year⁷. However, there are no known examples of Philip III coins bearing either an M or a C assayer's initial. It may be that information regarding the identity of the assayers exists in either Spanish or Latin American archives, but so far that information has not been recovered.

Mexican Coins Produced During the Reign of Philip III

Only silver cobs were produced at Mexico City during Philip III's reign. Their fineness was 93.1% or 11 *dineros*, 4 *granos*. At that time, Spain did not use a decimal system for either it's monetary unit or fineness. Twelve *dineros* was pure silver. Each *dinero* was divided into 24 *granos*, thus $11 + 4/24 = 11.1667$. The denominations struck included $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4, and 8 *reales*. Between the years of 1598 and 1621, the Mexico City mint produced coins worth \$74,300,000.00 bearing the name of Philip III⁸. The official weights for the denominations produced are as follows:

8R	27.4680 grams
4R	13.7340 "
2R	06.8670 "
1R	03.4335 "
$\frac{1}{2}$ R	01.7168 "

Many pieces, even Royal Strikes, are slightly under weight, and almost none are in excess of what they should be. (We can safely assume that the government then, as now, had no intention of giving away precious metal.) This may be explained in part by the fact that very few, if any, "mint state" examples exist, and one might even argue that coins that are no more than 0.1 grams light may have been within mint tolerances. (Note: Krause Publications, *Standard Catalog of Mexican Coins, Paper Money, Stocks*,

⁷ Pradeau, *Numismatic History*, p. 32.

⁸ Pradeau, *Numismatic History*, p. 42.

Bonds and Medals says the proper weight for the 8R was 27.07 (actually 27.0642) grams and then halved for each lower denomination down to 1.69 (1.6915) for the ½R. However, those weights were not utilized until 1728 when the government authorized the lower amounts. See Sedwick & Sedwick, *Cobs*, Third Edition, p. 6.)

Descriptions of Philip III Coins

Medio Real

The ½ *real* coins have an obverse with a centrally located monogram of "PHILIPVS" topped by a royal crown. The legend around the circumference reads: "© PHILIPVS © III © DEI © GRATIA ©" (the pieces did not always use dots/circles between the words, at times they were in the form of colons, lozenges, diamonds, four pointed stars or other shapes). The mintmark is left of the monogram while the assayer's initial is to the right.

The reverse has a centered cross with balls on the ends (this is an easy way to tell the coin is from Mexico as the balls on the ends of the cross are exclusive to the Mexico City mint). In the quadrants formed by the cross are lions and castles (*Castile y León*). The lions are usually in the upper right and lower left quadrants with the castles in the lower left and upper right, though there are some error pieces where the layout is reversed (lions in the lower right and upper left and castles in the upper right and lower left). The legend around the circumference reads: ": HISPANIARVM : ET : INDIARVM : REX :".

All Mexican coins were undated until 1607 when a four digit date was added to the obverse legend. It replaced the "RATIA" of *GRATIA*. In fact, Grove lists an example that he attributes as a 1607/ATIA.⁹ He lists this date over lettering for every denomination leading one to deduce that 1607 was the first year the Mexico City mint began dating coins. It could be that sources indicating earlier dates such as 1606 or 1607/6 were either referring to trial strikes or misreads, *e. g.*, only the bottom half of the date was visible on a particular coin. Regardless of the ruler, and compared to the total number of known pieces, very few ½ *real* coins that exhibit a four digit date exist. As a result they are often difficult to attribute. Identifying which Philip – II, III, IV, or V – is represented on the coin frequently becomes a formidable task, since a goodly portion of ½ *real* cobs lack even the barest of legends. In fact, in most instances even the monograms and/or the central devices are incomplete. The No Date Philip III ½ *real* is nearly impossible to distinguish from a 1607 or later piece with an assayer initial of F when the date is missing. Incomplete details tend to be the rule rather than the

⁹ Grove, Frank W., *Coins of Mexico*, Lawrence, Massachusetts, Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1981, p. 40., hereinafter referred to as *Coins of Mexico*.

exception on cobs in general, though the larger the denomination the easier the task becomes, primarily because the flan size increases making its surface area more nearly approximating that of the die. The following table shows known¹⁰ examples/dates of Philip III ½ *real* cobs.

½ *REAL*

No Royal Strikes known.

Known examples:

Year	Assayer	Year	Assayer
1598-1607 (ND)	F	1607/ATIA	F
1607	F	1608	F
1610	F	1611	F
1614	F	1616	F
1617	F	1618/7	D/F
1620	F	1620	D

REAL Through *OCHO REALES*

The 1 through the 8 *reales* all have a similar basic design. The primary difference, aside from the amount of silver in the coin (see above weight chart), is the denomination. The obverse has the Shield of Philip III (a variation of the Hapsburg Coat of Arms, see below for more details) centered and topped by a royal crown. The mintmark is centered vertically just left of the shield. The denomination (found with both Roman and Arabic numerals, the former being less common) is centered vertically just right of the shield. The legend beginning at 1:00 o'clock on the right side of the crown reads: "☼ *PHILIPVS* ☼ *III* ☼ *DEI* ☼ *GRATIA* ☼". Beginning in 1607, *GRATIA* was changed to a *G* and the *RATIA* was replaced by a four digit date.

The reverse has a cross centered. The cross has balls on the ends. Within the quadrants formed by the cross are lions and castles. Normally the lions are in the UR and LL quadrants while the castles are in the LR and UL. The legend around the circumference reads: "☼ *HISPANIARVM* ☼ *ET* ☼ *INDIARVM* ☼ *REX* ☼". For 8 *reales* produced between 1598 and 1606 - *i. e.*, sans date - with the assayer initial F, one often finds it difficult to differentiate them from Philip II coins. One way, though not fool proof is to examine the crown. On Philip II pieces the central band of the crown is jeweled while it is usually plain on the Philip III examples. Normally Philip III coins have a shaded area at the bottom of the crown that is not found on Philip II's. Observed coins are as

¹⁰⁷listed in Krause, Grove, Calicó and/or Calbeto (8 *reales* only) or seen by the author. The same sources are used for the 1 through 8 *reales*.

follows:

REAL

No Royal Strikes known.

Known examples:

Date	Assayer	Date	Assayer
ND	F	1607/ATIA	F
1607	F	1608/7	F
1608	F	1608	A/F
1609	A/F	1610, 1/0	F
1610/9	A/F	1610	F
1610	D (?1616?)	1611/0	F
1611	F	1612	F
1612/1	F	1613	F
1614	F	1620/19	D
1620	D		

DOS REALES

No Royal Strikes

Known examples:

Date	Assayer	Date	Assayer
ND	F	1607/ATIA	F
1607	F	1608	A
1609	F	1609	A/F
1610	F	1611	F
1613	F	1616	F
1616	D/F	1620, 0/9	?
1620	D		

CUATRO REALES

Royals - Calicó lists a ND Royal, Assayer F.

Other examples:

ND	F (mm & assayer left, denomination right)
ND	F (denomination left, mm & assayer right)

Date	Assayer	Date	Assayer
1607/6	F (Calicó)	1607/ATIA	F
1607	F	1608	A
1609/8	A	1609	A
1610	F	1610	A
1611	F	1611	A
1612	F	1613	F
1614	F	1617	D
1620	D	1621	D

OCHO REALES

Royals, multiple dates.

Known examples:

Date	Assayer	Date	Assayer
ND	F	ND	A
1607/ATIA	F	1607	A
1608	A/F	1608	A
1609	F	1609/8	A
1609	A	1610/06	F (?Calicó?)
1610	F	1611/10	F
1612	F	1613	F
1614	F	1614	D
1615	F	1616	F
1617	F	1618	F
1619	F	1619	D
1620	D	1621	D/F
1621	D		

Note: Krause shows the No Date early examples as two distinct types, the second having lions and castles interchanged on the reverse. However, believe this would be more accurately described as an error rather than a separate type.

Haspburg Coat of Arms

The shield found on the obverse of Phillip III coins is an adaptation of the Hapsburg Coat of Arms due to the fact that he was one of the monarchs of the Hapsburg Dynasty. A brief description of what part of Europe the various design particulars represent is as follows:

Upper Left Quadrant - the lions and castles represent Castile and Leon regions of Spain. The vertical lines right of the castles and lions represent the Aragon region of Spain. The diagonals and eagles on the far right represent Sicily.

Upper Middle - the triangle and pomegranate represent Granada, of southern Spain.

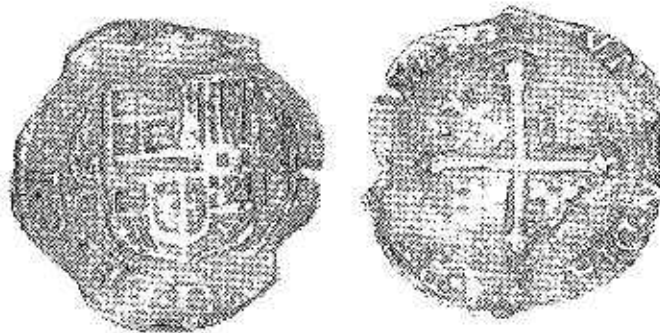
Left Middle - the horizontal stripes represent Austria.

Lower left - the diagonal stripes represent Old Burgundy.

Lower Middle - the small shield has a lion that represents the Flanders area of Belgium and France, and an eagle represents Tyrol, the alpine region of Austria.

Lower Right - the lion represents Brabant (now a part of Belgium and the Netherlands).

Middle Right - the fleur-de-lis represent New Burgundy (area between the Saône and Loire rivers).



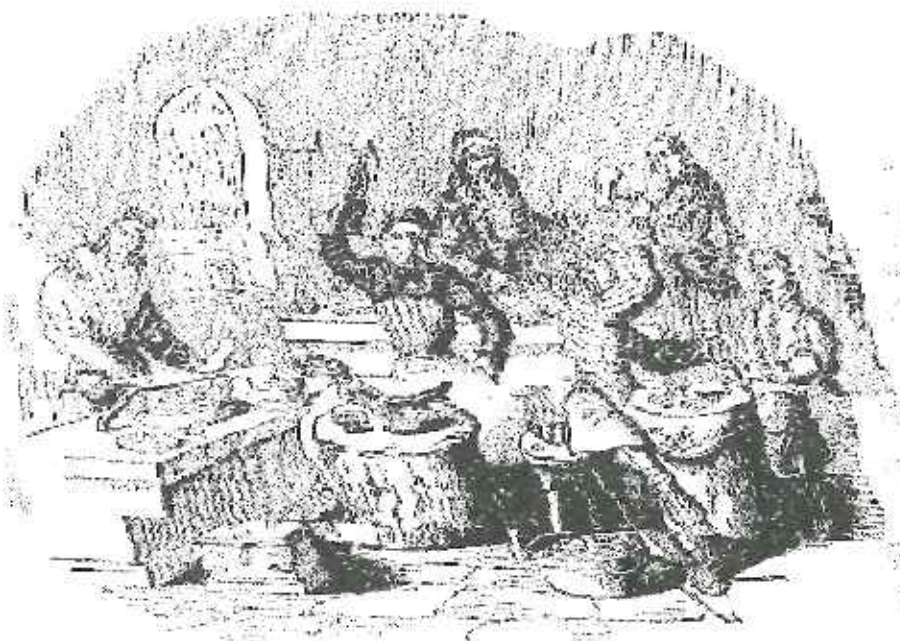
1620 Mo D 8R OF PHILLIP III

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THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, PART IV, FINAL

By Don Bailey C-1

The next period of Mexican numismatic history is the War of Independence period of 1810 through 1821 and the resulting independence of Mexico from Spain September 27, 1821. This vastly interesting and romantic period gave the numismatic world all kinds of material, Royalist and Insurgent issues, cast coins, counterstamped issues, cut coinage, plus coinage issued by cities, states, governments, several mints and by numerous individuals. This period was at one time not so widely collected, but it has come into its own, and there now are serious collectors of this area. Through these collectors maybe new information will be made available to others in the Mexican numismatic field.

The Father of Mexican Independence was the parish priest of Dolores, in west central Mexico. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla had modest reasons to revolt as he only wanted a congress governing Mexico in the name of Ferdinand VII, and land for the poor Indians who had been oppressed under three centuries as a colony of Spain. As one viceroy told his subject, "For once and all, know that you have been born to be silent and to obey, and neither to discuss nor hold opinions upon the exalted affairs of government."

Until 5 A. M. of September 16, 1810, they had been silent and obeyed. At that time, Father Hidalgo called his parishioners to the church and with a call for liberty: "*VIVA MEXICO, VIVA INDEPENDENCE, VIVA THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE.*" His cry opened the War of Independence that lasted until 1821.

Under the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Hidalgo led this ragtag army, armed only with machetes, sticks and stones, on towards Guanajuato. They attacked the town September 18, and they looted and massacred the local governing Spanish émigrés. This army of freedom fighters went from town to town, getting out of hand and more violent with each victory, finally reaching Mexico City, where they overcame the Royalist forces. Here they chose to celebrate and the revolution fell apart at that point. A Creole officer, Elizondo, who had turned against Hidalgo, and other rebel leaders, later betrayed Hidalgo. He captured Hidalgo, and others and the leaders were sent to the Spanish authorities at Chihuahua. Hidalgo was excommunicated from the church, executed and then beheaded. His head along with those of other rebel leaders, Allende, Jimenez and Aldama were sent to Guanajuato and set up on the walls of the Alhondiga where they remained until 1821.

Hidalgo also caused 8 Reales coin to be made while in Valladolid. He entered Valladolid October 15, 1810, where he melted silver vessels and other artifacts confiscated from the church there. There are round specimens known of this coinage dated 1813 with "P. V. D."

Jose Maria Morelos Y Pavon, a Catholic priest, and one of Hidalgo's followers, carried on the rebel cause. On October 20, 1810, he was ordered to establish an army in the south, which he did. General Morelos, who had a natural military ability was very successful in his conquests, and had he not stopped to proclaim the Republic of Anahuac, (Indian name for New Spain), and assembled a congress, and gotten preoccupied with his ideas, he may not have been captured. He was executed by a firing squad December 22, 1815.

The coinage attributed to Morelos is wide and varied. These can be found cast or struck, in gold, silver and copper. Copper is the predominant coinage. Morelos issued no regular gold coins, but they apparently were made from time to time. All known pieces are cast with the valuation in Reales. Specimens in gold today are considered trial or presentation pieces, or counterfeits made since that period.

The silver coinage issued by Morelos is mostly cast and made at Oaxaca. These are known in denominations of half, 1, 2, and 8 Reales. The 4 Reales pieces are thought to be trial strikes. Most silver Oaxaca pieces today are thought to be spurious.

THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, CON'T.

The copper coins of Morelos were produced in large quantities as well as the contemporary counterfeits struck on thin planchets. This coinage has on one side a bow and arrow, with the word "SUD" (Spanish for "South"), with the other side having a date, value, and a Morelos monogram. There are two major varieties: one has a plain field, and the other has a grapevine design in the field.

There are two other coinage types issued by the Insurgents that fall into the Morelos class. There is the T.C. coinage of Mier y Teran, commander of the rebel forces at Tehuacan. These are the same style as Morelos copper SUD coins. The T.C. initials indicate that they were struck at Tierra Caliente. In 1814, the Insurgent commander at Oaxaca also issued a Morelos-like coin with the initials "OXA".

The Supreme National Council formed to try to centralize the power of the revolution. They also issued coins in silver and copper. The basic design of the coinage was an upright eagle on a cactus on a bridge. The reverse shows a hand holding a bow and arrow, a quiver, a halberd and a sling.

The history of the period of the quest for Mexican independence is so vast that only a small part can be told here. The historical as well as numismatic impact this period had on the makeup of the Americas is far reaching and it would suggest that serious students of Mexican numismatics take a deep look at this area.

As there was such a varied issuance of coinage under the Insurgent forces, only some of the issues will be covered.

The Supreme National Congress of America issued with design as before mentioned, were an 1811 copper half Real, an 1811 1 Real, an 1812 silver 2 Reales and 1811 and 1812 cast silver 8 Reales. Struck silver 8 Reales of 1811 and 1812 are cataloged. There is also a copper 8 Reales for 1811 and 1812.

The National Congress had basically the same designs as the coins of the Supreme National Congress. Denominations issued were a copper half Real for 1811 through 1814, and in silver for 1812 and 1813; a silver 1 Real for 1812 and 1813; copper 2 Reales for 1812 through 1814; and an 1813 silver 2 Reales. Also issued were the 4 Reales in silver for 1813 and the 8 Reales in silver for 1812 and 1813.

The American Congress: The obverse has an eagle on a cactus with the legend Congreso Americano, the reverse has F7 on a spread mantle with the legend "DEPOS.D.L. AUT. D". There are two varieties of the 1 Real. Both are in silver, not dated but issued in 1813. The designs are basically the same except the legends differ. On the second variety the obverse legend reads "CONGR. AMER."

Nueva Galicia: This later became the state of Jalisco. In the early colonial period this was a province and the name was used again during this era. The only coin issued from here was silver 2 Reales of 1813. The obverse has "PROVYCIONAL" and the initials "N. G." in the center with the date.

Oaxaca: The coinage of General Morelos is a field of collecting all its own. Most use to be readily available a few years ago, but appear to have dried up in recent times. The Oaxaca issues have basically the same design with the bow and SUD. The only Morelos SUD coins with a marginal inscription are the issues with a Lion reverse the 1813 half Real and the 1 Real in silver. Eight Real coins were issued in 1812 - 1814 in various styles. The half real in copper was issued in 1811 - 1813. Uniface specimens of this coin are known. There exist cast silver half Reales dated 1813 and 1814. The 1 Real coins were issued in copper for 1811 through 1813, struck silver in 1812 and cast silver for 1813.

The two Reales coins were issued in copper for 1811 - 13, in 1813 and 1814 with the legend "SUD-OXA", and in 1814 with the legend "SUD. OAXACA." There are also 1812 cast silver 2 Reales.

THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, CONT.

The 8 Reales in copper dated 1811 – 1814 with the plain field are considered to be spurious. The 8 Reales in copper with the flowery fields were issued in 1811 through 1814. Varieties are 8 Reales in copper dated 1814 with "OAXACA" and "OX.A." and cast silver 8 Reales dated 1811 through 1813. These and most silver specimens are considered spurious.

There is an 1812 copper 8 Reales SUD coin from Huautla with the obverse legend "MONEDA PROVINCION PS. ES." around the bow and arrow and SUD. The reverse legend is "FABRICADO EN HUAUTLA" around the Morelos monogram denomination and date.

Tierra Caliente: These pieces issued from the hot country under Morelos all have "T.C." on the obverse between the bow and SUD. These were issued in half Real in copper in 1813, and in an 1813 copper 1 Real denomination. The 2 Reales were issued in copper for 1813 and there are cast silver pieces dated 1814. The 8 Reales were issued in copper for 1813 and there are cast silver pieces with an 1813 date.

Puebla: These coins, few in number, were issued from Zacatlan under Gen. Osorno, the Insurgent leader in that area. The obverse has the Osorno monogram with "ZACATLAN" and the date 1813 while the reverse has crossed arrows within a wreath with the value below. These were issued in half, 1 and 2 Reales in copper, all dated 1813.

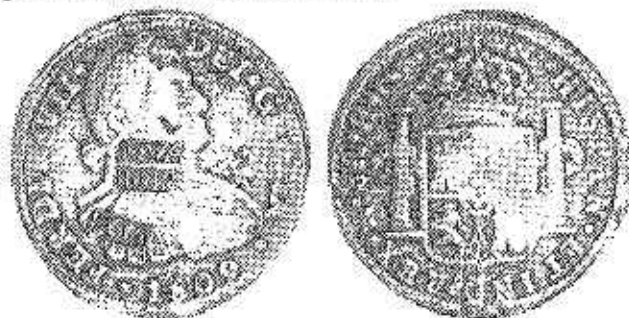
Vera Cruz: Coins from the province of Vera Cruz were issued in the town of Zongolica by a lawyer and two priests to raise money for the army. Records indicate they minted coins in the denominations of half and one Reales, but only 2, 4, and 8 real coins are known. The obverse of these coins has the bow and a row surrounded by the legend "VIVA FERNANDO VII Y AMERICA". The reverse has a crossed palm branch with a sword in the center with the inscription above "ZONGOLICA" and the date below. The 2, 4 and 8 Reales are known in silver.

The Royalist government of New Spain had to open branch mints due to the problem of getting bullion from other areas of Mexico to the Mexico City Mint. Most never closed after the War of Independence and continued to issue coinage of the Republic after 1823.

The branch mints authorized by the Royalists were at Chihuahua (CA, Ca), Durango (D, DO, Do), Guadalajara (G, GA, Ga), Guanajuato (G, GO, Go) and Zacatecas (Z, ZS, Zs). Provisional Mints were also authorized at Sombrerete, Nueva Vizcaya (predecessor of Durango), Oaxaca, Real de Catorce and Valladolid. The only Royalist provisional Mint to issue gold was Guadalajara. The quality of these coins varied from well struck copies with counterstamps to locally designed crude issues.

As the War of Independence went on and the various areas changed hands from time to time, both the Royalist and Insurgents came into possession of each others' coins. As there was a severe shortage of coins on both sides, using a counterstamp validated the captured coins. There were many varieties of these counterstamps for this short period. Morelos even revalidated his own copper coinage and some of the cast coins of the National Council with his script Mo counterstamp. It is not uncommon to find coins of this period with counterstamps from both forces.

The Royalist issues from the branch mints were as follows: Chihuahua: Established by decree of October 8, 1810. The first coins were cast copies of the 8 Reales of Mexico City with the assayers' initials and the mintmark changed. There are two counterstamps on the obverse. On the left is a "T" for the Royal Treasurer showing he had received it and to the right a counterstamp of the crowned Pillars of Hercules with a pomegranate below, which is the symbol of the comptroller.



THE NUMISWMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, CON'T.

These cast counterstamped 8 Reales were issued from 1811 to 1813 and all have the assayers initials "R.P.". In 1814, regular dies of a different design were available. These have a draped bust of Ferdinand VII with the reverse being similar to the previous bust type coinage of Ferdinand VII. These are known to have been struck from 1815 through 1822. There are reports of 1813 and 1814 dated coins. These are normally found struck over cast 8 Reales and all have the assayers' initials R.P.

Durango: This mint was authorized by decree of October 8, 1810, and issued coins from 1811 through 1822 in copper and silver. The copper coin was an eighth Real with the obverse having a monogram of double F7s with a crown above and the reverse legend "En DURANGO" with the value, "OCTAVO DE REAL" and the date. These were issued from 1812 through 1818.

The silver coinage was issued in half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 Reales with the obverse being similar to the draped bust of Ferdinand VII surrounded by the legend "FERDIN. VII DEI. GRATIA." The date is below. The reverses are similar to the previous Ferdinand 8 Reales. There are several assayer initial combinations on these struck pieces: RM, MZ, CG, and CG/RM. Some examples can be found struck over the 8 Reales from Guadalajara, and the issues prior to 1816 come soft struck. The half real was struck in 1814 and 1816, the 1 Real coins were struck from 1813 to 1815, the 2 Reales were struck from 1811 to 1817, the 4 Reales were struck in 1814, 1816 and 1817, and the 8 Reales were struck from 1812 to 1822.

Guadalajara: This mint was operated from 1812 to 1815, then closed until 1818 when it was reopened and issued coins until 1822 except for 1819 and 1820. As previously stated, this was the only Royalist Mint to strike gold coins.

No copper coins were struck at the Guadalajara Mint during this period. The silver coins were struck in denominations of half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 Reales. They all have the Draped Bust obverse similar to the Chihuahua coinage. The reverses are also similar except for the mint mark and assayers initials. The half Reales were issued from 1812 - 1815. The 1 real coins were struck in 1814 and 1815. The 2 Reales were struck in 1812, 1814, 1815 and 1821. The 4 Reales were struck in 1814 and 1815. The 8 Reales were issued from 1812 to 1815, then again in 1818, 1821, and 1823.

The only gold coins of the Royalist government were the 4 and eight Escudos of the Guadalajara Mint. The 4 Escudos has the uniformed bust of Ferdinand VII and it was only issued in 1812.

The 8 Escudos comes with four different obverse busts. One has a large uniformed bust, one has a small uniformed bust and the other two have a draped and undraped bust. The reverses of the 4 Escudos and 8 Escudos are similar to the reverses of the Ferdinand VII gold struck 1814 to 1821 at the Mexico City Mint, with assayers initials of JJ. The assayers' initials on these gold coins are MR and FS. The 8 Escudos were issued in 1812, 1813 and 1821.

Guanajuato: This regional mint was authorized Dec 24, 1812, and it closed May 15, 1813. It was reopened in April 1821 by the Insurgent forces that continued to coin the same Spanish style coins until 1822. The obverse and reverse designs are basically the same as the other Ferdinand VII coinage. Only 2 and 8 Real coins were issued with the 2 Reales in 1821 and 1822 and the 8 Reales in 1812 and 1813, then 1821 and 1822. The assayers' initials known are JM, JJM and JJ.

Nueva Viscaya: This province later became the state of Durango. The mint under Nueva Viscaya was only open during the months of February and March 1811. The obverse of this rare coin that was issued only in 8 Reales has the arms of Durango surrounded by the legend "MON. PROV. DE NUEV. VYZCA.". The royal coat of arms appear on the reverse.



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Oaxaca: Just prior to the city of Oaxaca being captured by the Insurgent forces, Lt. General Saravia, the commander of the Royalist forces, had some coins cast in a blacksmith shop. The coins are in silver in the denominations half, 1 and 8 Reales. The obverse of the half Real is a cross with castle, lion Fo and 7o in each quarter. The reverse design is a shield surrounded by "OAXACA", and is dated 1812.

The 1 Real that was also issued in 1812 has the same obverse design while the reverse has the shield in the center with the legend "PROV. OAXACA", date, mint mark, and assayers initials. The 8 Reales were dated only in 1812. The obverse has the cross in the center with the lion, castle, Fo and 7o in the quarters. The legend around "PROV. D. OAXACA", the date 1812, the denomination and the assayers initials. These rare coins come with numerous counterstamps, A, B, C, D, K, Mo, N, O, R, V, Z and they usually have another counterstamp of an O between crowned pillars.

Real del Catorce: This important mining center in the state of San Luis Potosi issued a silver 8 Reales coin for a short time. The obverse has the legend around a dotted circle, "EL R. D. CATORCE. POR FERNA VII". The reverse has the legend around a dotted circle "MONEDA PROVISIONAL. VALE. 8R." This coin was issued in 1811.

San Fernando de Bexar: Little coins, sometimes called tokens were issued in copper. They are cataloged as one - eighth Real have one - half on the obverse. Jose Antonio de la Garza struck these Jolas as they are known in San Antonio, Texas. They are the only coins of the Spanish Colonial rule to have been struck in what became a part of the United States.

These very interesting pieces are dated 1818, and come in two types. One type has 1818 to the left, and "JAG" to the right, while the other is reversed. Both have star on the reverse. Needless to say these are quite rare and a research project should be undertaken on these pieces of Texas history.

Sombrerete: This mint opened October 8, 1810 and closed July 16, 1811, and then reopened in 1812. Fernando Vargas was in charge of the coinage operations. All of the coins come in silver and bear Vargas' name on the reverse. The half Real, which was issued in 1811 and 1812, has in the center of the obverse crowned hemispheres with the legend around "FERDIN. VII. SOMBRERETE", while the reverse has the Bourbon escutcheon separating $\frac{1}{2}$ - R in the center with the legend "VARGAS" above and the crossed branches with the date below. The 1 Real was issued in 1811 and 1812. It has basically the same obverse and reverse as the half Real.

The 4 real coin was only issued in 1812 with an obverse similar to the 2 Reales, but the reverse has "VARGAS", the date and "3". The 8 Reales were issued in two types. In 1810 and 1811 they were issued with the obverse of the royal arms surrounded by the legend "R. CAXA. DE SOMBRERETE" with the reverse having the counterstamped "VARGAS", the date and the "S" between two crowned pillars. The 8 Reales issued in 1811 and 1812 have the same obverse but the reverse has the legend "VARGAS" the date, number "3" and the "S" between two crowned pillars.

Valladolid de Michoacan: Valladolid was the capital of the province of Michoacan at this time. It is now known as Morelia. This area was very important from a military standpoint and the Royalist tried to hold on to it but failed in 1813. Just prior to the Insurgents capturing the town, the Royalist forces struck coinage. The Insurgents just counterstamped and used these coins.

The 8 Reales was the only denomination struck in two types. One type has an obverse of the royal arms in a wreath with the denomination at the sides. The reverse has the date and the legend "PROVISIONAL DE VALLADOLID" and the date. The other type obverse has the bust of Ferdinand VII and "FERDIN VII"; the coat of arms is on the reverse.



THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, CON'T.

Zacatecas: The city of Zacatecas is located in a very rich mining area and has been producing silver since the mid 1500s. The Royalist mint began producing coins Nov. 14, 1810, and produced the most coins of any mint during the War of Independence; the Insurgents captured the town April 15, 1811, and continued to produce the LVO type coinage. The Royalist retook the town May 21, 1811, and they produced coinage until 1822, but of the bust type of Ferdinand VII.

There are two basic types of coins issued by the mint during this era. There are many varieties within each type. The first is known as the L.V.O. type and the other is a bust type. The half Real in silver has for the obverse the crowned local arms, with date and legend "FERDIN. VII. DEI. GRATIA" with date and denomination. The reverse inscription reads "MONEDA PROVISIONAL DE ZACATECAS". This type was issued in 1810 and 1811. There is an LVO type with the royal coat of arms issued in 1811 only.

The bust type shows on the obverse the provincial bust of Ferdinand VII with the inscription "FERDIN. VII. DEL. GRATIA" and the date. The reverse is the same as the LVO type. These were issued in 1811 and 1812.

The next type with the bust is the imaginary bust, with the only difference being in the design. These were issued in 1813 - 1819. The next type of the bust style is the draped bust that was issued from 1819 to 1821.

The one Real was issued in both the LVO type and the bust type with three types of bust. The designs of the LVO types are the same as the previous denominations with the local coat of arms being used in 1810 and 1811 and the royal coat of arms being used also in 1811. The provincial bust was the first type and was issued in 1811 and 1812. The next type was the imaginary bust issued from 1813 to 1820. The third type is the draped bust issued from 1820 to 1822.

The 2 Reales of the Zacatecas mint has basically the same designs as the half and 1 Real with two types of LVO and four types of the bust style. The local arms obverse type was issued in 1810 and 1811 while the royal arms type was only issued in 1811. The first type of the bust style is the provincial bust and was issued in 1811 and 1812. The next type is the large imaginary bust issued from 1813 through 1817.

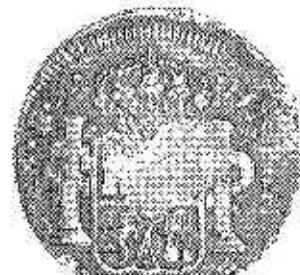
The next type is the small imaginary bust that was struck only in 1819. The draped bust type was issued from 1818 to 1822.

The 8 Reales were issued in two LVO types and three bust types. The LVO types carry the local coat of arms and issued in 1810 and 1811. The first type of the bust style is the imaginary bust while the second is the draped bust. The imaginary bust was issued in 1811 and 1812, while the draped bust was issued in 1812. Both of these types have the reverse legend "MONEDA PROVISIONAL DE ZACATECAS". The third type of the bust style is draped bust with the obverse and reverse being the same as the draped bust 8 Reales struck by the Royalists at Mexico City from 1811 to 1821. This type was issued from 1813 to 1822.

The various assayers' initials that can be found on this Zacatecas series from are AG, AZ, AZ/RG, FP and RG. There are no assayers' initials on the LVO type coinage. The counterstamped issues of the War of Independence are varied and many. Little is known about some of these, as they were not overly concerned about keeping records. Some have both Insurgent and Royalist counterstamps.

There are several Royalist counterstamps:

L.C.M.: This counterstamp which comes in at least 15 different sizes, was for the La Comandancia Militar. This has been found on two Reales of 1809 and 1811 Zacatecas, and a multitude of 8 Reales from Chihuahua, Durango, Guanajuato, Nueva Vizcaya, Mexico, Guadalajara and Sombrecete.



THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, CONT.

L.C.V.: This counterstamp in rectangle is for Las Cajas de Veracruz, or the royal treasurer of the city of Veracruz has appeared on 8 Real coins. Some have appeared with counterstamped numbers in addition to the LCV. These are on underweight coins. The numbers known are 7, 7 1/4, 7 1/2 and 7 3/4. The LCV by itself has appeared on cast 1811 Chihuahua, and 1811 and 1812 Zacatecas 8 Reales.

MS: The monogram in an oval for Manuel Salcedo, governor of Texas, and it has been found on 8 Reales of 1809 - 1811 from the Mexico City Mint.

M.V.A., 1811 and M.V.A., 1812: these two counterstamps in double rectangular indent for Monclovia can be found on cast 8 Reales with the 1811 counterstamp, for 1809, 1816 and 1821 of Chihuahua struck over a cast Mexico City 8 Reales. The MVA 1812 has been found on Chihuahua 8 Reales, cast 1798, 1802, 1809 And 1810 Mexico 8 Reales and on 1813 Zacatecas 8 Reales.

There are several Insurgent counterstamps:

CONGRESS OF CHILPANZINGO: There are two types of counterstamps with one in a circle with the Chilpanzingo arms, a hand holding up a bow and arrow, crossed quiver and spear, and sling beneath. This is enclosed in an open wreath with a Maltese cross between its ends. The second type has a crowned eagle sitting on an arched bridge. The first type has been found on a cast 1812 piece from Mexico City. The second type has appeared on an 8 Reales cut into quarters making each piece 2 Reales. It also appears on 8 Reales of 1816 from Chihuahua, 1811 from Mexico City, 1813 Valladolid, and 1810 from Zacatecas.

ENSAIE: This counterstamp in round shape contains an eagle above the word ENSAIE with a sling below. A wreath is around the design. This counterstamp is known on 8 Reales of 1811 Mexico City, and 1810 to 1812 Zacatecas.

J.M.L., This counterstamp is for General Jose Maria Liceaga, the defender of the island of Yurira. The counterstamp consists of a circle with the initials J.M.L. with several letters below. Above this is a banner with a crown. The staff of the banner is across the circle, and below is two crossed branches. There are several varieties of the counterstamp. The letters below the J.M.L. can be A.P., D.S., E., P.G., S., Sea, S.M., s.r.a, s.y.s.l, V., and Ve. These counterstamps can be found on cast half Real from Mexico City, 1811 2 Reales from Zacatecas and on an 1811 8 Reales from Zacatecas and 1813 of Durango.

LINA-RES: This rectangular counterstamp is attributed to Jose Maria de Linars, who was Paymaster General under Hidalgo, but it could be Lt. Colonel Antonio Limares, who was a Royalist Commander at Valladolid. As this counterstamp appears on only Royalist issues, this author feels it is of Hidalgo's Paymaster. This can be found on an 1808 8Reales of Mexico City, and on 1811 and 1812 coins from Zacatecas.

L.V.S.: This counterstamp in a 7 by 12 mm. Rectangle has the initials L.V.S. and is bordered by stars. Some authorities say the initials stand for "Labor Vincit Semper", while others believe that it is for "La Villa de Sombrete". This counterstamp can be found on 8 Real coins from Chihuahua dated 1811 to 1813, 1816 to 1818, and 1820. It may also be found on 8 Reales of 1817 from Guadalajara, 1811 Nueva Vizcaya, 1811 and 1812 Sombrete, and 1811 and 1813 from Zacatecas.

MORELOS: This monogram counterstamp of General Morclos comes in basically three types. The first type has the Mo monogram in a circle with stars above and below. The second type is an oval with dots above and below the monogram. The third type is rectangular in shape with just the monogram. Some of these type three counterstamps are known to be spurious. The first type can be found on several 8 Reales such as cast 1797, 1798, 1800, and 1807, and struck 1809, 1811 and 1812 on Mexico City pieces. These appear on the copper SUD 8 Reales of 1811 to 1814. They also are known on 8 Reales of the

THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, CON'T.

Supreme Nacional Congress, and 1811 8 Reales from Zacatecas. The second type has been reported on an 1810 8 Reales from Guatemala.

NORTE: This counterstamp was for Ignacio Lopez Rayon, Commander in Chief of the Army of the North. The Supreme Nacional Congress is also given credit for this circular counterstamp with an eagle and cactus. Below is the word "NORTE" with a rayed border. There are three types; one has a star to the left of the eagle, and one has the star to the right.

There was one lot, No. 1863, Pradeau - Bothamley, sale by Superior Stamp & Coin in 1971, that catalogs the counterstamp as having small man like figures at each side of the eagle, and the initials M.L.N. below. This was on an 1811 8 Reales from Zacatecas. The NORTE counterstamp is known on the half, and two Reales of 1813 Chihuahua, 1813 Guanajuato and the 1811 and 1812 Zacatecas.

OSORNO: The counterstamp for Jose Francisco Osorno, general of the Insurgent forces around Puebla, has a monogram of his name which looks like an O superimposed on an N with the end of the N formed into an R. These are known to be counterstruck on half Real coins of Mexico City dated 1798, 1802, 1806, 1807, and 1809, on one Real coins of Mexico City dated 1803, and on Potosi Reales. This is seen on cast 2 Reales dated 1809 from Mexico City and 1813 of Zacatlan. One is known on a 1782 4 Reales coin from Mexico City. The counterstamp can be found on 8 Reales dated 1809 to 1811 for Mexico City and on 1811 Lima 8 Reales.

VILLA-GRAN: This counterstamp for Julian Villagran is found in a circle with the two-line name of "VILLA-GRAN", and a border of dots. This is known on a cast 1799 2 Reales from Mexico City, and on cast 1796 and 1806 8 Reales from Mexico City.

General Vicente Guerrero: This counterstamp with an eagle is thought to be of Guerrero, southern Insurgent leader from 1816 to 1821. This circular stamp has the center of a Mexican eagle with head to the left. This is found on half, 1 and 2 Reales bust type coins of Charles III and on 2 Reales of Charles IV (Numeral is expressed as IIII on coins). The 8 Reales of 1811 Zacatecas is known to have this counterstamp.

ZMY: This counterstamp with a radically milled border has the monogram of a bar over ZM. This monogram is contained within a wreath. Neither Gibbs, Pradeau, Utberg, Vogt, or Bruce has ever attributed this to an individual or government. This unclassified counterstamp is known on 1811 LVO 8 Reales, and 1812 8 Reales of Zacatecas.

During the War of Independence, some coins of both factions came into the control of each other. These were then counterstamped again to show they could circulate. Most of the Royalist and Insurgent counterstamps were on cast copies of the Chihuahua and Mexico City mints as well as the provisional mint issues.

The multiple counterstamping of coins has resulted in some very interesting pieces, of which a few will be discussed below:

CHILPANZINGO: The Chilpanzingo counterstamped coins can be found with numerous other counterstamps. These include a crown and flag stamp, "L.V.A.", "L.V.S.", and "P. D. V." "S.J.N.G.", and the Morcos monogram counterstamps.

C.M/S. / S. C. M.: These counterstamps are for the Comandancia Militar Suriana, and the Soberano Congreso Mexicano.

VTIL: This Royalist counterstamp can be found with the counterstamp for Ensaie, "J.M.L.", and "S.J.N.G.".

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L.C.M.: This counterstamp can be found with either Morelos or MVA - 1812 counterstamp.

Morelos: This can be found with double Morelos counterstamps, and with "L.V.A."

M.d.s. / S.C.M.: These counterstamps are for the Militar del Sur, and the Soberno Congreso Mexicano.

Osorno / Villagran: This double counterstamped 1809 OM, T.H. 8 Reales is interesting in that the counterstamps are both for insurgent leaders. This apparently was done so that it would circulate freely in their areas of authority.

The War of Independence is an interesting period, and is an area numismatist could really get into. This whole series cannot only be collected as the earlier coinage series by date and type, but also by the counterstamps, multiple counterstamps, and it is only limited by the collector's imagination. The collector should be cautious on the counterstamped coins, and become knowledgeable before getting into such a little area that so little is really known about, that even some of the current Mexican numismatists are not too sure of.

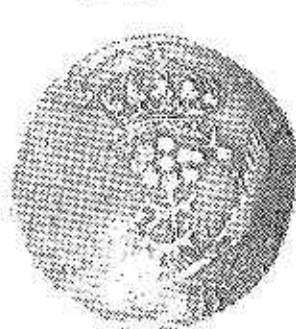
There is some very serious study being done on this period by a few very knowledgeable numismatists, and it is hoped that their information will be available in the near future to the Mexican numismatic field.

The War of Independence brought to a close the Spanish colonial era of Mexico's history, and opened the door to many other areas, that followed, that would be of numismatic as well as historical interest to collectors. You have the two empires, Inurbide and Maximilian, the state coppers, the many tokens, both local and private, paper currency, counterstamped trade dollars, the medals and decorations area, the colorful Revolutionary period, and the modern coinage series of the coinage following the 1905 coinage reform.

This vast area of Mexican numismatics is only limited by the collector's imagination. And of course their pocketbook. I do not refer to Mexican numismatists by their gender as there have been, and continue to be women involved in Mexican numismatics that have made a lasting imprint in this area. To name just a few; the late Erma C. Stevens, Mother Azteca, Anna Maria Cross de Torres, a past President of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, and business women involved within Mexico in the coin business such as Elsie Moreno Nava, and Carmen Juarez de Escobedo.

This brings this series of articles on the Numismatics of Spanish Colonial Mexico to a close. This author would be remiss if he didn't offer this basic advice to the beginning collector, or to one looking at Mexico as an area to collect, and that being to first buy the book, read some history, and find an area that really interests you. After you have made these decisions, locate a dealer through the trade publications, the Association or other numismatic organizations that you would feel comfortable working with, and that would be fair on grading and pricing and then set back and enjoy the wonderful romantic world of Mexican numismatics.

Any one having new information, questions or comments please contact Don Bailey at P. O. Box 98, Homer, and MI 49245-0098.



NUEVA VIZCAJA 1811 8R

1813 SUPREME JUNTA 8R

BANCO DE MEXICO RELEASES THE TOLTEC COIN COLLECTION, THE SIXTH AND FINAL SERIES.

I. THE PRECOLUMBIAN COIN COLLECTION:

In commemoration of the 500 anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus to the new world, Banco de Mexico launched the first series of coins with the purpose of exhibiting one of the most ancient methods of cultural exchange: numismatics.

II. THE TOLTECS:

The first series of coins were dedicated to the Aztec culture; then in 1993, they launched the coins of the Central Veracruz culture. In 1994, it was the opportunity for the Mayan culture. In 1996, they issued the coins related to the Olmex culture; last year they issued the coins of the Tcotihuacan culture, and this year they issued the coins of the Toltec culture.

In the year 713 A.C. the region of Tula was occupied by one of the biggest civilizations of the Mexican history: the Toltec culture. They left a legacy of an incalculable wealth of beauty and wisdom of what is now a majestic archaeological zone, and a great spiritual center, preserved by their colossal atlases, and faithful testimony of the big advances and knowledge in the art of the painting, that are still on the walls of the buildings.

The Toltecs were intelligent and wise men. They began alliances with near tribes and ones far distant like the "Chichimecas", that regularly were hostile to other groups. They had great ability for the arts, like gold and silver work, painting and architecture, where they showed great labor and care. Their education system was one of the most advanced. The children of important people came to their schools from the center, and south of Mexico, as well as from Central America to learn in order to return to their towns to govern.

The Toltecs worshipped Quetzalcoatl, a dual deity that would symbolize the planet Venus as a morning star, and in the other hand to the solar god. The important gods were Tezcatlipoca that was related with the night and the darkness; Tlaloc god of the rain, and the vegetation; Centeotl god of the corn; Itzpapalotl or butterfly of Obsidian and Tonatiuh or solar god.

The city of Tula existed for 449 years as the center of the Toltec sites. Later on it was razed and destroyed by the Chichimecas. It is located in the state of Hidalgo, approximately 80 km. To the north of Mexico City. Today this city has a wide range tourist interest; its cultural patrimony is made up of beautiful archaeological and colonial places.

The Toltec coin collection is formed by ten pieces, three of them in gold (1, ½, and ¼ oz.)

The main motif of the gold coins is the "Aguila" (Eagle), and it shows an eagle eating a heart. The Toltecs adored this animal. This design is shown on the reverse of the three gold coins, which come in presentations of one, half and quarter of an ounce. The face value of these coins is one hundred, fifty, and twenty-five Pesos for the one, half, and quarters ounce gold coins, respectively.

As was the case with the previous collections, they are also issuing a series of silver coins in various sizes.

The first one is the five ounces coin, which shows on the reverse the "Atlantes" (Atlantean Figures). These are found in the superior part of the temple of Quetzalcoatl as its representation of the morning star. The "Atlantes", represent Toltec warriors that carried weapons that fired darts in their right hand and several arrows in their left hand. They had a chest shield in the shape of a butterfly; a skirt with a big belt tied in the front, and a solar disc in the back. The face value of this five ounce silver coin is ten Pesos.

There are four one ounce silver coins, depicting four different motifs. All of them have a face value of five Pesos.

The first one-ounce coin shows on its reverse a "Quetzalcoatl". This is a representation of the birth of Ce-Acatl Topiltzin Quetzalcoatl, who reached the domination of several territories, richness, and power.

The subject of the second one ounce silver coin is known as "Sacerdote" (Priest). This design shows a Priest represented by an Atlantean figure.

The reverse of the third one ounce silver coin shows a "Serpiente con craneo" (serpent with skull). This design shows a snake that represents the morning star, or Venus. These reliefs alternate with images that have motifs of eagles eating bloody hearts.

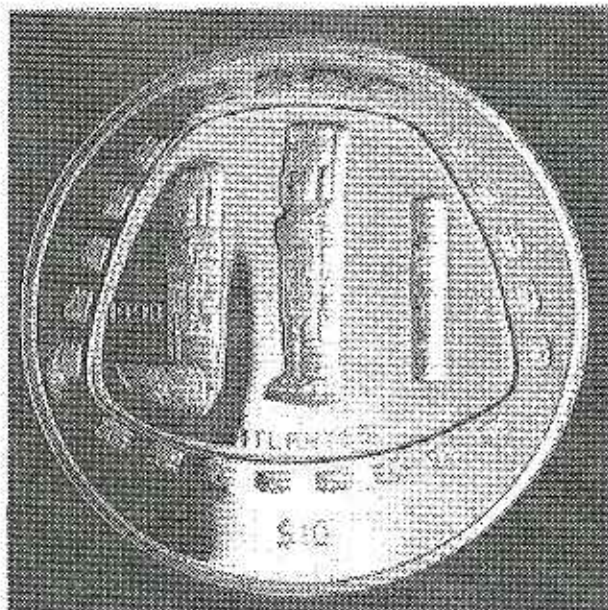
The last one ounce silver coin represents a sculpture known as "Jaguar". This design shows a Jaguar, an animal that was adored by the Toltecs. This design is the only one that is presented in three different sizes, one, half, and a quarter ounce coins, with face values of five, two, and one Pesos, respectively.

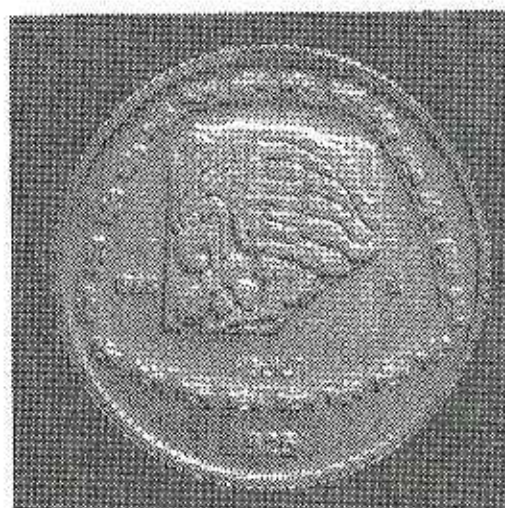
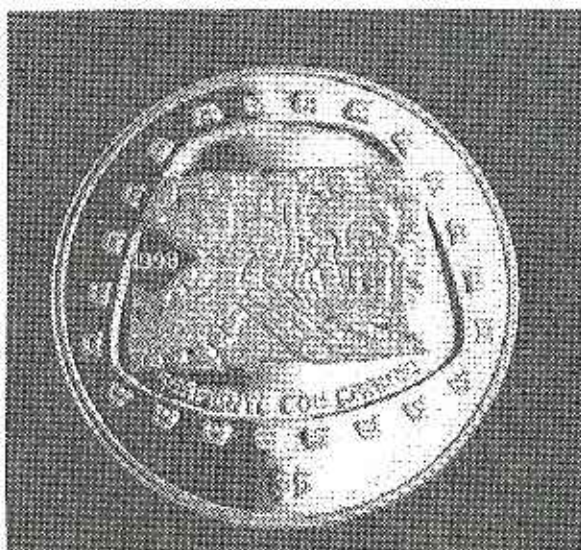
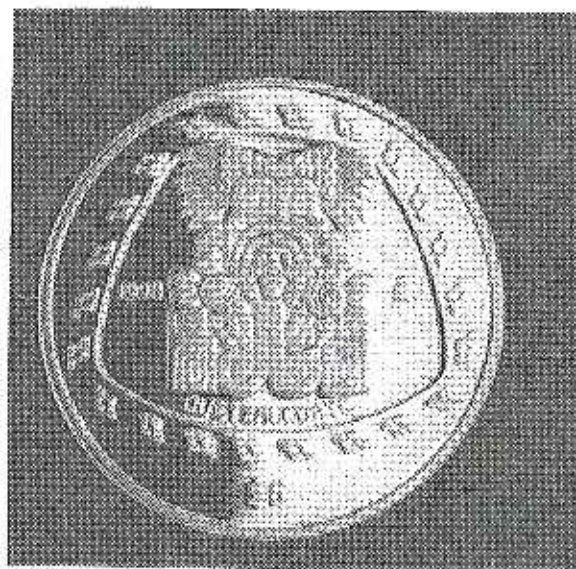
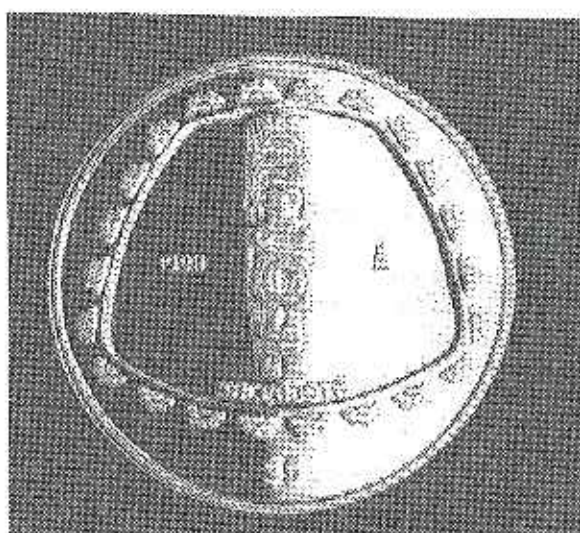
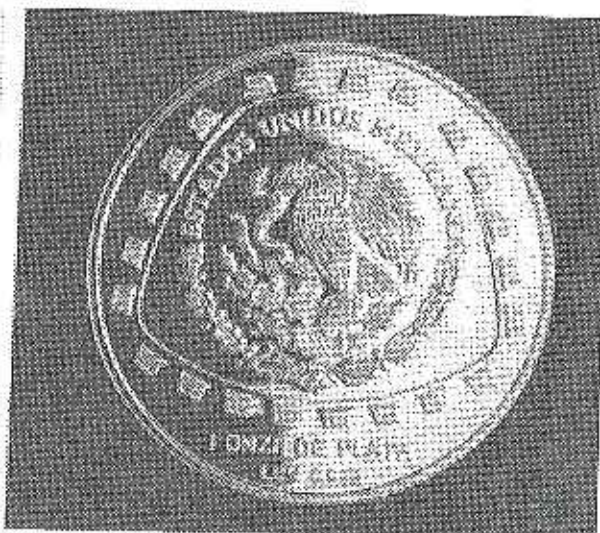
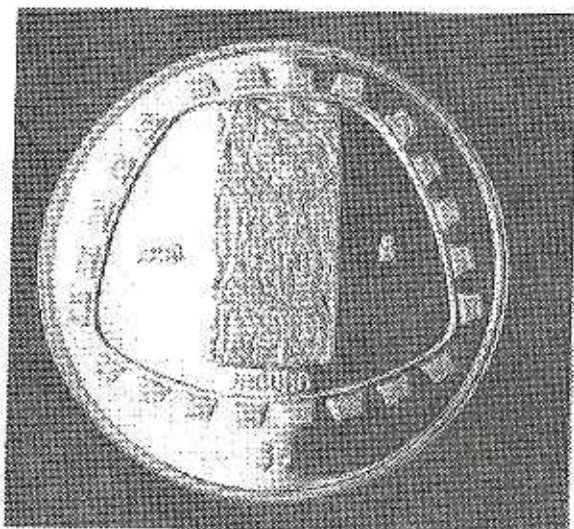
Like all coins of the "Precolumbian" collections, the coins of the Toltec collection bear the Mexican official on the Obverse. These coins are made in both B.U. and proof quality. The coins of proof finish are encased in a transparent capsule for their protection.

Technical specifications:

	Metal	Quality	Finness	Diameter	Denomination
5 Oz.	Silver	Proof / B.U.	999	65mm.	\$10
1 Oz.	Silver / Gold	Proof / B.U.	.999	40/34.5 mm.	\$5 / \$50
½ Oz.	Silver / Gold	Proof / B.U.	999	33 / 29mm.	\$2 / \$50
¼ Oz.	Silver / Gold	Proof / B.U.	999	27 / 23MM.	\$1 / \$25

The office of Mario Beauregard Alvarez, Manager of Foreign Exchange, Metals, Coins, and International Agreements of the Banco De Mexico furnished this above information and the below photographs. We appreciate their contributions.





BOB DIEDRICH PLACED IN MEDICAL CARE CENTER

Bob Diedrich, C-53, who operated his coin business under the name of Copper/Silver Coins, in Tucson, Arizona has been placed in a medical care facility. Bob, who acquired the Modern Mexican coin business of Ponterio & Wyatt back in the 1980s has been in failing health the past few years, but continued to try to conduct his coin business. He operated very low key, but was out there for years, and really was interested in varieties of the modern coins of Mexico, and it is hoped that some of this information can be acquired to share with the Association. His mailing address previous to this was P. O. Box 27183, Tucson, AZ 85726-7183. I would assume that his mail would be forwarded somewhere.

Efforts to find out the address where we could send cards have been unsuccessful thus far. Anyone having any additional information please let us know. Our thoughts and good wishes go out to Bob; he will be missed in the hobby.

EL CAPTAIN MARIO STEINER, OF Mexico City HAS PASSED AWAY

Word was recently received from Mexico City that Mario was taken from us very quickly, following his usual day at the Lagunilla with all of his friends. Mario was not a member of the Association, but all of the US collectors and dealers that traveled to the Mexico City conventions knew him very well.

The "El Captain", as he was known from his days as the senior Pilot for Aero Mexico for a number of years. He was always ready, willing and able to share his vast knowledge on the many areas that he collected. His main interest was on decorations of Mexico, of which he was one of the most knowledgeable on that subject. The conventions in Mexico City will not be the same, at least for your Editor, who counted Mario as one of a small group of very dear and long time friends in Mexico City.

I know the group will miss his humor, knowledge, and friendship, as I will. Our thoughts go out to his lovely wife, Belen, and their children. May God bless him, and Mario you will be dearly missed.

REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD TIMER, DEALER/COLLECTOR

Several members have mentioned in the past that someone should write about the past personalities from the Mexican numismatic field, such as Dr. Alberto Francisco Pradeau, Neil Utberg, Erma Stevens, Miguel Munoz, and some that are still kicking around among us. I have thought about doing something along that line, but have just put it off, and in view of the above reports on Mario, and Bob, maybe the time is right now. Anyone that has any suggestions or information on ones that they would like to see presented please let me know. As most of you know, I will be on the road from January 2nd until April 1st, doing coin shows. Our winter "Chasing the Sun" Trip. We will be at the FUN show in Orlando, Houston, Tucson, Long Beach, El Paso, Mexico City, Las Vegas, and Sacramento, and this subject will be discussed with other members.

MEXICAN NUMISMATIC TRIVIA QUESTIONS

The following trivia questions were put forth by a long time Mexican numismatist, which shall remain anonymous at this time. The first series of Questions will be on the 1950 Five peso Railroad.

1. What was the reason for this coin being struck?
2. Now many were supposedly re melted to provide silver for what new Commemorative coin?
3. Why wasn't the tender engraved in the design?
4. What United States firm built this 4 - 6 - 4 wheel arrangement?
5. Did this locomotive burn coal or fuel oil?
6. Why is the 1950 date in the surface?
7. Where did this railroad operate?



NOTES

NOTES



MEXICO

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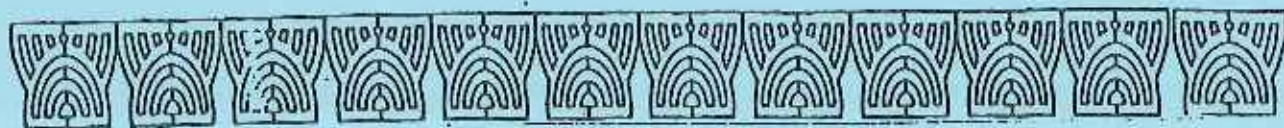
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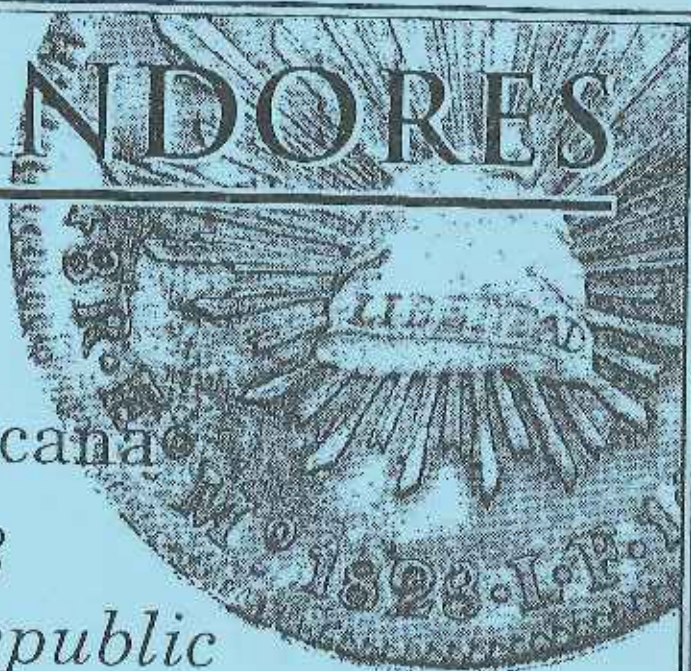
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