

VOL.II

SEPTEMBER 1998

NOIII



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



# ATTENTION!

*Ponterio Presents ...*

## The 1998-1999 Auction Line-up

**September 26, 1998**

in conjunction with  
**The Long Beach Coin  
and Collectibles Expo**

Consignment Cutoff  
June 26, 1998

**February 13, 1999**

in conjunction with  
**The Long Beach Coin  
and Collectibles Expo**

Consignment Cutoff  
November 10, 1998

**April 9 & 10, 1999**

in conjunction with  
**The Chicago  
International Coin Fair**

Consignment Cutoff  
January 10, 1999

**June 5, 1999**

in conjunction with  
**The Long Beach Coin  
and Collectibles Expo**

Consignment Cutoff  
March 5, 1999

*Featuring World Coins, Ancient Coins and World Paper Money.  
"It Will Pay For You To Contact Us."*

**PONTERIO & ASSOCIATES, INC.**



1818 Robinson Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92103 U.S.A.



800-854-2888

FAX: 619-299-6952

619-299-0400

GHCC MONEY SHOW - INTERNATIONAL IS COMING TOGETHER

The Greater Houston Coin Club's Money Show - International is moving right along. The 30 table International Section is three fourths full, and should soon be sold out. Anyone interested in having a table at this show should contact the bourse chairman, Bill Hooven at : GHCC, P.O. Box 2963, Houston, Texas 77252-2963, or contact us at the Association's address.

This show is sponsored by the Greater Houston coin Club, and co-hosted by the USMexNA, the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, and the Texas Numismatic Association. The Association will hold a membership meeting at 4:00 P.M. Saturday afternoon, with Mr. Clyde Hubbard, speaking on the Municipal Coinage of Mexico. We will have a special award for the Best Mexico related exhibit at the show.

The Mexican Mint, the Banco de Mexico and the Canadian Mint have been invited, and thus far the only one that has indicated they will be there is the Canadian Mint, and maybe the Banco de Mexico.

Anyone having any questions please let us know, and plan on attending.

Anyone having any questions please let us know, and plan on attending.

SOCIEDAD NUMISMATICA DE MEXICO SETS DATE FOR 1999  
INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONVENTION IN MEXICO CITY

The Sociedad has just released word that the dates for the 1999 International Numismatic Convention are February 24 - 27, 1999 at the Del Prado Hotel, as in years past. The program is as follows:

## February 24, Wednesday

11:00	Registration
12:00 - 20:00	Dealer setup

## February 25, Thursday

09:00	Inaugural Breakfast
09:30	Registration
10:00	Inauguration of the XXIX International Numismatic Convention
10:00 - 20:00	Bourse open to public. Viewing auction lots

## February 26, Friday

09:30	Registration
10:00 - 20:00	Bourse open to public
11:00	Paper money auction (members only) by Claudio Verrey
16:00	S.N.M. mini auction by Jose Diaz Diez
18:00	US Mexican Numismatic Association meeting
21:00	Banquet

## February 27, Saturday

09:30	Registration
10:00 - 17:00	Bourse open to public
11:00	Educational forum



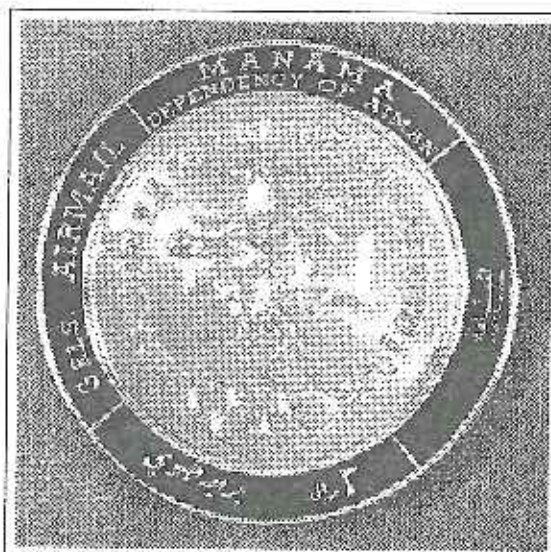
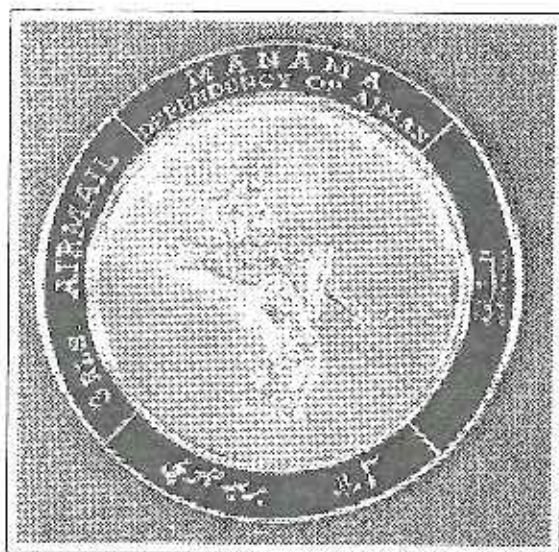
Reservations at the Hotel Del Prado Av. Marina Nacional #399, Col. Veronica Anzures, C.P. 11300, Tels: (011 525 260-6284), Fax (011 525 260-5909). should be made direct with the hotel. The convention rate for a single or double has been set at 650 pesos per night ( tax not included). Ask for the convention rate for the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico.

In this issue of the Journal you will find a letter from the Sociedad's President, Duane Douglas, concerning membership in the Sociedad, as well as a sample of their quarterly Boletín. We are doing this as a show of support for our sister numismatic society south of our borders. Our interests and goals are so intertwined that we must support each other. Many of the association members have been a member of the Sociedad for years, some more years than we want to remember, but the good relationships still continue to this day.

A standard linear barcode consisting of vertical black bars of varying widths on a white background.

## ASSOCIATION REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 15

As of this date the Association's membership has grown to 230. There are 36 states represented, and Germany, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, England, and Switzerland also represented. Of course Texas and California have the most membership with a close race of 50 and 49 respectively. We currently have 25 members in Mexico. We are proud to have had the Casa De Moneda de Mexico as a new member. We welcome them along with all the new members to the association, and hope that they find that it will be informative, as well as enjoyable.

[illegible]

## 1968 OLYMPICS MEXICO CITY

Two of a set of four gold foil stamps issued to commemorate the Olympics held in Mexico City in 1968. These were 63mm, black on gold foil, and issued by Manama, Dependency of Aiman.



## **SOCIEDAD NUMISMATICA DE MEXICO A. C.**

PRIMUM NUMISMA AMERICAE • MÉXICO 1636

EUGENIA N° 13 - 301, COL. NÁPOLES, 03810 MÉXICO, D.F. ☎ (91-5) 536-44-40 FAX 543-17-91

INSTITUCIÓN CIENTÍFICA Y CULTURAL

September 30, 1998

### **To the Members of the U.S. Mexican Numismatic Association:**

As President of the Sociedad Numismática de México, I have been observing the progress of the U.S. Mex. N.A. since its very beginning, and I wish to congratulate its board of directors on its rapid growth, numismatic involvement and evident support of our Society. No doubt, it will continue this course and become a very important organization promoting and supporting Mexican numismatics throughout the world, which after all, is its principal role.

Since its founding in 1952 the Sociedad Numismática de México has been the most important institution of its kind in Mexico and abroad. Its varied activities include the publishing of its bi-lingual (English-Spanish) quarterly journal (Boletín) of which we are enclosing a copy for each member of the U.S. Mex. N.A. Other important activities include, its monthly lectures for members and guests, the annual International Numismatic Conventions held in Mexico City, of which two are scheduled for 1999; the next will take place on February 24-27 at the "Del Prado Hotel". The Society also holds three auctions per year as well as courses in Mexican numismatics. It issues commemorative medals for its members, and, in general, promotes Mexican numismatics in Mexico and abroad.

It is a great pleasure for me and the board-of-directors of the Sociedad Numismática de México to extend a personal invitation to each member of the United States Mexican Numismatic Association to become a member of our Society as well. Both of our organizations work together toward the same goals and both offer highly specialized benefits to their members.

You will find an application form enclosed. If you desire further information feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you and including you in our membership.

Duane D. Douglas  
President

José Antonio Bátiz  
Secretary





*REVOLUTIONARY CORNER*

By Joe Flores, C-2

## CHIHUAHUA

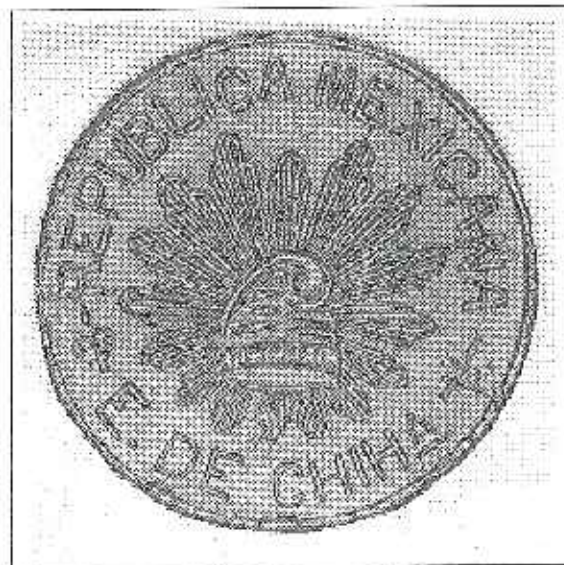
These 5 centavos Chihuahua coins were collected by just a few people, myself included. I thought that it would be fun to try to collect all the known die varieties that are listed, and I did over a span of years. It became a real fun project. The coins were, and still are reasonably priced.

Not too many years ago you could go to all most any world coin dealer and find these coins in UNC, or any condition. Those days are history. There are two that are scarce and one that is **EX. RARE**. This rare coin is the photos shown below. As you can see the obverse die (Libertad Cap side) of this coin known as G-16, or #20 as per Verne R. Walrafen charts. It is obvious from the charts, after striking all the "G" series coins, the (obverse) die shows many more die breaks. As in the photo there was not much life left to strike too many more coins. How many of these rare coins were struck? I know of only one coin. Maybe out there someone owns one, has seen one, or perhaps a new combination .....# 53? ....., Do you have any of the above??

I must take my hat off to Mr. Verne R. Walrafen, member C-4, for his extended work on his internationally known charts showing 52 die combinations that he did many years ago. His charts still stand.

Yeah --- yeah --- who cares is the attitude of some people, but lately I have had a lot of inquires on these coins, specifically on this rarity, so I know that there is a large number of collectors of 5 centavos Chihuahua coins. ---- Buena Fortuna.

Coin Owner:  
Joe Flores, C-2  
P.O. Box 4484  
Stockton, CA 95204



OBV. G



REV 16



## THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, Part III

By Don Bailey, C-1

On March 29, 1732, the striking of round coins began. On this date, five silver coins and four gold coins were struck: half, 1, 2, 4, and 8 Reales in silver, and 1, 2, 4, and 8 Escudos in gold. The design of the milled coinage, which in numismatic terms means produced on a screw press as opposed to the previous method of hand striking the dies with a heavy hammer, was changed to what is most commonly called "Pillar". Some refer to the design as World, and Globe, or Two Worlds type.

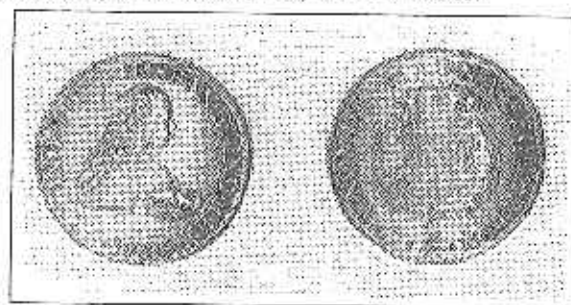
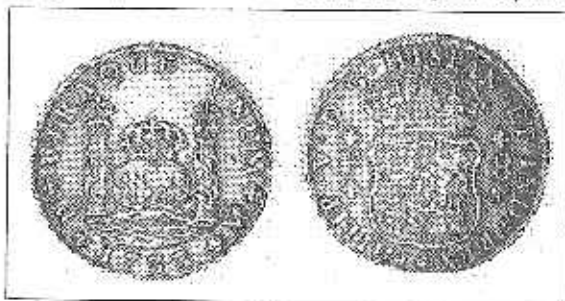
The obverse of the pillar coinage shows two hemispheres surmounted by a crown between the crowned Pillars of Hercules. These resting on a wavy semicircular base, symbolic of the ocean separating the two continents. The inscription around VTRAQUE VNUM ("both worlds are one"), with date below and the Mo Mint mark at each side of the date.

On the reverse is the coat of arms similar to the one on the coinage issued under Charles and Johanna, with the arms of the Kingdoms of Castile, Leon and Granada with the Bourbon escutcheon added. The inscription around reads "PHILIP. V.D.G. HISPAN. ET IND. REX". The assayer's initials to the left of the coat of arms with rosettes above and below, and to the right the value in Arabic numerals between rosettes.

The Pillar design with denomination of 8 Reales was also known as the romantic "Piece of Eight", and was legal tender in the United States until 1857. This is the type of coin that George Washington supposedly threw across the Potomac River.

There are two types of dies for the 1732 issue of 8 Reales. According to the late Dr. A. F. Pradeau, the grandfather of Mexican numismatics, the first obverse die did not show the assayers or denomination on the reverse. There were four sets of dies also used in 1733. One die is similar to the second 1732 die except two assayers' initials appear in a vertical position. The other die shows in a marginal inscription "M.X. \*1733\* M.X.". Around the edge, the Pillar coins have a deeply impressed laurel pattern. The lesser denomination design is basically the same as the 8 Reales from 1732 until 1747, when Ferdinand VI coinage appeared.

Both Philip V and Ferdinand VI appear on 1747 coinage in the denominations of half, 1, 4 and 8 reales. In the 2 Real denomination, both rulers appear on issues dated 1747 and 1750, which is a mule of two dies with the obverse being Philip V. The silver coins of the pillar style struck under Philip V were half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 Reales.



Gold coins of a portrait style were first struck in Mexico under Philip V in 1732. These were struck in denominations of 1, 2, 4 and 8 Escudos. The obverse had the armored and peruked (bewigged) bust of Philip V and the marginal inscription "PHILIP. V.D.G. HISPAN. ET IND. REX," with the date below. The reverse on the 8 Escudos has the Bourbon arms superimposed upon the complete Spanish coat of arms. This is surmounted by a crown. The assayers' initials appear to the left of the shield. To the right of the shield is the denomination in Arabic numerals.

The Collar of the Golden Fleece surrounds the center design. The legend around the margin reads "INITIUM SAPIENTIAE TIMOR DOMINI", ("The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"). The Mexico Mint mark appears twice on each side of the Fleece.



*THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, Part III Con't.*

The edging can be found with either a transverse or twisted cord-like milling. On the 1732 and 1733 coinage, the mint mark appears on the margin with assayer's initial "F" to the left of the shield. The assayer's initial is missing on the 1732 issues of 4 and 8 Escudos. Here, you again find coinage of the same date with different rulers. The 2, 4, and 8 Escudos appear for both rulers.

Ferdinand VI succeeded to power July 9, 1746, upon the death of Philip V. During his reign apparently no 8 Reales were coined in Spain. The coinage came mainly from the Mexico Mint. The silver coinage was a carryover of the last type of Philip V and issued in half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 Reales denomination. The gold Coinage of Ferdinand VI comes in four types:

Type 1: Coined only in 1747, it has the armored and peruked bust with features not as full as the next two types. The reverse is similar to the coinage of Philip V in design and inscription.

Type 2: A smaller, draped portrait of the King with fuller features. The legend around the margins reads "FERDND. VI. D.G. HISPAN. ET. IND. REX. \*1748\*." The reverse has the same coat of arms as found on the gold coinage of Philip V for the 8 Escudos, but the assayers' initials have been moved from the left of the shield to the margin. The value in Arabic numerals between rosettes is at the left of the shield. The letter "S" for Escudos is at the right of the shield, also between rosettes. The Collar of the Golden Fleece has the Grand Cross suspended below the Fleece. The marginal inscription is as follows: "NOMINA MAGNA SEQUOR", (I succeed great names). The mint mark and assayers' initials appear on either side of the Grand Cross.

Type 3: A slightly more ornamented bust similar to type 2. The first date of issuance is 1753. The reverse is the same except the value does not appear. The mint mark and assayer \*M\* Mo, appear on either side of the fleece on the margin.

Type 4: The obverse shows the heavily armored bust of Ferdinand VI, with a curlier peruke (wig), and less rounded. These were minted from 1757 - 1759, and the name appears as "FERDIND". The reverse is the same as the preceding type except the Grand Cross does not appear. On the 1, 2 and 4 Escudos, the coat of arms is simplified and the Collar of the Golden Fleece does not appear. In some of the 2 Escudo coins as well as all the 1 Escudo, they have only the head and neck, with a draped base. Some of the 1 Escudo coins do not show the value. The edges can be found being either wreath, transverse or twisted cord-like. The assayers' initials found on coinage of Ferdinand VI are: M, MM, and MI.

In 1750 there was a large amount of spurious cob coins in circulation. The Viceroy suggested on December 2, 1751, that all clipped coinage be retired. This was not done until a decree so ordered it March 18, 1761. This was not enforced until April 8, 1772, by order of Viceroy Bucareli by the usual town crier method. On May 29, 1772, Charles III issued a similar order.

Charles III succeeded to the throne upon the death of Ferdinand VI Aug. 10, 1759, and ruled until his death Dec. 14, 1788. The Pillar design continued until 1772, and a new design known as the bust type was authorized by decree of Sept. 19, 1759. However, the use of the new design did not begin until April 8, 1772.

The obverse of the Charles III bust type coinage shows the laureated head, facing right, draped and cuirasses in Roman style. The inscription around the margin, "CAROLUS. III. DEI GRATIA.", and the date appears in the exergue. The reverse has the Spanish coat of arms, but in a less ornate shield, set between two pillars entwined with the motto "PLUS ULTRA". The marginal inscription, "HISPAN. ET IND. REX.", with the mint mark, denomination and assayers' initials completing the legend.

The silver coinage was issued in the usual half to 8 Reales denominations, with the bust or portrait style coinage being slightly larger in diameter. The 8 Reales were changed to the previous size in two years. The edge design was changed to a design of squares and annulets, (small interlocking rings).



*THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, Part III, Con't.*

There are three main types of gold coinage under Charles III.

Type 1: The obverse of the coins issued in 1760 and 1761 has a young thin face, with a long pointed nose. The neck is uncovered and the bust armored and mantled. The legend "CAROLVS. III. D.G. HISPAN. ET IND. REX." and the date are in large letters and numerals.

There are two varieties of obverse within the type 1 design. On one, the Golden Fleece is on a ribbon and appears just below the neck. On the other, the Golden Fleece is suspended from a chain and hangs down into the marginal inscription. The Collar of the Golden Fleece only appears on the reverse of the 8 Escudos.

Type 2: This type issued in 1762 to 1771 has the obverse showing a bust with a pointed nose and a receding forehead. The bust is larger and the draping is heavy. The neck is now covered and the Toison d'or hangs on the breast with the repuke showing individual curls. The marginal inscription is now split by the head projecting upward. The legend has smaller lettering, and the name is spelled "CAROLUS". There are four main varieties of the reverse:

Variety 1: The coat of arms are in a different shape, the arrangement of the component parts are changed and the arms of Castile and Leon appear in the center.

Variety 2: The crown is higher.

Variety 3: The assayers' initials are to the right, and the Mint mark is to the left of the Fleece.

Variety 4: The legend reads "IN. UTROQ. FELIX. AUSPICE. DEQ.". (With God's guidance happy in each).

Type 3: This type issued in 1772 shows a bust of a more mature king with a receding forehead and prominent rounded nose. The marginal inscription reads "CAROL. III. D.G. HISP. ET. IND. R.", with the date. The reverse differs from the type 2 coin in that the shape of the coat of arms is different, the denomination in Arabic numerals is at the left of the shield, and the capital letter "S" for Escudo is at the right. The mint mark is done in small letters. The mint mark and assayer's initials can be found inverted.

The old dies were apparently used until at least 1783 as about that time some of the lower denomination gold coins appeared with the full coat of arms surrounded by the Order of the Golden Fleece.

By secret order issued March 18, 1771, the fineness of the silver coinage was lowered from 916.66 to 902.66 thousandths fine while the gold coinage was lowered from 22 karats (.917 fine) to 21 karats (.875 fine).

The assayers' initials that appear in this reign were F, M, M.F. and M.M.

A redesigned coat of arms appeared in 1762 on both the silver and gold coins. This was used on the gold coins from 1762 until the independence from Spanish rule was attained. There was a drastic modification made in the coat of arms to incorporate the arms of Parma and Tuscany.

There are two copper patterns of 1769 known. One is 22 millimeters in diameter, and the other is 28 millimeters, and show a prospective denomination of half and one. The Mint mark of Mexico appears as does the symbol OG (O on top of G), which to some historians means the denomination of Grano, a nonexistent monetary unit. Others feel that OG is the name of the designer. These strange pieces could either be practice patterns for student engravers, or patterns for a base metal coinage for the Philippines.

Charles IV, the son of Charles III, assumed the throne upon the death of his father Dec. 14, 1788. Charles IV had all kinds of problems getting his coinage to show his effigy, and the correct legend. Because of slow communications, public mourning was not decreed until March 17, 1789, in Mexico. Coinage in both silver and gold had been struck using dies for Charles III. There was a Dec. 24, 1788, royal order which allowed the continued use of the dies of Charles III but adding a digit to make the legend read "CAROLVS IIII. These were struck in 1789 and 1790. Some of these have the inscription "CAROLVS IV", also appearing with the dates of 1789 and 1790. The bust of Charles IV was ordered to be placed on the coinage but this was not done until 1791.



*THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, Part III, Con't.*

The coat of symbols of Charles IV has the arms of Castile, Leon, Granada and the escutcheon of the Bourbons in the center.

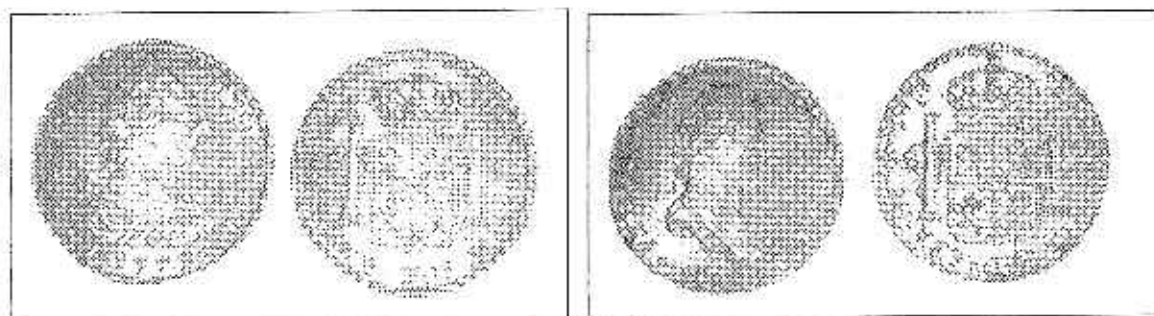
The silver coinage of Charles IV is the same as Charles III with denominations of half, 1, 2, 4, and 8 Reales, but under Charles IV the quarter Real or Quartilla (Cuartilla) was reissued. The royal decree authorizing the Cuartillas was announced by the usual town crier method on March 3, 1794, but they were not struck until 1796. These are known as Lion and Castle, as the obverse shows a castle between the Mo Mint mark and the quarter denomination, with the date below. The reverse is a crowned lion. The Cuartillas with no date or Mint mark are believed to have been for the Philippines.

The gold coins of Charles IV come in three types:

Type 1: Dated 1789 and 1790 the obverse has the bust of Charles III but the legend "CAROL. IIII". The reverse of this type is the same as on the last type of Charles III.

Type 2: Also dated 1789 and 1790, this is the same as on type 1, except the legend reads "CAROL IV".

Type 3: Issued from 1791 through 1808, it was a heavily draped bust of Charles IV with hair in queue. The legend reads "CAROL. IIII. D.G. HISP. ET IND. R." and the date. The reverse is the same except for assayer's initials as in the first type. The Collar of the Golden Pleece is surrounding the coat of arms on all denominations of gold in all types under this ruler. The edge has a twisted cord-like milling.



Charles IV abdicated to Ferdinand VII, his oldest son, March 19, 1808, and almost immediately declared it was not voluntary. However, Charles IV was never able to reclaim his throne. He died in exile 11 years later. Ferdinand VII ruled until 1833, but Mexico's independence from Spain came Sept. 27, 1821, therefore his reign over Mexico ended on that date. The first Ferdinand VII coinage was struck Aug. 12, 1808.

As there was no denominations issued less than a quarter real, there was a need of smaller denominations for commercial usage, so private coinage was issued by merchants, mining companies and haciendas. Numismatically these are tokens and are known as Senales (Equivalent to the English I.O.U.), Pilonces (one-sixteenth of a real value) and Tlacos (one-eighth Real). Most numismatists refer to these as Hacienda tokens, a collecting field all its own.

Even though these were to be redeemed on demand for official coinage, it really did not work due to the irresponsible nature of some of the issuers. In 1814, it was ordered that these private issues be retired from commerce. By edict of Aug. 23, 1814, coinage in copper of eighth, quarter and half were authorized. Two of the 2/4 were equal to 1/4 Real silver.

The obverse of these copper coins had two F's in script, interlaced and facing each other. In the center of the F's with a crown above. The Mo Mint mark is at the left and the denomination at the right. The marginal inscription is "FERDIN. VII. D.G. HISP. REX.", and the date below. The reverse consists of a floral cross, with three fleurs-de-lis contained in the center oval.

*THE NUMISMATICS OF SPANISH COLONIAL MEXICO, Part III, Con't.*

Castles and lions are in the quarters of the cross. A full circular wreath surrounds the design. The one-eighth was struck in 1814 and 1815, the quarter in 1814, 1815 and 1816, while the 2/4 was struck in 1814, 1815, 1816 and 1821. There was no ready acceptance of these copper coins until the law of Dec. 20, 1814, which required their circulation and imposed a penalty for not complying with the law.

There are two main types of silver coinage under Ferdinand VII:

Type 1: Known as the armored or imaginary bust shows Ferdinand VII with cuirass and toga in the style of the last coinage of Charles VI. The half Real was issued for 1808 to 1814, the 1 Real in 1809 to 1814, the 2 Reales and 4 Reales for 1809 - 1812, and the 8 Reales for 1808 to 1811.

Type 2: This type known as the draped bust shows Ferdinand VII somewhat older and draped in a toga. The half and 1 Real were issued for 1814 to 1821, the 2 Reales for 1812 to 1821, the 4 Reales for 1816 to 1821, and the 8 Reales for 1811 to 1821. The quarter Real issued 1808 to 1816 was of the same Lion and Castle type as under previous rulers. The reverses of the other silver coinage were similar to the previous coinage.

The gold coinage of Ferdinand VII issued from the Mexico Mint were of two types:

Type 1: Known as the armored or imaginary bust shows a large draped bust of Ferdinand VII with hair in queue. The marginal inscription "FERDIN. VII. D.G. HISP. ET IND. R. with date. The reverse is the same as in previous coinage of Charles IV. This type was issued from 1808 to 1812.

Type 2: Known as the undraped bust, it shows the laureated head of Ferdinand and a small portion of the nude bust showing. The balance of the obverse and the reverse are similar to the first type with only the assayers' initials differing, and issued from 1812 to 1821.

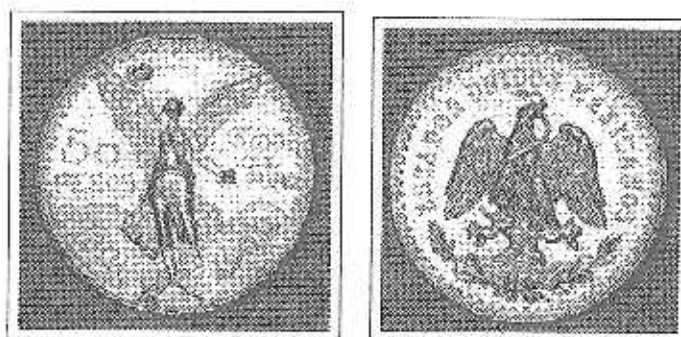
The Order of the Golden Fleece is shown surrounding the coat of arms in all denominations. The edge has a twisted rope - like milling. A new denomination of gold was issued during this reign. This was the Half Escudo, and was struck in 1814 to 1820. The assayers' initials found on the coinage of Ferdinand VII are TH, HJ, and JJ.

FINAL PART OF THIS SERIES IN VOL. II NO. IV OF THE JOURNAL.

~~~~~

## 1922 PROOF 50 PESO GOLD SURFACES

The below mystery coin has surfaced. Anyone have any suggestions as to the origin of this frosted proof ?

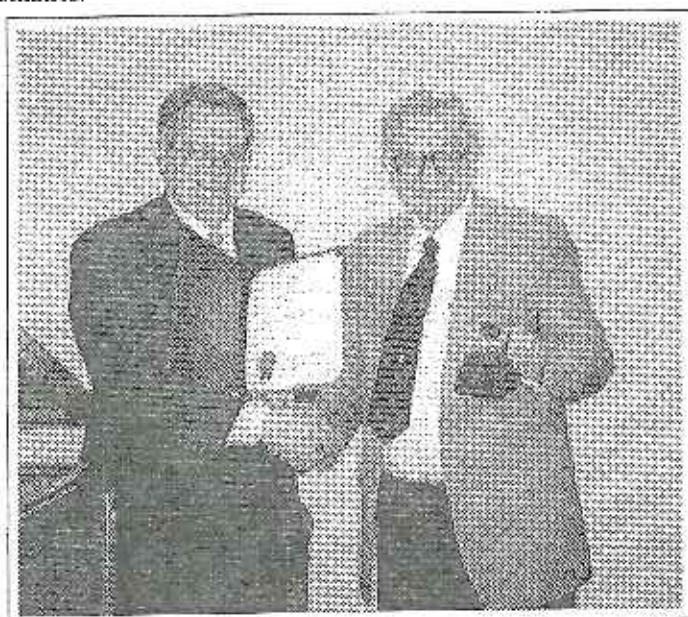






AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT PRESENTS ANA  
PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS AT THE MEXICO CITY INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC  
CONVENTION

ANA President Anthony Swiatek presented two of his Presidential awards during the May International Numismatic Convention. These were presented to Clyde Hubbard, C-127, and Don Bailey, C-1. These two prestigious awards along with the one previously awarded last year to Duane Douglas, President of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, made up 10% of the Presidential awards presented by President Swiatek at that time. These having been made in Mexico is indicative of the support that Mexican numismatics are receiving from the current ANA officials. Both recipients were very appreciative of the awards, that were presented for their efforts in furthering Mexican numismatics.



*DON BAILEY*

NUMISMATIC SERVICES

P.O. Box 98, Homer MI 49245-0098

(517) 568-4014, Fax (517) 568-3726

E-Mail [donbailey@dmci.net](mailto:donbailey@dmci.net)

*Coin World's Trends of Mexico Analyst:*

*Send for free price lists:*

*Modern Coins of Mexico  
Spanish Colonial & Republic*

Books of Mexico

Medals of Mexico

*Documents, Stocks & Bonds of Mexico*

*VISA, Mastercard, Discover  
& American Express*

*Wanted to buy:  
Collections; Coins, Medals,  
Decorations, Documents  
or all things historical  
pertaining to historical  
Mexico*

**Place your advertisement  
in this 1/8 page for  
only \$75.00 a year**

## ADVERTISING POLICIES:

Advertisements must be placed on an annual basis

Advertising limited to inside front cover, back page, inside and back, and two inside pages.

**All advertising must be photo ready**

The advertisements shall be the same for all issues of the year started, unless pre-approved by the Editor

**Costs for annual insertion, (4 issues):**

Back outside cover \$500.00

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Front inside cover | \$450.00 |
|--------------------|----------|

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Back inside cover | \$400.00 |
|-------------------|----------|

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1/2 page | \$175.00 |
|----------|----------|

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 1/4 page1 | \$100.00 |
|-----------|----------|

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1/8 page | \$ 75.00 |
|----------|----------|





## Pat Johnson Rare Coin Co.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 25357

Houston, Texas 77265-5357 U.S.A.

Shipping Address:

2486 Times Blvd., Suite A

Houston, Texas 77005-3241

Phone: 713 529-4995 Fax: 713 528-7618

### FREE PRICELIST - MEXICO AND WORLD COINS

**SEND FOR OUR NEXT "BUY OR BID" SALE**

**GOLD, SILVER, & COPPER, FROM \$10 TO \$10,000.**

OUR MOST RECENT LIST HAD OVER 1100 LOTS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING COINS.

|                                                           |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| MEXICO 4 REALES, 1733 MX-MF, Choice AU-BU.....            | 9500.00 |
| MEXICO 4 ESCUDOS 1742-MF, Choice P.L. AU.....             | 5750.00 |
| MEXICO 8 ESCUDOS, 1743-MF, AU, faint adj.marks.....       | 3750.00 |
| MEXICO 8 REALES, 1874 Do-JH, Nice AU.....                 | 3500.00 |
| MEXICO 8 REALES, 1845 Ga-JG, sl. weak BU.....             | 2250.00 |
| MEXICO 8 REALES, 1863 Ga-FV, lt.cind.VF, 3 chopmarks..... | 3750.00 |
| MEXICO 8 REALES, 1847/6 Mo-MF, VF+, lt.adj.mks.Rev.....   | 4750.00 |
| MEXICO 8 REALES, 1849/8 Pi-PS/AM, wk. VF, tiny rn.....    | 1250.00 |
| MEXICO 8 REALES, 1857 Pi-MC, Lust. XF.....                | 2400.00 |
| MEXICO PATTERN MAXIMILIAN PESO, SM. LETTERS, 1866.....    | 1750.00 |
| CHILE 8 ESCUDOS, 1790 So-DA, KM-42, Lust. XF.....         | 1500.00 |
| CHINA \$10.00, Yr-8 (1919), Y-330, NGC-MS62.....          | 6500.00 |
| COLOMBIA 8 ESCUDOS, 1772 NR-VJ, P.L.XF-AU, faint scr..... | 1450.00 |
| GREAT BRITAIN, CROWN, 1695, WM.III, Ch.P.L. XF-AU.....    | 800.00  |
| GUATEMALA QUETZAL, 1925, Nice XF.....                     | 900.00  |
| PUERTO RICO, 40 CENTAVOS, 1896, Ch.tnd AU+, lt.mks.....   | 1200.00 |

PLEASE GIVE US A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR COLLECTING INTERESTS, OR SEND US ANY WANT LISTS THAT YOU HAVE PREPARED. THIS WILL HELP US BE OF BETTER SERVICE TO YOU.

### BUYING! STRONG PRICES PAID FOR MEXICAN & WORLD COINS.

IF YOU HAVE SOME NICE DUPLICATES, OR IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING SELLING YOUR ENTIRE COLLECTION, IT WILL PAY YOU TO CONTACT US. WE ARE SERIOUS BUYERS OF WORLDWIDE COINS (INCLUDING U.S. COINAGE). IF YOU PREFER A DIRECT SALE, WE WILL MAKE YOU A STRONG OFFER FOR YOUR COINS. IF YOU WOULD RATHER CONSIGN ITEMS TO OUR SALES, YOU WILL FIND THAT OUR TERMS ARE VERY FRIENDLY. WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO ADVISE YOU ON GETTING THE MAXIMUM RETURN FOR YOUR COINS, AND THERE'S NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE. PLEASE CALL JED CRUMP AT THE ABOVE NUMBER TO DISCUSS DETAILS.

### OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Please order with confidence. We have worked hard over the years to build a reputation for accurate grading, and honest and reliable service. We are well known in the business, and can furnish many references to those of you who are not familiar with our company. ANA - LM # 656.

## GUADALAJARA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico held it's International Numismatic Convention, and the consciences was that it went well. The attendance was spotty at times, and some of the US dealers, that made up one third of the dealer's tables reported that they did well, while others said they did not do well. The efforts of Bob Briggs of Numismatica de Guadalajara, assisted by Alma Carrillo of IuriSerh, who supervised the hotel reservations, the breakfast, banquet, and all other details did an outstanding job.

The Guadalajara show is building up to be the show that it was for so many years. There were several association members that attended as guests, and the Association held an informal reception that was well attended, and the conversation centered on supporting the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, and their International Conventions. An update on the progress of the Houston Money Show International was given. It was felt by several there that this went well, and was worth the small effort to put this on. During the convention the Association was able to sign up five new members, and to get feed back on the progress of the Association, and our efforts to reach out to our sister organization in Mexico, the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico.

---

### TRIPLE EXECUTION IN MEXICO

By: John O. Hardman, C-103

One of the most common series of postcards of the Mexican revolution is a group of cards popularly called the "Triple Execution in Mexico", a series of at least seven real photo postcards by Walter H. Horne. the first time you see any of these cards, your mind conjures up thoughts of spies, traitors, or prisoners of war being "Dobe Walled" for their misdeeds. the Spanish edition of the El Paso MORNING TIMES of February 16, 1916 tells the whole story. "Triple Execution Accompanied By Music" was the headlines of the article, which is paraphrased below. A triple execution took place in Juarez accompanied by the playing of martial music. The condemned were marched to the site of their execution between rows of troops preceded by a military band with drums and trumpets. the atmosphere was festive with close to 2,000 people from both sides of the frontier cities present. Francisco Rojas, Juan Aguilar, and Jose Moreno were executed by a firing squad from the Juarez garrison, under the command of Captain Javier J. Valle.

The executions took place on February 15th in Ciudad Guars, at 11:30 A.M., in front of the south wall of the Northwestern Railroad station. Juan Aguilar was the first to be shot, the next was Francisco Rojas, Jose Moreno was the third to be executed. The three were executed for petty theft from the Juarez garrison. General Gabriel Gavira, who ordered the executions, told the press that he was having the executions carried out, in public, to let the people of Juarez, both soldiers and the populace, know that he would rule with an iron hand, General Gavira was the new military commandant of Juarez.

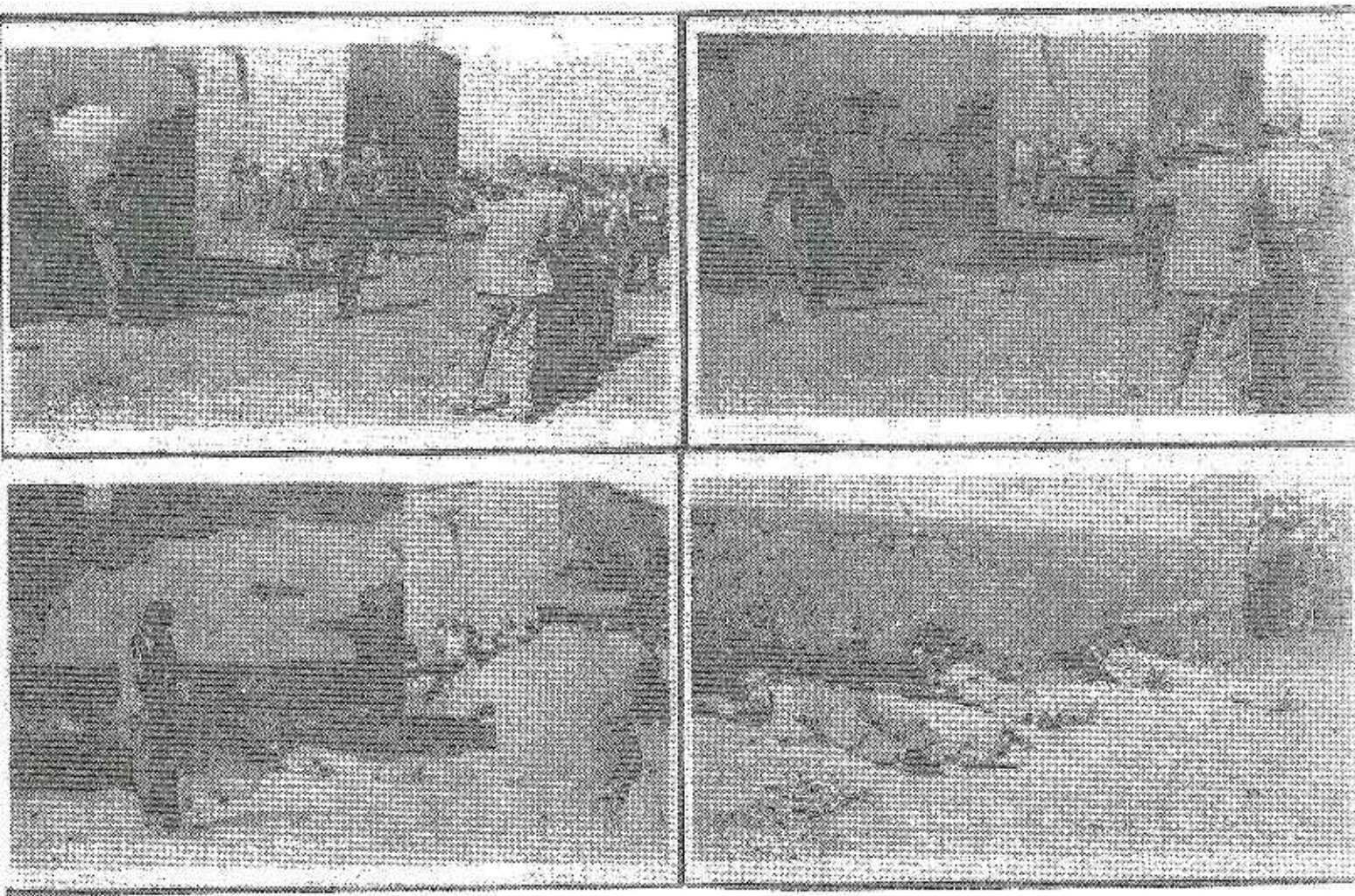
It should be noted that prior to the executions, a band was on the train platform in front of the square playing merry tunes. People chatted with each other as though they were at a saint's day celebration, or at the bull fights, and the mood was a festive one, at least until the time of the executions.

The photographer of the triple execution was Walter H. Horne, a photographer from El Paso, Texas. He used a Graflex camera on a tripod. Horne was an astute businessman, realized that such scenes on postcards were top sellers. Horne had been photographing the revolution for five years and had made many friends on both sides of the border. When he heard of the planned executions, he contacted Captain Valle, and paid him a "mordida" for the exclusive right to photograph the executions.

Following the executions, Horne, and his employees took orders for his "Triple Execution" postcards. He guaranteed delivery within ten days. The next time you see one or more of the "Triple Execution" cards, don't think of espionage, spies or other intriguing events. This series of cards shows what happened to three petty thieves who happened to get caught in the wrong place at the wrong time.

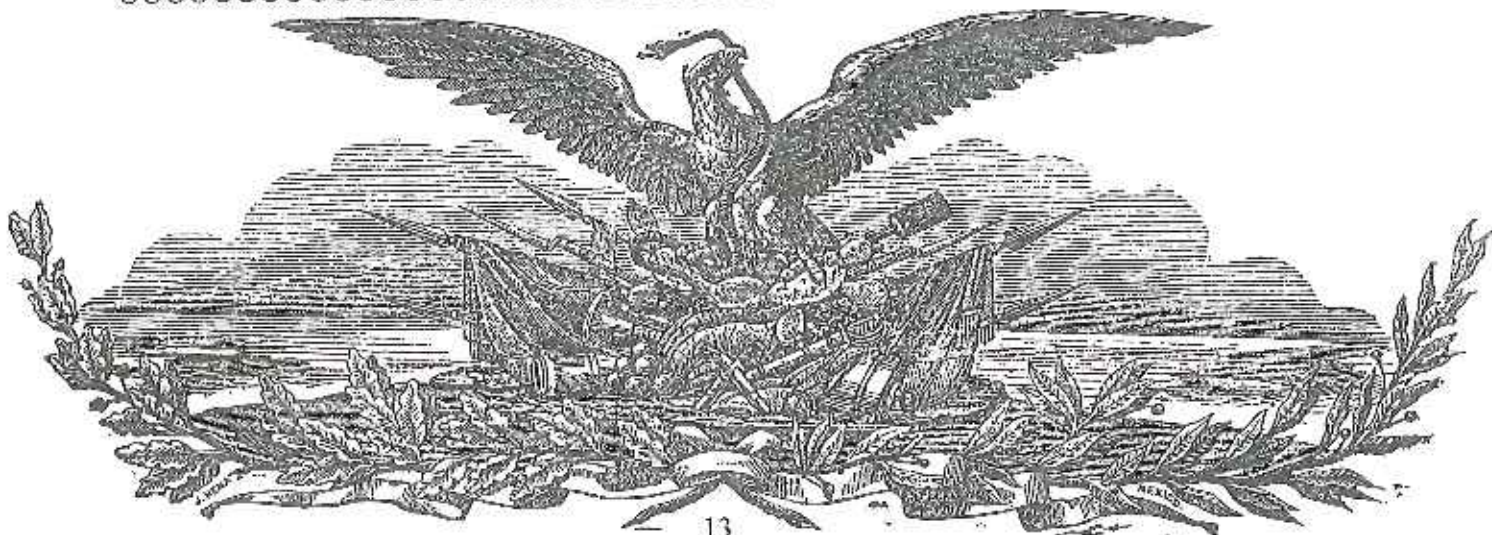


## TRIPLE EXECUTION IN MEXICO Con't:



FOUR EXAMPLES OF THE WALTER H. HORNE POSTCARDS

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX





## CONFEDERATE TREASURE IN DANVILLE

By J. Frank Carroll

Somewhere in The Last Capital of the Confederacy is buried a significant portion of the CSA treasure currently worth between \$10 million and \$74 million. Before scoffing at the notion, skeptics should first listen to J. Frank Carroll, author of a recently-published book entitled *Confederate Treasure in Danville*.

The author devoted eighteen years of dogged research into National Archives records, public documents, special collections, nearly one hundred books, private letters and even weather reports. A new hard-cover edition released by URE Press, *Confederate Treasure in Danville* (ISBN 0-933571-49-6) is an intelligent history lesson told in an interesting way. It covers treasure tales, identifies what was really in the cache, reveals the final disposition of the fortune and supports those findings with thirty photos (including one of the horses and wagon used to take the treasure to its burial site) and five maps of 1865 Danville.

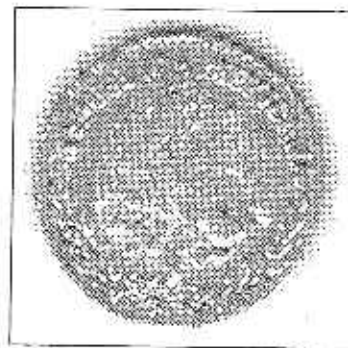
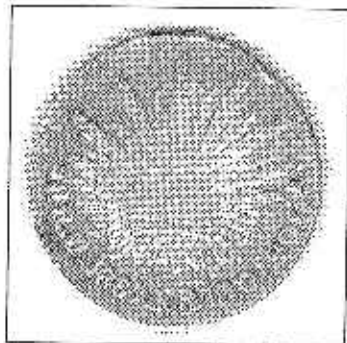
Unlike most history books, *Confederate Treasure in Danville* celebrates the "little man" and an **especially big bonus the book reveals clues to the location of the fortune**. This treasure trek won't be easy though! The spot cannot be found by reading selected portions of the book. Clues in every chapter and clever detective work are necessary to determine the whereabouts. Don't head to your local hardware store to pick up a spade. smart sleuths will discover that this dig requires using a mental shovel instead.

Editor's note: This treasure is said to consist up 55 kegs of Mexican Eight Reales of 1860 and 1861, that were traded for southern cotton with Mexico, and is SAID to contain a quantity of 1861 O 8 Reales, therefore the Association's interest in this story.

The author, J. Frank Carroll is a native of Reidsville, NC first heard rumors of missing Confederate treasure at a Baptist revival in Danville, VA in 1951. The treasure had to wait until mundane things like schooling, working and traveling were taken care of. Carroll has traveled the world over, and retired from the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1982.

Since 1978, he has researched the mysterious fortune, traveling thousands of miles, pouring over National Archives records, public documents, and the many other sources, as well as listening to scads of tales. Amid the confusion of these true and false stories, he has clarified the murky waters in an intelligent and intriguing book.

The book has been subject of front page articles in several southern papers, as well as television interviews, has been in nine national magazines. The lecture circuit to two hundred cities in three countries continues. This book has been nominated for the prestigious Douglas Southall Freeman Award (1997).



Eight Reales such as this rare 1861 Oa F.R. may be contained in these buried kegs



### Confederate Treasure in Danville, Con't:

April 3rd, 1865  
\$500,000 TO \$600,000 IN SPECIE  
ARRIVED IN DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

It is ironic that while the Confederacy was in its dying throes, the Confederate Treasure was only beginning to live. Although most of the bounty from that treasure was distributed in 1865, heretofore facts lend credibility to that continued life.

This book reawakens interest in an almost forgotten fortune that was secretly slumbered in undisturbed earth for 133 years. Now, the silvery voice of that sleepy treasure calls out from its resting place and draws attention to a city on the Dan River.

*The Confederate Treasure In Danville* can be purchased in most major book stores at \$24.95, but special arrangements have been made with the publishers that members of the Association can purchase these from the Association for \$20.00 plus postage of \$3.00.

USMexNA YOUTH PROGRAM APPOINTS MEXICO COORDINATOR

Arq. Anabelle Fernandez Castro, of Guadalajara has been appointed as the Association's Youth Coordinator within Mexico. Arq. Anabelle Fernandez Castro will be our contact, and will promote our youth program within the country. She will make efforts to recruit coordinators in all major cities within Mexico. She was very excited about this program, and we are working towards a USMexNA youth attendance during the Association's meeting - 18:00 PM, February 26, 1999 at the Sociedad's Numismatic International Convention February 24 - 27, 1999. Anabelle may be reached at: Jose Lopez Portillo #12, Colonia Los Pinos, (Antes Bugambilias), C.P. 45235 Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico.

**USMEXNA YOUTH PROGRAM:**

Maximum age is 18, or 21 if a full time student.

Dues are \$5.00, or waived with submission of a one page or more essay on why they want to be a member, or on a Mexican numismatic theme. Essay will be accepted in either English or Spanish.

Annual Youth Scholarship to the ANA Seminar:

Submit a 500 word or more essay on a Mexican numismatic subject.

Scholarship winner to be selected by the Youth Committee.

Deadline for filing may be obtained from the USMEXNA Youth Chairman, Sal Falcone.

Coins and other numismatic material shall be awarded at the discretion of the Youth Committee.

Donations of material and or money will be accepted by the USMexNA for the youth program.

The USMexNA Youth Committee, consists of Sal Falcone, Chairman, David Hughes and Bob Bandy, and may be reached at:

Sal Falcone,  
1230 Lincoln Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95125



## JUAN CORTINA'S SPY: ELENA VILLARREAL de FERRER

By Carlos Larralde, Published in the Journal of South Texas

During the 1890s, the distinguished South Texas attorney and historian, Jose T. Canales, met and interviewed several Hispanic women who served as spies or soldiers along the Lower Rio Grande. The patient and attentive Canales jotted their comments in his notebooks. Years later, Canales recalled how these inquisitive and fearless women aided his uncle, the "blocky, powerfully built, red-bearded" Juan N. Cortina, who conducted a sort of guerrilla war along the Rio Grande from 1859 to 1876. As John S. Ford pointed out, "in the beginning of his career Cortina was so successful that many of his countrymen were led to believe him to be the instrument in the hands of the almighty destined to chastise the insolent North Americans. As Cortina asserted in 1859, "...the Lord will enable me, with a powerful arm, to fight against our enemies..." "He ruled the Rio Grande border country from Laredo to the mouth of the river...His influence was so great that he could inaugurate a powerful movement against the Mexican Government.... His exploits at the time of the Civil War (1861 - 1865) caused the United States to lose many thousands of dollars." Depopulation, destruction, and waste resulted from Brownsville to Rio Grande City, 120 miles to the northwest. Commerce as far north as Laredo was disrupted periodically. American property was wrecked. Those *ranchos* spared by Cortina's troops were often sacked or burned by the Texans.

Mexicans in Texas were detested. "They are of mongrel blood, the Aztec predominating," noted Gilbert D. Kingsbury, writing about Mexicans along the Lower Rio Grande in the early 1860s. "These degraded creatures are mere pilferers, scavengers and vagabonds, downright barbarians... hanging like vermin on the skirts of civilization - a complete pest to humanity." Renowned writers like Frederick L. Olmsted phased popular sentiments that these Mexican "in a somewhat unchristian tone, not as heretics or heathens to be converted... but rather as vermin, to be exterminated." Even newspapers saw Hispanics as "half-negro, half Indian greasers" or mixed Indian and African blood".

Cortina just as vehemently denounced the Anglos claiming that "a multitude of lawyers" in Texas stole Mexican land. Numerous Hispanic women, nicknamed the *Aguilas Damas*, promoted Cortina's cause and propagated his message for unity and justice. Most were refined courtesans. These street tough women were familiar with abrasive individuals and different men of authority. "They were well familiar with the crude injustices and fickle ways of the world and acted as essential informants."

One such woman was the vibrant and independent Elena Villarreal de Ferrer. "With tears of pride and moments of grief, Elena revealed how a desperate Cortina needed the *Aguilas Damas* detectives to keep track of soldiers, military officers, deserters, traitors, radicals, idealists, extortioners, erroneous patriots, misguided martyrs, petty politicians, thieves and dead spies." Elena knew that Cortina was afraid of internal dissension and forbade fault-finding among his men. He wanted full control of troops and the appointment of officers.

Born about 1845 in the Lower Rio Grande region, Elena reflected an independent spirit like other frontier women who fought Indians and outlaws. Like most other wives, she endured sickness and the death of a beloved infant. Her marriage ceased due to her husband's death as a soldier. Forced to be strong, she and other women dressed in pants and shirts and worked along side men in the fields or tended to livestock. As for Elena she always wore a veil to cover her face from the sun.

Years later, Canales remembered her being shaded by a tiny parasol. "To protect her delicate complexion, Elena refused to venture out in the punishing sunlight without some kind of protection. she appeared small, fragile, and painfully vulnerable." Immune to anxiety, doubt and indecision, Elena told Canales how at first she helped the *Aguilas Damas* develop extensive connections on both sides of the Rio Grande through contacts in saloons and restaurants. They also had access to facilities which rented rooms by the hour. These establishments, such as the Gem Saloon and Sam's Oyster Saloon in Brownsville, or Charles' Restaurant in Brazos Santiago, were inexpensive and popular. Matamoros' *La Flor del Bravo*, "...celebrated club room known as (the) Merchant's Exchange with its superb bar, choice wines, old liquors with restaurant attachment," was Elena's favorite. A persistent Cortina demanded these places provide entertainment for his enemies and his spies.



## JUAN CORTINA'S SPY: ELENA VILLARREAL de FERRER, CON'T:

Like Richmond, Virginia and New York City, vice and depravity of the worst kind were synonymous with the saloons of Brownsville, Matamoros and other border towns. They prospered due to the European trade during the Civil War. In 1863, the British officer Arthur J.L. Fremantle, noted that "Brownsville was about the rowdiest town in Texas, which was the most lawless state in the Confederacy...." Lonely businessmen and military officers encountered the *Damas* in these taverns. Even Fremantle presumably patronized them and probably referred to Elena and other *Damas* when he wrote about certain Matamoros and other local Mexican women as "rather good looking, but they plaster their heads with grease, and paint their faces too much." Canales stated, "These *Damas* painted their faces to disguise how poverty etched their faces and how hard times bred a harsh neglect."

The Texas Ranger, Dan W. Roberts, apparently patronized these saloons also. He referred to ladies in Mier like Elena and numerous *Aguilas Damas* and stressed their love of gambling. "The Mexican women would walk up to a gambling table, place large sums of money on a card, and win or lose, you would not hear a word from them. Everything was in perfect order in the gambling place. the women smoked cigarettes and yet they appeared like perfect ladies. I thought it was the most wonderful thing I had ever seen."

Elena revealed to Canales that most of the *Aguilas Damas* and many Mexican women in general suffered from violence or rape. Instead of feeling sorry for themselves, these women often joined Cortina as agents, smugglers, cooks, nurses or messengers. Dressed like men, several of these women were soldiers, like Petra Cadriega and Manuela Rosa. As for Elena, she often visited patients who were also officers to gather intelligence information. She had to become accustomed to foul smells and seeing amputated limbs.

As a good detective who knew the Rio Grande region well, the fastidious Elena took mental notes of everything that she saw or heard. She knew Spanish and English well. Her mentor, Carlos Esparza, remained as a "man without a face" due to his keen ability to remain mysterious. He appreciated her talents. Elena learned from him to almost anticipate the enemy's move. She encouraged her fellow *Aguilas Damas* to wear fashionable crinolines, introduced by the French. "Like most of these ladies, Elena used her starched and stiffened petticoats to transport documents, medicines, guns, and ammunition up and down the Lower Rio Grande. When the river was flooded or full, Elena in her heavy hoop skirts used a boat to cross the river during the night".

Jose Canales asserted, "It must have been the will of God for Elena and Esparza not to be hanged or shot". The lawman L. H. McNelly, probably referred to Esparza and his men when he maintained, "They have an organization... called the 'rural police.' The chief man is the owner of a ranch, or the superintendent... He is a civil officer...He sends an alarm to one ranch, and it is sent from ranch to ranch in every direction." Elena was likely one of several agents who sent the signal.

While exchanging memos with Esparza, Elena carried dispatches and medicine through the enemy forces to aid Cortina's men. Attended by other envoys, she expedited valuable contraband supplies to Cortina's troops. As Esparza's courier, Elena loved fashion. "Pains were taken with the dress and the coiffeur, and the use of cosmetics.

A defiant and determined Elena revealed to Canales that she rented an upper-floor Brownsville hotel room near the river in sight of a specific location in Matamoros. She indicated her room by placing a vase or a flowerpot on the window sill where it could be seen through a powerful telescope by one of her confederates in Matamoros. Elena transmitted intelligence information from the window by maneuvering the blinds in different directions. If she pulled the blinds all the way to the right, it meant to stay there. If they were pulled all the way to the left, it signified that the enemy was too strong. If the blinds were pulled up all the way, it proclaimed that Cortina could easily attack his rivals. If the blinds were completely pulled down to cover the window, it meant that she had problems getting information. If the blinds were pulled half way, it indicated that other agents in



## JUAN CORTINA'S SPY: ELENA VILLARREAL de FERRER, CON'T:

Brownsville were ready to help Cortina. Elena would also get to an easily accessible roof or balcony and with her large umbrella send signals across to Matamoros. Each movement of the umbrella had specific meaning.

The proficient Elena smuggled baskets of food, medicine, and newspapers to captured Cortinista prisoners. In these newspapers, the prisoners understood a secret code. To others it was a nonsensical jumble of words, actually it was Carlos Esparza's code which he devised for his agents. Elena also used it when her servants hauled baskets filled with food to the Cortinistas, each basket contained numerous eggs. A few were hollowed. Each contained minuscule slips of paper carrying enciphered memorandums. Elena also secreted coded messages written on onionskin papers in secret recesses in her jewelry. To remember detailed military reports, Elena stitched her braided petticoats with different patterns. Elena and her associates used a list of secret passwords and recognition signals. These codes were taught to Union and Confederate deserters who aided the Cortinistas. Apparently Elena was effective in recruiting soldiers to defect. An embarrassed Confederate officer, John Ford, wrote about these deserters: "There were at this time a goodly number of these men in Mexico who professed to have come away from the Confederate Army on account of bad treatment from officers." Several of these Union forces joined Cortina. There were at least "1,500 of these enlisted in Union forces beyond the Texas borders."

Elena confided to Canales how easy it was to recruit Texas Germans to unite with Cortina. These German Unionists felt that the Federal government furnished them with freedom when they left Germany, they were apathetic to the Southern cause, opposed secession, and refused to join the Confederate Army. Like a Majority of Tejanos, these Germans persisted in speaking their own language, holding distinctive beliefs and retaining a separate culture. According to historian Walter Buenger, German-Texan newspapers like *Zeitung* (Galveston) sympathized with Cortina's cause. Texas Germans and Union Tejanos were persecuted by the Confederacy. To aid these Germans, Elena and her aids smuggled them in small boats across the Rio Grande. Most of them became fierce troops for Cortina, as historian, Glen Lich wrote, "A considerable number of them had settled in Mexico where German life was strengthened at that time by Austrian troops who came with the French Intervention.

Ready to entertain Yankee, Confederate, and even French military personnel, Elena Villarreal de Ferrer maintained a ladylike concealment. She referred to travel alone, striking up acquaintances with disgruntled officers and visiting them in their tents. Later these lonely soldiers were invited for dinner in her lavish home in Brownsville. She looked forward to their calls and their little gifts. "While Elena coaxed military secrets from them, she appeared as if nothing ever surprised her. With a straight face, she concealed any hard and bitter feelings. The well-bred Elena guarded her tongue well against any hot words that could scorch a patron.

Elena meanwhile heard about Cortina's complaints about priests who sympathized with the French-backed Mexican conservatives and the Confederate cause. They were suspected as spies, mainly Father Pierre F. Parisot. He bitterly detested the Cortinistas. A frustrated Elena hoped to reason with Parisot. She failed. Elena realized that Parisot was more of a peril with his spiteful anti-Cortinista sermons than Cortina realized. While fuming with anger, Cortina issued strict orders to his men to protect the anti-Cortina and pro-French clergy. He refused to create martyrs for the chummy cause.

With enthusiasm, Elena raised capital from local Jewish retailers to aid the Cortinistas, she comprehended how these cosmopolitan and resourceful Jews were an asset to Cortina. With their knowledge of languages, commerce and other cultures, they served as diplomats to encourage other European firms in Mexico to aid Cortina. As Arthur Fremantle wrote, "Matamoros is now infested with numbers of Jews, whose industry spoils the trade of the established merchants, to the great rage of the latter." With Jewish help, Elena advocated another fund-raising source through the comedies, farces, tragedies and melodramas in the *Treatro del Imperio*, as an actress, Elena inspired plays and themes that dramatized the Cortinista cause. The popular poetess, Julia Pena, also featured themes on patriotism and bravery.



### JUAN CORTINA'S SPY: ELENA VILLARREAL de FERRER, CON'T:

Juan Cortina's officers depended on spies like Elena to obtain supplies to combat the Confederates, the Union forces, and the Texas Rangers. Due to Cortina's political strategies, Elena and other *Damas* occasionally aided the Confederates. They shared the same qualities as most Southern females: a Richmond editor acknowledged the enmity of Confederate women was "more deadly than all than the engines of war ever invented by man." Also while Cortina's forces fought in Mexico opposing the French Intervention (1861 - 1867), they survived well with the aid of Elena and other militant ladies. As historian Elizabeth Salas noted, "As in previous wars, women aided both Mexican and foreign troops during the French Intervention. Some women fought along side their male counterparts, while others looked at French troops as employers and marriage partners. Looking back unmoved, Elena never dwelled on details with Canales about how she and other efficient and critical *Damas* were abused by some Mexican officials due to chauvinist traditions or jealousy. The stubborn Cortina still cherished his *Damas* as valuable allies, giving them a unique view of the inner workings of complex politics.

After the American Civil War, several *Aguias Damas* aided U.S. troops to patrol parts of South Texas. These soldiers were African Americans, who provided military data and sympathized with the Cortinistas. Although elegant courtesans like Elena refused to have anything to do with these impoverished Blacks or vulgar, useless whites, several Mexican women befriended them. As one narrative stated, "The colored soldiers have... Mexican Women about the camp, who, when the soldiers are going out, give information to their friends." As for the white officers, General E.O.C. Ord called them "with few exceptions, a sorry lot." Once the French intervention in Mexico ended, Elena aided the Cortinistas to combat the Texas Rangers and federal troops. She remained an informant. During the 1870s, Ranger Captain Neal Coldwell referred to Cortina's spies when he stated that as bandits they were "too smart and too well organized. They've got spies everywhere. They know where every soldier and every Ranger outfit is, and they know your moves before you can make them. they're bigger and smarter than the law."

Even ranger George Durham expressed his admiration for Cortina's supporters and how they rallied from blows. "The Cortinistas had a big edge. They had two hundred miles of river they could dart across, then get lost in the back country until they put together a herd. They had a good spy system and appeared to know where every soldier or Ranger was at any time, day or night."

Elena endured due to her tenacity, political experience and friends like Lora la Leona (Lora the Lion). Lora aided Elena in her spy activities and became an administrative assistant for Juan Cortina. Like Elena she was iron-willed. Enemies ridiculed Lora as Cortina's mistress. General William Steele wrote in 1875, "It is a well-known fact that not only Cortina himself, but even his mistress gives orders to judges as to their decisions in cases, either civil or criminal and such orders are obeyed." While some encouragement came from Cortina and even from H.A. Maltby, editor of the *Daily Ranchero*, equal rights for women became an issue. Elena and Lora focused on the important role in the Cortinista movement; they wanted women's suffrage. opposition came from several conservative, Catholic Cortinistas. Cortina refused to encourage this issue for fear of creating a crevice in his ranks.

As for Juan Cortina, one of his major problems was individuals like General Pedro Martinez in 1870. The zealous Martinez wanted to overthrow the Benito Juarez government and undo his progressive reforms. His speeches irritated Cortina. Elena encouraged Cortina to avoid Martinez and further bloodshed. Cortina remained concerned about the well-being of Matamoros. As early as 1870, the *Daily Ranchero* noted, "Matamoros has improved her streets wonderfully.... Commercial and other leading streets are now handsomely and substantially paved..." Thinking her career as a spy and politics was over, Elena opened a dress shop in Matamoros.

Elena erred. In 1876, the Cortinistas promoted Porfirio Diaz as President of Mexico. He was one of Mexico's patriotic generals under the celebrated Benito Juarez. A despondent Diaz dashed to Brownsville seeking aid and military support. Historian Laurens B. Perry asserted that Elena became involved as a *Porfirista* due to the efforts of Miguel de la Pena, a Mexican official, in January 1876. With other misguided patriots, Elena helped



**JUAN CORTINA'S SPY: ELENA VILLARREAL de FERRER, CON'T:**

Diaz since he promised that Mexico would have peace, order and progress. A majority of people failed to realize that Diaz planned to benefit the privileged class and foreign investors.

By now, Elena zealously worked for Diaz's cause. As Perry wrote, "The first of her several services was conducting correspondence clandestinely between Brownsville and Matamoros, delivering it to the home of one Francisco Bucher twice a day between January and March." Elena's luck ran out and Cortina's enemies became suspicious of her clandestine activities. She was denounced by three obscure officers: General La Barra, Colonel Cristo, and Colonel Parrat. They ordered her apprehension. "So successful was she as a spy that she was to be arrested at all costs."

These officers, even with the resources they commanded, were unable to seize her. With zest, Elena renewed her mission "until leaving it finished." Perry points out that Elena's "success might well have been due to some high-placed protection." But she faced grave danger. One federalist officer in Matamoros employed spies to follow her and know the location of her mother's home in Matamoros where she spent numerous nights. Although she remained faithful to Diaz, Elena escaped to Brownsville, probably when Colonel Parrat threatened her.

Elena's survival depended on her support from the Mexican community. The U.S. Federal government insisted that the Lower Rio Grande remained a dangerous breeding ground of Cortinista conspiracy and sympathizers who cherished Cortina. On June 8, 1875, Samuel J. Stewart wrote, "The Mexicans on this side of the Rio Grande are not willing to give information or assist the officers to make arrests; but, on the contrary, they give aid and comfort to the band of thieves and murderers from Mexico. Stewart blamed Mexican officials for the turbulence. "There is the best person to believe that armed bands of thieves and marauders cross from Mexico into Texas, and by the authority of Mexican officials rob and murder Americans. These raids were seen by most Mexican Nationals, as meritorious act (s), and the murder is (often) promoted to some office either civil or military."

"Elena's nerves were shredded. Cortinistas were captured and tortured. She grieved that they might break down under questions and reveal her true motives," as Jose Canales explained. "The soul of the age was cruelty and the heart of justice a stone. Once exposed, she and other *Aguilas Damas* faced the scaffold: to have sacks put over their heads and then the trap dropped. If not, they faced a firing squad. Trapped in a world of hatred, poverty, hardship, and uncertainty, Elena knew that all around her lurked more bitterness and violence. Secrecy was important. As Adjutant General William Steele wrote in 1875: "The thieves and cutthroats ... think the killing of a Texan something to be proud of... even of their nationality....Many have been killed for no other reason than that they knew too much."

The iron-willed Elena appeared frivolous while attending opulent parties. She tried to forget some of the ruthlessness and brutality of her fellow Cortinistas toward their enemies. Steele insisted that Cortina's men were "composed entirely of ruffians, ready at any moment to commit murder, or any other crime, at his bidding." He failed to understand why. Cortina meanwhile loved to jest with Elena and regularly proclaimed her as the "Queen of the Rio Grande," "First Lady of the Juarista Cause" and the "Muse of Courage." As A Matamoros actress, Elena sometimes wore a lavish dress and the cap of Liberty that incorporated the Mexican flag. As a guest at Cortina's diplomatic parties, Elena sparkled at his social affairs. She created innovative techniques to enhance herself. One evening Cortina entertained several Juarista officials to celebrate a Juarez victory over the French. "She then convinced his bugle soldiers to announce her entrance into the ballroom. With an orb and scepter, she walked in a long, white satin gown embroidered with patriotic slogans. In her hair she wore a twinkling crown with the Mexican eagle perched on it, illuminated by tiny, hidden gas jets."

Jose Canales remarked, "Elena endured as a vibrant source of gaiety in a world of violence and desperation." In her lavish apparel, she symbolized the faith and devotion of the Hispanic community toward Juan Cortina. Laurens Perry noted that later Elena survived as a successful entrepreneur. She employed numerous



**JUAN CORTINA'S SPY; ELENA VILLARREAL de FERRER, CON'T:**

"men as rollers of cigarettes in her home-factory in Brownsville." She prevailed as a canny manager with a good head for complex business. She remained vibrant, alert and well dressed. The refined Elena Villarreal de Ferrer died about 1910 and slipped into obscurity.

A copy of the end notes for this interesting article can be obtained upon request from the Association's office. We want to thank Carlos Larralde for sharing this with us.



## BOOK REVIEW, "FALLEN GUIDON", BY EDWIN ADAMS DAVIS

Edwin Adams Davis, *Fallen Guidon: The Saga of Confederate General Jo Shelby's March to Mexico*. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1995. 174 PP, Maps and bibliographical essay \$27.50 (cloth), ISBN 0-89096-683-4; \$14.95 (paper). ISBN 0-89096-684-2. Reviewed by Donald S. Frazier, McMurry University. Published by H-Ciwar (March, 1996).

In the final days of the American Civil War, the Trans - Mississippi South was in chaos. Edmund Kirby-Smith, from his headquarters in Shreveport, had lost control of the various units in his vast department, and rioting, looting, mutiny, and insubordination were rampant. Not all of the Rebel units abandoned military discipline, such as it was, and some even became increasingly loyal to the ideals of the Confederacy once their cause seemed lost. One such unit was Brigadier General Jo Shelby's Missouri Iron Brigade. Composed of Missouri and Arkansas cavalry, this organization refused to surrender and instead opted to retreat as a group to Mexico and thus delay the inevitable.

This book is a reprint of the late Edwin Adams Davis's original, published in 1962 by Stagecoach Press, identical to the first edition. Texas A & M Press's version saves the title from obscurity and is one of the first in a series of reprints that will be issued from College Station. Fallen Guidon traces Shelby's move from North Texas to the Mexican Border, across to Piedras Negras, and then down a line of march through the interior of that nation to Mexico City. The general's original intention was to offer his brigade's services to the forces fighting for Benito Juarez to restore the Mexican republic. On reaching the Rio Grande at Eagle's Pass, Texas, the Confederates symbolically buried their battle flag in the bottom of the river and moved across to start their new lives as hired guns following their brigade guidon.

Shelby's plans, however, came unhinged. After negotiating with the Juarezista garrison commander, the general learned that his men preferred to offer their sabers to the Imperialists working to prop up the tottering regime of the Hapsburg Prince Maximilian. Thus, the erstwhile Rebels declared their preference for yet another lost cause and in opposition to the forces of national self-determination. loyal to the wishes of his men, Shelby acquiesced, promising to lead his troops to the court of Maximilian himself in Mexico City.

The brigade's cross-country trip is the fascinating part of this book. Encounters with Republicans troops, bandits, partisans, and Indians keep the narrative flowing while providing insight into the conditions in the interior of 1865 Mexico. The Missourians also encountered French anti-insurgent troops at Monterey who, as circumstances would have it, also employed a few dozen unforgiving North American rebels. Plunging deeper into the country, the ex-confederates recalled stories of their childhood regarding the last gringo invasion of Mexico, and followed chivalric pursuits that involved dueling and the rescue of Mexican damsels in distress. Not all French commanders were happy to see the southerners and eyed them with some suspicion. Eager to prove their loyalty, the Iron Brigade engaged in some freelance formal combat at Matchuala, where the Missourians and Arkansans rescued the French 82nd Line Regiment from certain disaster at the hands of Mariano Escobedo's Juarezistas.



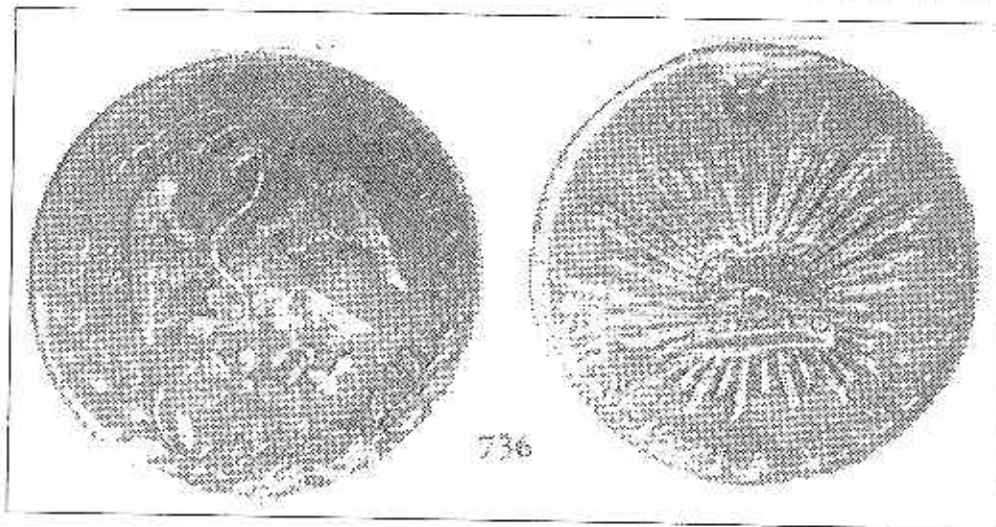
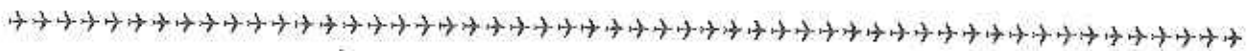
### BOOK REVIEW, "FALLEN GUTDON", CON'T:

Shelby's martial successes earned him an audience with the Emperor. When the forces arrived in Mexico City, however, the Austrian told the ex-confederate to go home. Maximilian had, at the time, a surplus of Europeans at his disposal and did not care to antagonize the government of the United States by employing former Rebels. Crushed, the hard-riding Iron Brigade held its last review while in Mexico City, then disbanded. Most of the men, including Shelby, went home, but some of the ex-Confederates went to serve alongside Union veterans with the Juarezistas.

Davis wrote an entertaining book. Because it lacks notes, index, and bibliography, however, it seems more to intrigue than to enlighten. Shelby's saga, and its retelling in *Fallen Guidon*, spawns many questions. Where or what are the good English-language books on the French Intervention in Mexico? What role did former Yankees and Rebs play in the conflict? Is there a succinct military history of the campaigns in Maximilian's Mexico? In what numbers did American Civil War veterans serve? And, are there primary sources from American adventurers in Mexico?

Nevertheless, *Fallen Guidon* through not a powerful work of scholarship, it is an entertaining and useful book for students of both the American civil War and the French adventure in Mexico. It is approachable history.

This book review was provided by our Web master, Verne Walrafen, who acquired the book from Barnes & Noble.



Lot 736 from the Taisei Gallery (HK) Ltd September 1998 auction which brought \$1,150 with the buyers commission. Listed in the Indonesia - Republic section, identified as Timor: 1900 Countermarked issue, Mexican 8-Reales, Mexico City 1894 AM countermarked with a Maltese cross (as on the regular Portuguese coinage) at the top of the reverse (KM 8), additional chopmarks on obverse (Philippines) and G.C. countermark on the reverse (unknown origin probably unofficial). Graded Very Fine. The "G.C." counterstamp is very similar to the G.C. counterstamp on the GB 411 sand cast Pesos of Sinaloa. Any and all comments would be appreciated.



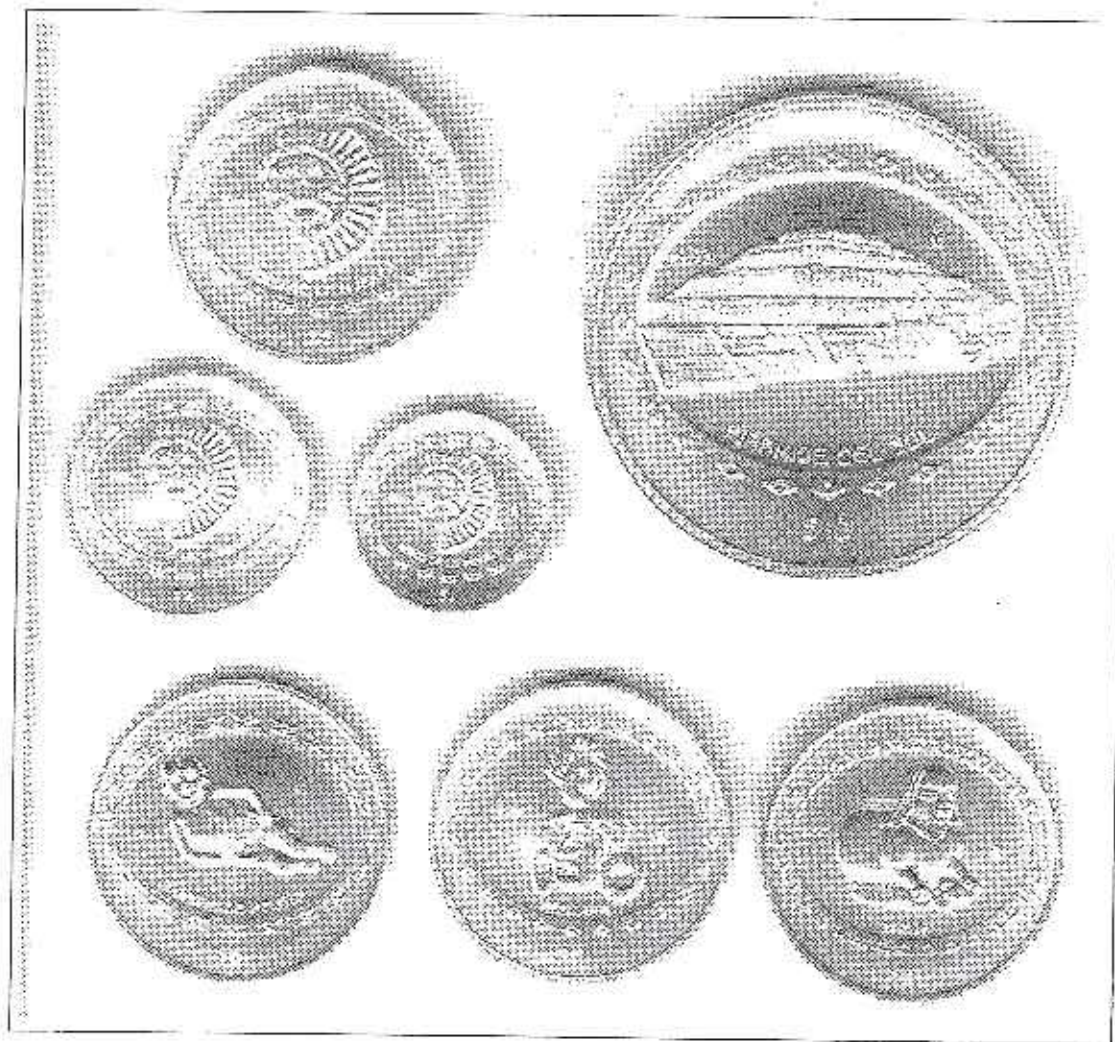
BANCO DE MEXICO RELEASE BU'S OF THE PRE -COLUMBIAN  
SERIES, OLMECA AND TEOTIHUACAN THAT WERE ISSUED IN  
PROOF ONLY IN 1996 AND 1997.

The Banco de Mexico has just released in the U.S. market, series four, The Olmeca Collection, and series five, The Teotihuacan Collection, in BU. These sets were issued only in proof dated 1996 and 1997 respectively. The BU's are all dated 1998, the year they were struck. The mintage figures are not available at this time, but appear to be low, due to the late release of these legal tender coins.



THE OLMECA COLLECTION, SERIES NUMBER FOUR





THE TEOTIHUACAN COLLECTION, SERIES FIVE







# **MEXICO**

MAJOR DEALER IN COINS, MEDALS & CURRENCY OF ALL PERIODS  
THE EXPERIENCE AND REPUTATION YOU WANT AND TRUST  
WHEN ADDING TO OR SELLING YOUR COLLECTION

PAST ANA MUSEUM DIRECTOR - PAST ANA BOARD MEMBER  
EXPERT WITNESS FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
INSTRUCTOR AT THE ANNUAL ANA SUMMER CONFERENCE  
CONTRIBUTOR TO AND AUTHOR OF MAJOR REFERENCE BOOKS  
35 YEARS OF FIXED PRICE LISTS, AUCTION SALES AND PRIVATE SALES

**BUYING OR SELLING - A DEALER YOU CAN TRUST**

**WRITE OR CALL TODAY TO BE PLACED ON OUR MAILING LIST**

**RICHARD A LONG  
PO BOX 296  
LANGLOIS, OR 97450**

**TEL 541-348-2813    FAX 541-348-9918**





# RESPLANDORES

---

8 Reales  
República Mexicana

*Cap and Rays 8  
reales of The Republic  
of México*

1823~1897

Por MIKE DUNIGAN y J. B. PARKER

Disponible en / Available from  
**Mike Dunigan Company**

5332 Birchman, Forth Worth, Texas 76107

Tel. (817) 737-3400

Larga distancia sin costo / Toll Free  
(800) 433-3715

Precio: \$ 125.<sup>00</sup> U.S.Cy.  
(más envío / plus shipping)

