

VOL III

DECEMBER 1999

NO IV



U.S. MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
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US MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>11/15</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>INCOME:</u>				
Dues	\$2,025.00	\$3,272.00	\$3,065.00	\$8,362.00
Advertising		\$1,075.00	\$1,537.50	\$2,612.50
International Show			\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u> </u>	<u>\$ 70.00</u>	<u>\$ 53.00</u>	<u>\$ 123.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,025.00	\$4,417.00	\$6,655.50	\$13,097.50

EXPENDITURES:

Printing/Journal	\$ 585.19	\$1,920.19	*\$ 168.54	\$2,673.50
Journal/Postage			\$ 1,616.79	\$1,619.79
Soc. Num. De Mex Int. Show			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Postage	\$ 294.10	\$1,662.84	\$ 369.15	\$2,326.09
Supplies	\$ 43.57	\$ 465.63	\$ 146.36	\$ 655.56
Misc.	<u>\$ 14.42</u>	<u>\$ 353.64</u>	<u>\$ 87.22</u>	<u>\$ 455.28</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 937.28	\$4,402.30	*\$2,888.06	\$4,869.86
Cash in Bank, 12/31	\$1,087.72	\$1,102.42	\$4,869.86	\$4,869.86

* Expenditures outstanding for 1999 September and December Journals.



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The Mexican Numismatic Journal is printed and mailed by Staton Printing & Publishing,
 115 Echols Street, Savannah, GA., 31406.

The Mexican Numismatic Journal editing assistance provided by Richard A. Long, C-16.

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**SOCIEDAD NUMISMATICA DE MEXICO'S "CONVENCION  
 NUMISMATICA INTERNACIONAL - MEXICO 2000" SET FOR  
 MAY 17 - 20, 2000**

The Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico has set the dates and venue for their 2000 International Numismatic Convention. The location will be the same as in recent years, at the Del Prado Hotel, Av. Marina Nacional #399, Col. Anzures 11300 in Mexico City.

40 dealers' tables will be available with the cost per table at \$300.00. There will be an auction by Alberto Hidalgo, an inaugural breakfast and a dinner dance. Further information can be obtained from the Association or the Sociedad at:

Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico  
 Eugenia #13-301  
 Col. Napoles, Mexico D.F., MEXICO  
 011525 512-1207

## ASSOCIATION WELL REPRESENTED AT GUADALAJARA CONVENTION

There were several dealers and collectors from the Association in attendance at the recently held International Numismatic Convention sponsored by the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico in Guadalajara at the Hotel Vista Aranzazu.

Even though the public attendance was down from previous conventions, most dealers reported having done well in both buying and selling. Dealers from the United States made up close to half of the tables dedicated to coins. Several tables had stamps and telephone cards that are still doing well within Mexico.

The convention opened on October 14<sup>th</sup> with an inaugural breakfast, which as always was enjoyable. On October 15<sup>th</sup> the auction by Alberto Hidalgo was held, and there were reports of some very strong prices. October 15<sup>th</sup> was also the Convention Dinner.

Mr. Robert Briggs of Mondes y Sellos Anahuac the General Chairman, was assisted by the firm of "Tureserh", who handled hotel and table reservations as well as other aspects. the convention dinner, with excellent entertainment, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

Bob Briggs is to be commended for his efforts to assure there were no problems at customs, and to see that everyone's needs were addressed.

A special thanks to Bob's wife, Veronica, who was the perfect hostess. She distributed cookies, candy and favors to all the dealers, and was so hospitable to us all. Thank you Veronica.

**Dick Parker, Bob and Veronica Briggs, and Berta Parker enjoying Dinner during the convention.**





### "Amigos De La Sociedad Numismatica De Mexico"

The "Friends of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico" was formed in mid 1989 by a group of numismatists active in the Sociedad, and spearheaded by Rogelio Charteris Reyes, a former President of the Sociedad. The purpose of this organization was to set aside a pool of funds in an investment account, and to disperse the revenue generated from this pool to the Sociedad.

As of the last report furnished by Charteris there are 41 members, who have contributed varying amounts of money from 228 Pesos up to 2,756 Pesos. The total principal amount as of this report dated September 1999 is 42,085 Pesos, or approximately \$4,500.00 USD.

The amount of revenue that has been generated up to this report is 61,870 Pesos or approximately \$6,582.00, or more than the principal donated. The revenue is disbursed to the Sociedad only if they need financial assistance; otherwise it remains in the fund to generate more revenue.

Anyone interested in participating in this worthwhile effort can send their checks made out to either "Don Bailey" or "Rogelio Charteris Reyes" to the Association, and I will personally see that the checks get conveyed to where they should be, and that co-signed receipts are furnished.

As some of you old timers that have been around for awhile remember, that over the years the Sociedad had cash flow problems from time to time, and this was set up to help them get over the rough times. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.



### SUPPORT THE USMEXNA YOUTH PROGRAM

Discussions as a result of the Fresh Blood - Warm Bodies article generated a lot of discussion concerning the future of the Mexican numismatic field, and the feelings are, we need to stress bringing in youth, as well as mentoring with the younger collectors.

The Association's youth program needs to be pushed by all members. If you know a youth, maximum age 18, unless a full time student then it is 21, that is interested, all they have to do is write a one page or more essay on why they want to become a member, or with a Mexican numismatic theme. These will be accepted in either Spanish or English.

Other youth activities are planned for the future. Sal Falcone, of San Jose, CA is the Youth Chairman, with Bob Bandy and David Hughes as committee members. **SIGN UP A YOUTH TODAY!!!**

## THE REVOLUTION CORNER

By Jose Flores, C-2

CHIHUAHUA - PARRAL  
1 PESO

As a coin collector I'm looking for better coins to up grade my collection. For many years I have looked for a full-struck 1913 silver Parral Peso. A very common coin, but nevertheless they are softly struck. I have seen many toned gem BU coins, but they all have the same soft strikes. I am convinced that they do not exist in fully struck condition. I believe I have found the reason for this dilemma.

I have recently purchased a very well struck Parral Peso with more detail than any one of the coins I have seen over the years. I have viewed many Parral Pesos, this is the first Parral plain- edge Peso I have ever seen.

When they turned the dies blank on their lathe it left circular rings in the field. They then engraved their dies, and struck the coin as in Photo #1. The results did not meet their expectations, so they proceeded to remove the circular rings in the field by polishing the dies leaving less relief on the die, hence leaving a weak working die.

Photo #2 known by previous authors as: Hw 8, U-Chi15, G-Chih 35, and G.B. 79

Coin owner:

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

Photo # 1  
Verity Coin  
Edge -----Plain.  
Metal -----Silver.  
Dia. -----39.00mm.  
Thks. -----2.70mm.  
Wt. -----29.3 grms.

Photo #2  
Edge -----Reeded.  
Metal -----Silver.  
Dia. -----39.00mm.  
Thks. -----2.10mm.  
Wt. ----- 27.3 grms.



THE REVOLUTION CORNER

PHOTO # 1





THE REVOLUTION CORNER

PHOTO #2



## THE 1913 COINAGE OF HIDALGO DEL PARRAL

By J. D. "Dave" Watson, R-162

Although this first "Rebel" coinage of the Mexican Revolution is almost universally attributed to General Francisco "Pancho" Villa, who deserves to get the credit?

The coins of Hidalgo del Parral - the 2 centavos, the 50 centavos, and the 1 Peso are all dated 1913. The 2 centavos and the 50 centavos bear the legend "*FUERZAS CONSTITUCIONALISTAS*" (Constitutionalist Forces). Was Villa or someone else responsible for their issue? A brief look at the history of the city of Parral during 1913 is informative.

Following the murder of President Madero on February 22, 1913, and the usurpation of the Presidency by Victoriano Huerta, Manuel Chao, a lieutenant colonel of the Chihuahua rurales, rose against Huerta and called the men of Chihuahua to arms. He soon gathered a 1,500 man brigade in the mountains of south central Chihuahua, and on March 5, attacked the city of Hidalgo del Parral. The strong garrison in the city made it impossible for his attack to succeed, but he withdrew his brigade after inflicting heavy casualties on the defenders. Chao reorganized and refitted his brigade and on May 15, once again attacked Parral. This time he succeeded in taking the city, but held it for only a short time before being forced to return to the mountains. On August 28, Chao returned to Parral reinforced by Maclovio Herrera and his men. Leading some 2,000 fighters, he took and held the city from that date through the remainder of 1913. Chao assumed both civil and military control of the city.

Venustiano Carranza, the self-proclaimed First Chief of the Revolution considered Manuel Chao to be the best of all the Chihuahua revolutionary chiefs with whom he met. He was socially acceptable to Carranza, and seemed to be in tune with the First Chief's ideas and orders. The other rebel leaders Don Venustiano had visited were rough men of the "lower class" who had shown little respect for the pompous professional politician. Carranza made no secret of the fact that General Chao was one of his favorites.

In late September, General Chao met with other revolutionary chiefs gathered at the city of Jimenez to plan the attack and occupation of the city of Torreon, Coahuila. The chiefs determined that they must operate in concert under a single leader whom they would elect. Carranza, aware of the Jimenez meeting, recommended the election of Chao to command the Division of the North. Instead, the rebel commanders elected Pancho Villa to head their new organization. When Chao attempted to assert his authority over the new division - based on his recommendation by Carranza - Villa faced him down, and Chao, with his brigade retired to Hidalgo del Parral. When Villa advanced on the city of Chihuahua in early November 1913, Chao offered his services to Villa and was accepted. While off campaigning with Villa Chao retained control of Parral as his base of operations. The two generals seemed to have no problems



## The 1913 Coinage of Hidalgo Del Parral, Con't:

cooperating in military matters, but whenever a political question arose, Carranza favored Chao and was often openly disdainful of Villa.

On December 1, 1913, The Division of the North occupied the city of Chihuahua. Carranza once again attempted to exert his influence and instructed that General Chao be named provisional governor of the state. Villa ignored Carranza's instructions and assumed the office himself. Chao returned to Parral. Villa's short term as provisional governor of Chihuahua, (only 37 days) saw the beginning of radical changes in the social and economic fabric of the state. Carranza was appalled at the changes Villa was making and sent constant communications ordering, instructing and cajoling for a more measured approach to the attainment of the ideas of the revolution. It was not until the defeat of the Division of the Norte on December 31, 1913, at the first battle of Ojinaga, that Villa became convinced he could best serve the revolution in the field. Villa resigned as provisional governor of Chihuahua on January 7, 1914, and in accordance with the instructions of the First Chief, turned the office over to Manuel Chao.

Considering the above, it appears unlikely that General Villa had any influence over the production of the coins of Hidalgo del Parral; consequently they should be attributed to General Chao.

J. D. "Dave" Watson

e-mail [jdwmcc@earthlink.net](mailto:jdwmcc@earthlink.net)





## THE AZTEC INFLUENCE ON MEXICAN NUMISMATICS

By The Late Armando Ojeda

From a paper Armando read at the June 1966 Azteca C.O.I.N. meeting, and published in the Vol. III, No. 35 of the "Plus Ultra"

"Malinche, I have done my duty towards my city and subjects, and can do no more; and since I come forcibly and as a prisoner before your person and power, take the dagger which you carry in your belt and kill me with it now .

With those words, spoken firmly and courageously by the last ruler of the ancient city of Tenochtitlan, in the presence of the Conqueror, Hernan Cortes, the Aztec civilization, the Aztec culture and the Aztec nation came abruptly to their end. 445 years have passed since that fateful thirteenth of August, 1521. Four and half centuries of struggles, blood and tears, and ceaseless efforts made by the descendants of those men who felt that patriotism was not an empty word; who knew that the country and the native land are not just an idea in the minds of those who rule, but a great complex of family, religion, language, customs, and the cohesive force that keeps these and many other factors together in a great unity which is called nationality.

The Spanish conquest was a hurricane which tossed the Aztec Empire and the Aztec people; (1) " The history of the European domination is tragic, because it is a shameful record of conquest and spoliation; but it is also inspiring, because out of it emerges the reverence for human personality and for the earth, which has been a sacred trust of the pre-Columbian American".

This earth, mother earth, the piece of land that we call a home and a country, was, since the darkness of prehistory, the ideal of the Aztecs. When the tribe started the pilgrimage towards Anahuac, the present Valley of Mexico, they had a definite goal: the possession of a land that would be their home and their country. Centuries elapsed before this idea crystallized; meanwhile the goal was wisely maintained by the priests and rulers of the nomads.

"Find a place where an eagle is perched on a cactus, on top of a rock, is devouring his prey; there you will have found the proper site where you will flourish and become great, rich, and forever happy." - such was the prophecy.

Legend, myth, tradition and history vary in detail; but the core of the idea, the center around which generations of Aztecs evolved, was the deep and powerful desire of resting in a place. In a land which they could call their own. Besides the desire for the physical possession of land, there was a more important one, perhaps stronger and deeper: to enjoy that possession in complete freedom. The wisdom and knowledge of the tribe's leaders gave their people a material symbol to look for: the eagle, personification of freedom, the rock, symbol of stability of the land; the serpent, example of the fate of all their enemies.

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<sup>1</sup> John Collier. - Indians of the Americas - Chicago, 1963



It was not until 1325, when by chance, coincidence or destiny, that this representation of land and liberty came to be a reality. Using the rock as a foundation, they erected a temple, and around this sacred place the city of Tenochtitlan was built. The symbol however, was always kept reverently in the hearts and minds of every Aztec, until one day ----- . The eagle, wounded, abandons for a moment the serpent and proudly faces the Spanish Lions; the primitive arms of the defenders of Tenochtitlan sustain a duel to death with destructive gunpowder. The great city is the theater of a battle with an object of mutual extermination; the results were exactly the opposite. (2) Both races merge to form a third, to create a new and different one; the present Mexican, especially proud of his Aztec blood.

Although the war between the Aztecs and the Spaniards was apparently over, the conflict was alive in the minds of those to whom the exploitation, slavery and serfdom was an unbearable burden. Suddenly a cry is heard in the center of New Spain. The fire of insurrection sweeps the land of Anahuac. For the first time in history of the Spanish Colony, the Aztec blood boils in contrast with this fierce fire. 300 years of repressed desire of freedom found leaders like Hidalgo and Morelos, who started by declaring equality for all of the inhabitants of the territory and the abolishment of slavery. Due to the short-lived leadership of Hidalgo, Morelos took upon his shoulders the burden of the campaign, and it was at this time that we see for the first time, the Aztec influence in the money cast and struck by the insurgents: the bow and arrow, long forgotten, came to life in a more powerful way than before; in finances. Later, from 1830 to 1856, Chihuahua struck coppers of small denominations with the likeness of a native holding a bow and arrow; Jalisco had not only these but a quiver and a sling on its coppers; a complete set of arms appears on the nickel pieces of the Republic of 1882 - 83. Even in gold, the Aztec arms are depicted in the coinage of the first Empire.

Going back to the last years of the War of Independence, we find the Supreme Junta Nacional (National Supreme Council) as a political entity, striking and casting in the state of Michoacan, a new and different type of coin

For the first time the Aztec Eagle appeared on Mexican coins. These issues were few and of short duration for several reasons, mainly because of a difference of opinion between Morelos and Rayon at that time, and because the congress was not financially able to produce large quantities. In a letter dated in 1812, Morelos states: "I am sending you three pesos of the provisional coinage of the south which is less ornate than yours. The type is the same I have used up to now and I do not want to be overrun with other designs."

On the coins issued by the S.N.J. the eagle appears, as well as a set of arms. In other series, such as the America Morelos and the American Congress, the arms also appear in copper, silver and gold.

Once the Independence was consummated, the Empire issued a new type of coinage. In

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<sup>2</sup> Rodolfo Herrera T. - Foreword to "Cuauhtemoc" by Hector Perez M., Mexico



On these coins the eagle was deprived of the serpent and was crowned. Iturbide was the first to use the word "Mexicano", derived from Mexico, in the legend on his coinage. His abdication in 1823 left in power, what was called the Sovereign Mexican Congress. This body, by decree of April 14, 1823, created the Coat of arms of the Republic, described in this document as follows: "that the Coat of Arms will be the Mexican Eagle, standing on his left foot, on top of a cactus resting on a rock emerging from the waters of the lake and holding in the right foot a snake being torn with its beak; and as an ornament, two branches, one of laurel and the other of oak, according to the design that was used by the first defenders of Independence."

Officially the Aztec Eagle came to be the obverse of the majority of coins, following a decree of Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. 1823, which reads: "The coins of gold, silver, and copper will have a common obverse, striking on them the Coat of Arms of the Mexican Nation, with the inscription - "REPUBLICA MEXICANA".

The old and sacred eagle, symbol of country and nationality has remained in its place of honor through the first Republic, the second Empire, the second republican system and to the present day. This, in spite of years of strife, both internal and against foreign powers. Other hazards being the plurality of ideologies, differences in the social levels of leaders and fluctuations in the economy of the country. Through all of this, the eagle has appeared on practically every coin as well as in the magnificent examples of medallic art made in the territory of Independent Mexico.

Some specific mention must be made about one leader of the revolutionary period who had Aztec blood and the same deep feelings and ideals of his ancestors; ZAPATA, who fought for the return of the soil to his fellow men. His motto being TIERRA y LIBERTAD, (Land and Liberty), the centuries old desire of his race.

One more eagle must be mentioned: the greatest of them all. Since his birth as if prophetically, he was named "Falling Eagle". At the beginning of this article you read his last words as a free man. History tells us briefly of his appearance before the eyes of the world, at the time when his uncle Moctezuma, prisoner of Cortes, tried in vain to convince his people to stop attacking the Spaniards: a voice was heard among the mob calling Moctezuma a coward; one arm threw the weapon, a stone, which mortally wounded him. This voice and the arm were those of Cuauhtemoc, the Falling Eagle. The defense of Tenochtitlan during the siege of 93 days against an enemy numerically out of proportion compared to his army, was certainly beyond human possibilities. Repeated instances of peace offerings were proposed and rejected until he was apprehended. The unlimited ambition and greed of the conquerors made him suffer torture, and in 1525, accused of starting a new insurrections, he was executed. For his deeds, his conduct before the enemy, and for his personal courage, Cuauhtemoc has since been considered an outstanding example of patriotism, and recognized as the highest example of his race. His effigy appears on modern coinage of Mexico. Worthly of special mention is the 50 centavo piece which shows not only the bust, but the hieroglyph of a descending eagle.



In mentioning hieroglyphs, this type of pictograph writing was used by the Aztecs to keep their historical, religious and administrative records. It has been used in Mexican numismatics in a number of commemorative medals. In a similar way, one of the masterpieces of the XV century which fortunately was not destroyed, was the great stone Aztec calendar. This monument is not only artistic but is also an example of the degree of progress reached by the Aztec Nation in scientific fields. Placed in the main plaza in front of the great pyramid, it served not only as a calendar but also as a marker of the parallel and meridian of Mexico and as a public sun dial. The design has been reproduced in various forms on a number of coins. Of special mention one specific coin is known as "the Azteca" - the 20 peso gold bearing the design.

Mountains of literature have been written in regards to the treasure of Moctezuma because it was formed mainly by a large amount of gold made into countless numbers of jewelry pieces that were either lost by those who stole them, or scattered throughout the world. Nothing can be accounted for. I would like to give you each a piece of this treasure as a souvenir from the Aztecs. Unfortunately it is not possible, but instead I have something which is of greater and more durable value: I am giving you the soul of Mexico.

Armando Ojeda

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#### Editor's note:

This article written by a friend of many years impressed me when I came across it while researching something else and I wanted to share it with the Association members. Many will remember Armando. I best remember spending the night at his home, and sleeping on the couch, while his son spent the night watering down the roof during one of the frequent California fires. The trip to his home was exciting with the fires on both sides on the road. The rest was not enjoyable, but the visit was very pleasant. Armando has been missed over the years, and Armando, in death you are still remembered.

## TWO BIT HEADS

By: Thomas Jasek C-33

Mexico, with a minting history of more than 450 years, presents today's collectors with many different coin series to specialize in. Coins in practically all series have years/mints of issue that are very common or exceedingly rare, to the point of being unique in many cases.

Another aspect of Mexican coins, especially before the emergence of the Estados Unidos Mexicanos (the United States of Mexico) coinage, is the proliferation of varieties. With numerous mints in operation at various times, different levels of quality can be seen in all issues predating the centralization of minting activities beginning with the 1906 issues. The results are the numerous varieties that exist in practically all coin series before 1906. It should be noted that even after 1906, many varieties abound in practically all issues, but these are not as diverse as had existed before the closure of the branch mints and more specifically, before the use of standard dies in 1888 (1).

A fascinating series is the 10 CENTAVOS coinage (KM403), beginning with the general issues of 1869 through 1897. This series contains numerous varieties, some minor, while others are quite dramatic.

To begin with, this series' obverse design, the side with the eagle (2), (sometimes referred to as the reverse by American collectors and dealers) has the same eagle device, legend, and date as the other decimal series coins issued during this same time period. However, there is one distinction of this series that separates it from the other decimal types of this period. This is the design of the head of the snake in the eagle's claw. Within the 10 CENTAVOS series, the head is very distinct, with a well-defined, widely opened mouth (Figure 1). In the other series of this period, the snake's head tends to be small, less distinct, with a less pronounced, open mouth (See Figure 2 for an example of a snake's head on a 25 CENTAVOS coin). Why this type of head was used for this series has not been described (to the author's knowledge), and it does not appear to exist in any other series of Mexican coinage.



Figure 1: 1881 ZsS with normal snake head.



Figure 2: 1871 MoM 25 CENTAVOS snake head.

Within the 10CENTAVOS series there are numerous variations of the standard (for this series) snake head, many of which are quite distinctive. However, this article will focus on the existence of four (all that have been discovered to date) issues that have snake heads that are not of the standard type. Rather for three, the heads are of the type that can



## Two Bit Heads, Con't:

be found on the 25 *CENTAVOS* denomination issued during this time period. The fourth issue appears to have started with the 25 *CENTAVOS* head before being converted to the standard style. All of the coins in question were issued from the Zacatecas mint. It should be noted that coins with the standard head also exist for these years.

The initial coin of this type to be discovered by the author was the 1878 Zs S, 8/7, large S coin (*Figure 3*). Based on features, resembling the head of the snake present on the 25 *CENTAVOS* series, the author referred to this variety as the 25 *CENTAVOS* head. the snake's

Only one of each of these coins have been found as of this writing. Aside from the style of the snake's head, the remainder of the obverse And reverse elements appear "normal mint issue", but that these could be counterfeit issues has not been ruled out. Therefore, if any reader is aware of other issues with these distinctly different snake heads, or has a coin that the snake head style as illustrated, the author would appreciate knowing about it or, if possible, photographing the coin in question. The author can be contacted via e-mail at [flthink@swbell.net](mailto:flthink@swbell.net), or P. O. Box 270775, Corpus Christi, TX 78427-0775.

The three currently known issues with the non-standard heads are the: 1878 Zs S, 8/7 large S (*Figure 3*); 1880 Zs S (*Figure 4*), and 1884 Zs S (*Figure 5*).

The 1881 Zs S (*Figure 6*) seems to be more intriguing, it appears to be a standard snake head over the non standard style. Although this specific coin is quite worn, there are protrusions at the front of the head that resemble and are at the correct location where one would expect to find the nose and lower jaw of the normal snake. If this coin does represent such an over-design, does that mean coins with just the non normal head exist for this year or was the design corrected before being put to use?



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*Figure 3:* 1878 ZsS 8/7, large S.



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*Figure 4:* 1880 ZsS.



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*Figure 5:* 1884 ZsS.



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*Figure 6:* 1881 ZsS.

## Two Bit Heads, Con't:

Would, perhaps in the other years, one find coins with a similar over-design? If this design difference was noted and corrected in 1881, why did this non-standard style appear again in 1884? With Mexican numismatics, there are always plenty of opportunities for new and intriguing discoveries. Again, all comments and thoughts on this specific issue are welcomed.

## References

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- 2.) *Elementos Principales de la Moneda* ( Principal Elements of a Coin) El Boletín Numismático, 174, 23

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THE ASSOCIATION TABLE AT THE DINNER PARTY, WHAT A CREW!!!!



## NORTON I, EMPEROR OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROTECTOR OF MEXICO

By Don Bailey, C-1

Joshua Abraham Norton was born in London England February 14, 1819 to John and Sarah Norton. The Norton family moved to South Africa in 1820, where Norton grew up. In 1849 Norton took passage on the Dutch Schooner Frankzika to San Francisco. He had a nest egg of \$30,000 or \$40,000, depending which reference you choose to use. The news of the discovery of gold brought visions of golden opportunities, to make a fortune. He started in business selling supplies to miners, and invested in land referred to as the Cow Hollow district in San Francisco. He did very well, and soon became a leading businessman, and was a member of the elite San Francisco Vigilance Committee. He became known as one of the "Empire builders", His friends gave him the nickname of "Emperor".

He put together a scheme to corner the rice market in San Francisco. His friends put in \$300,000.00. The bubble burst when two ships arrived loaded with rice. He had the funds to buy one shipload, but not the other, so his rice market plan went under and most of the investors were wiped out. Norton, who felt responsible for their losses, put up his personal fortune to repay them. After three years of legal battles he ended up penniless, and disappeared from the San Francisco scene in 1858.

In late summer of 1859 Norton again turned up on the San Francisco scene, and as some have stated "arguably mad", wearing a tall beaver hat with a naval uniform. On September 17, 1859 he issued his first proclamation, which was run on the front of the San Francisco Bulletin:

"At the peremptory request of a large majority of the citizens of these United States, I Joshua Norton, formerly of Algoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope, and now for the past nine years and ten months of San Francisco, California, declare and proclaim myself Emperor of these U.S., and in virtue of the authority thereby in me vested do hereby order and direct the representatives of the different states of the Union to assemble in Music Hall of this city, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February next, then and there to make such alterations in the existing laws of the Union as may ameliorate the evils under which the country is laboring, and thereby cause confidence to exist, both at home and abroad, in our stability and integrity."

Norton I  
Emperor of the United States  
September 17, 1859

This was the beginning of a brief but colorful period in California's history that ties into the history of Mexico.



Norton I, Emperor of the U.S., Con't:

The people of California loved him, and treated him with bows and curtsies, and the newspapers also loved him. The press printed the many proclamations that he issued on many subjects. He did not confine his decrees to California or San Francisco. On July 16, 1860 he dissolved the Union, and barred Congress from meeting in Washington. He sent cables to various rulers offering advice. One is said to have been King Kamehameha of Hawaii, then known as the Sandwich Islands, who was so taken with him that towards the end of his life would only deal with the representatives of the empire, not the U. S. State Department.

He issued all sorts of proclamations affecting San Francisco, from improvements in public services, and other areas that he thought should be handled in better ways, or improved upon. He did have proclamations that were carried out, such as numerous ones proposing and then commanding the construction of a suspension bridge between San Francisco and Oakland. He even had his own design for this bridge that was built within a block from where he had decreed.

The city is said to have paid for his majestic uniforms, and the Masonic Lodge paid his 50 cents a day lodging, while others say he paid his daily rent from begging. Norton I died of apoplexy, January 8, 1880, on the corner of California and Grant. There were no heirs. It is said that 10,000 people, of all sorts, viewed his remains, and his funeral cortege was two miles long. On the day of Norton's funeral San Francisco experienced a total eclipse of the sun. When Norton I died in his little 6 X 9 foot, 50 cents a day room on the third floor of the "Eureka" he had lithographs of Empress Carlota of Mexico, Queen Victoria, Queen Emma of Hawaii, and Eugenie of France on his walls. The headline in the "Morning call" read, "Norton the First, by the grace of God, Emperor of the United States, and Protector of Mexico", departed this life.

Clyde Hubbard in an article he wrote back in November 1989, spoke of the comparisons between Emperors Norton I and Maximilian. Both were being of European origin, both disregarded the Monroe Doctrine, and both were buried with military honors. The differences as Hubbard points out were that Norton did not consult a Junta de Los Notables, before issuing his edict of September 17, 1859 "I declare and proclaim myself Emperor of these United States, Norton I". He added the title "Protector of Mexico" in 1862. One statement in Hubbard's article I have to quote, "Maximilian may never have heard of Norton before coming to Mexico in 1864, but he might have saved himself a lot of trouble had he taken a "reign check" and stayed in Miramar, leaving Norton in charge of North America".

Norton I issued scrip during his reign, which most accepted when he offered it for meals or other necessities. Some of these were printed at no charge by Cuddy & Hughes as the "printers to His Majesty Norton I." These script were issued in denominations of 50 cents, \$5.00, \$10.00, and \$100.00, and dated 1871 through 1874, 1876 and 1879.

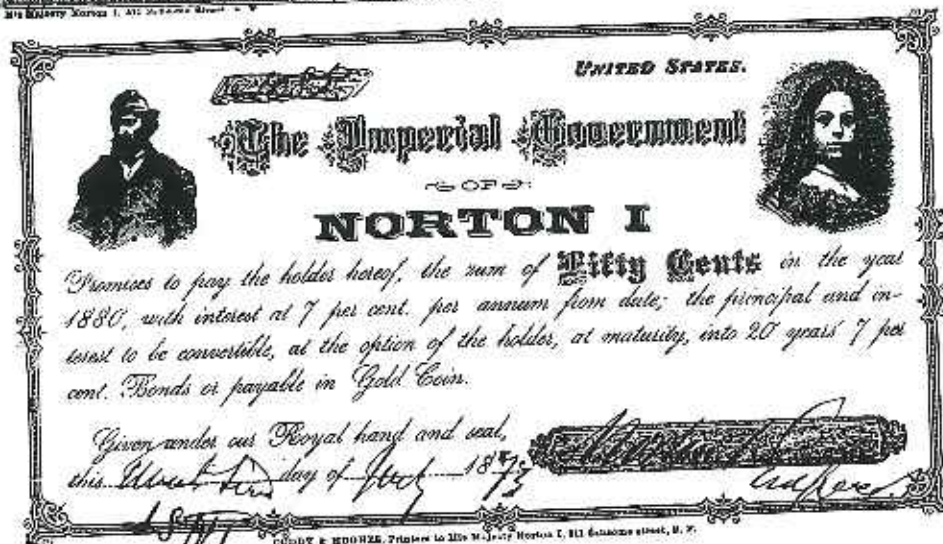
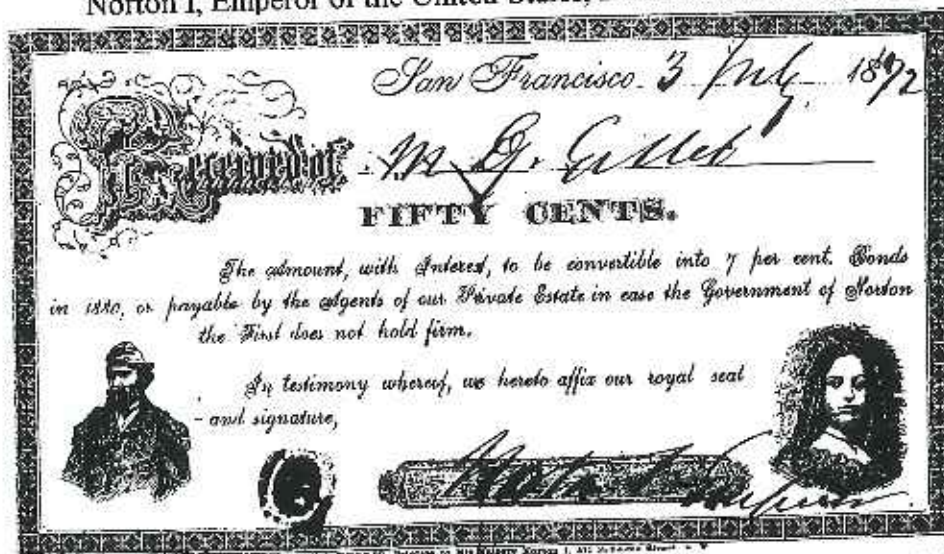


Norton I, Emperor of the U.S., Con't:

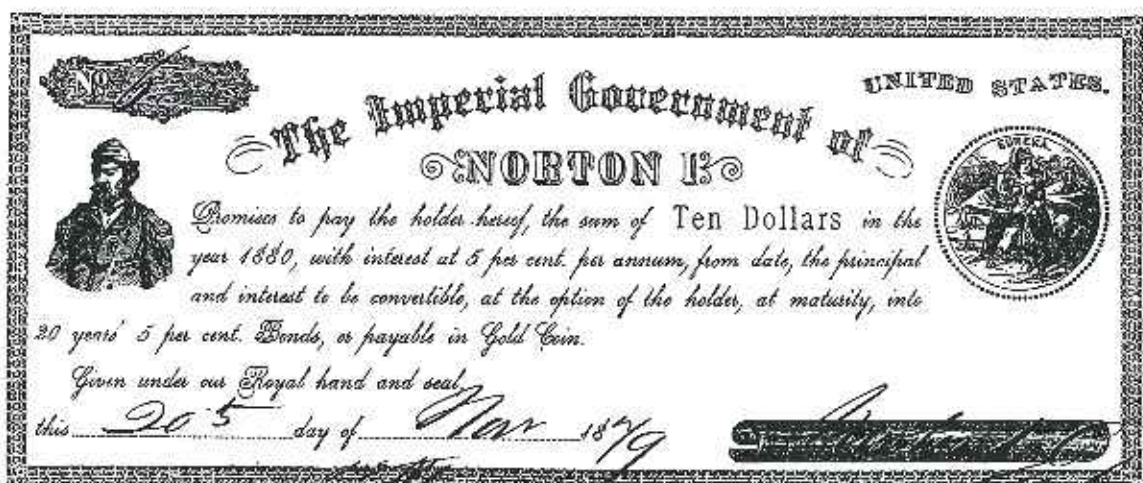
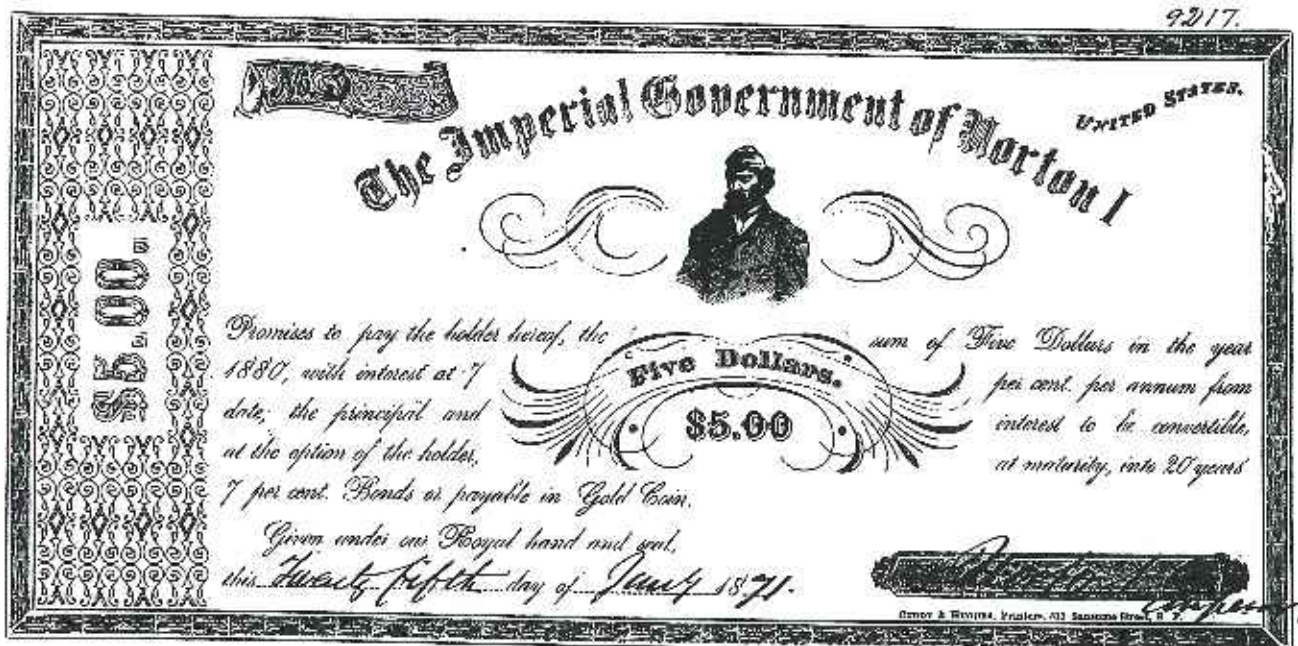
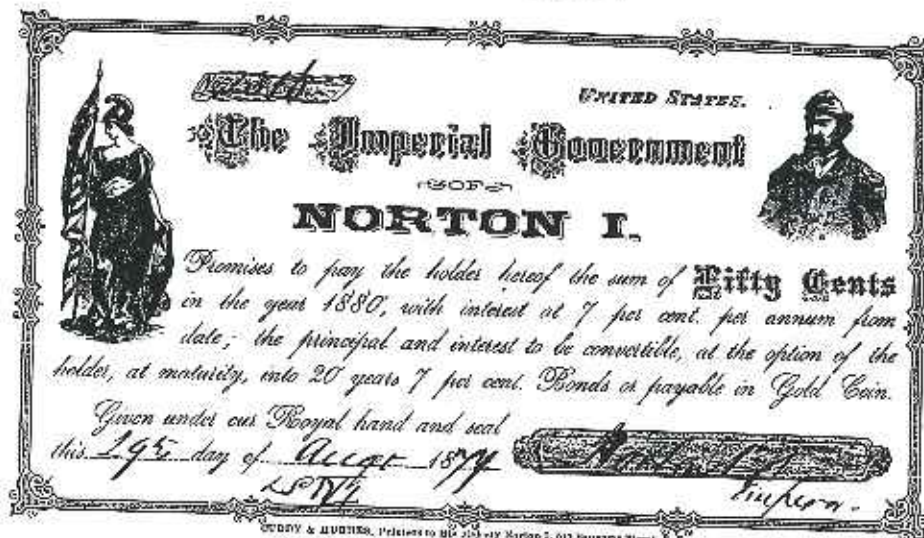
These all have his vignette in his military uniform, with serial number, and are dated by hand as he used them. One Fifty Cent note by Cuddy & Hughes stuck a nerve with Norton I, as it featured the vignette of a young lady reported to be a "Lady of the Evening". Norton fired Cuddy & Hughes over that. Very few of the original pieces of scrip exist today, and are well pursued by California and western collectors. This brings us to a close on a fascinating period of California history that involved Mexico. The notes displayed here are at 63% reduction, and are from reproductions made many years ago.

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Classic Tales In California History, Alton Pryor, Stagecoach Publishing  
 Norton I: United States Emperor in Maximilian Style, Clyde Hubbard, 1989  
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## THE SOUVENIR SPOONS OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

### Part III

By John O. Hardman, C-103

Since I last reported the acquisition of two of the five souvenir spoons sold by A. D. Foster Company of El Paso, Texas, I purchased a third spoon - a duplicate of the Blue Whistler spoon. I have also spent many hours on the Internet and at the library reading about the history of souvenir spoons and their makers. My search provided some new information.

A. D. Foster stated in his ads in the El Paso TIME that the spoons were "designed and made in our manufacturing department." The "banner H" mark on the back of the handle indicates otherwise. One reference on the internet states that the Watson Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts used the mark. In 1911, the year that Foster was selling his souvenir spoons, the Watson Company was known as the Watson and Newell Company. Another reference, the *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN SILVER MANUFACTURERS* by Rainwater and Redfield, states that the "banner H" mark was used by the Mechanics Sterling Company. Mechanics was the flatware branch of Watson and Newell.

Several large silver manufacturers designed and made spoons for the exclusive sale by individuals, companies or organizations. If the name was impressed, as Foster's was, it indicates the name of the jeweler or other distributor who sold the spoons. It is apparent that Foster did not manufacture the spoons - they were made by the Mechanics Sterling Company, of Attleboro, Massachusetts. The latest spoon I purchased does not have the name of Foster or any other company impressed on the back.

It is not unusual to find the same spoon design bearing different marks. Many times the dies for making the spoons were old and the new owner would apply their own mark. J. T. Inman, also of Attleboro, Massachusetts, bought the dies when the Watson and Newell Company went out of business, and the same dies were purchased by Whiting and Davis in 1964. It is not known if the dies used by the Mechanics Sterling Company were among those acquired by Inman. It is entirely possible that more souvenir spoons of the Mexican Revolution exist with other companies marks.

If anyone can furnish information concerning the "Recuerdos" please contact me.

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"Banner H" mark



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The 2" diameter green pins, that some of you have received, or you have seen, originated at the ANA in Sacramento. These were donated to the Association by Rod Baker, R-219, of Dixon, CA. Rod wanted the members that were there to know each other. These pins are still being worn at the various shows by the members who received them. We still have a few of these left, so if any member who has not received one before would like one please let me know.

**INFORMATION WANTED ON THE ABOVE COUNTERSTAMPED COIN**

This 1835 Mo 1/4 Reales Federal copper has a counterstamp that we are having a hard time discovering anything about. As you can see the "T 1842" has the letters raised. Anyone having any information on the meaning of the counterstamp please let the Association know, and we will share that with the rest of the readers.





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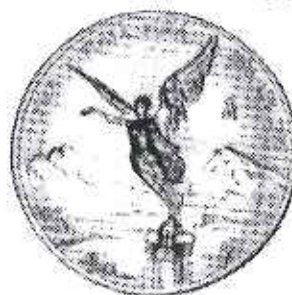
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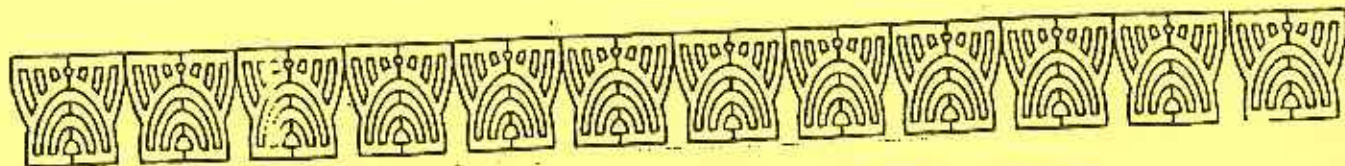
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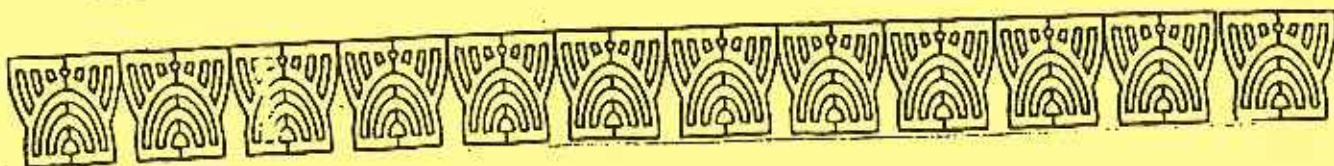
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