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U.S. MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
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USMexNA TO HOLD MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT ANA IN CHICAGO

The Association has tentatively scheduled a membership meeting during the 108th Anniversary Convention, the ANA World's Fair of Money, to be held at the Rosemont Convention Center, 9301 West Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Illinois August 11 - 15, 1999.

The Meeting is tentatively set for 7:00 PM on Friday, August 13th, pending approval of the ANA Convention Bureau. As we do not have another Journal to come out before that date, anyone interested in attending that meeting may contact the Association at (517) 568-4014, or stop by our bourse table #1717 for the latest information. We are working on a guest speaker for that event.



**Don Bailey, Executive Director presenting the \$500.00 to
Duane Douglas, President of the Sociedad Numismatica de
Mexico**

ASSOCIATION RECEIVES SHARE OF PROFIT OF INTERNATIONAL SHOW, AND DONATES TO THE SOCIEDAD NUMISMATICA DE MEXICO

In accordance with the agreement on the GHCC Money Show International, the Association received the sum of \$2,000.00 as our share of the profits from this show. Our appreciation to the officers of the Greater Houston Coin Club. The Association's agreement with the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico for their support and co sponsorship was that we would donate 25% of what ever we received from the Greater Houston Coin Club. The Sociedad was presented a check in the amount of \$500.00 for this agreement.

GUADALAJARA CONVENCION NUMISMATICA INTERNACIONAL OCTOBER 13 - 16, 1999

Bob Briggs of Monedas y Sellos Anahua in Guadalajara has released the information on the next International Numismatic Convention in Guadalajara. The Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico sponsors this convention.

October 13	10:00 AM - 8:00PM	Registration and dealer setup
October 14	8:30 AM 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Inauguration Breakfast Bourse floor open to the public
October 15	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM 9:00 PM	Bourse floor open to the public Auction
October 16	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Bourse open to the public everyone is invited to visit the Fiestas Octubre.

The convention will be held at the Hotel Vista Acazazu. The rates for those attending the convention have been set at \$48.00 USD. The fare for the breakfast is set at \$8.00 USD; the Dinner Dance is \$14.50 USD, or both for \$21.00 USD. The bourse tables are \$250.00 for inside tables, and \$300 for wall tables.

All arrangements for the convention are handled by Turiserh, which can be reached at 011523 632-6091, Fax 011523 133-0576, or e mail turiserh@infosel.net.mx, or contact Bob Briggs at Fax 011523 813-1299. If you need assistance in this you may contact the Association, and we will assist in whatever way we can.

**OFFICIAL RIBBON
CUTTING AT THE
GHCC MONEY SHOW -
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THE MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARY CORNER

By Joe Flores C-2

STATE OF MORELOS**1915 5 Ct. E. DE MOR.**

While doing my normal digging and prying, there is always a good chance I will stumble on to something of interest. I did, and that brings us to this article.

A few years ago I had the opportunity to purchase a brass uniface no date medal and what caught my attention was that it was struck with a Mexican eagle similar to the one struck on some of the Revolution coinage. Last year I purchased another medal, not uniface with the same eagle as before, except there is a standing lady holding a wreath in her right hand. See photo #1.

Getting back to the eagle on this medal, after some research I have discovered it to be the same obverse as the ever so rare 5 ct. E. DE MOR, GB. # 270 see photo #2. Most catalogs have line drawings, or the coins are just mentioned. Also they have neglected to mention the star between the laurel wreath and the legend. This may have been just an oversight.

In Mr. Carlos Gaytan's book, "LA REVOLUTION MEXICANA Y SUS MONEDAS" he has a short story about how he missed the opportunity to purchase one of these rare coins he titles, "When there is knocking at the door answer it". On the line drawing of this coin he also did not mention the star at 9:00 "O'clock", as you can see on my coin, it's very hard to see.

Photo #1: GB Unlisted, Edge ---plain, Metal---Brass, Dia.---27mm. Wt.---2.50 grms.

Photo #2: GB 270, Edge---plain, Metal---copper, Dia.---20.0mm. Wt ---7.00 grams.

I would appreciate it if someone could shine some light on this medal, as to when it was struck, and for what reason-----?

Coin reference by other authors as G-MOR 2, L-S MOR 2, GB. #270

Coin Owner:

JOE FLORES
P.O. Box 4484
Stockton, CA 95205
E-mail pepef@concentric.net

Editor's note:

After receiving the below photos, I knew I had seen this lady before on a medal, and in Frank Grove's Medals of Mexico, Vol. II, I found the original source for the reverse of photo #1. A full figure of this lady is shown on three 1896 Coyoacan Exposition medals, G- E128b, Coyoacan, Exposicion de Flores, Pajaros y Pces, G- E141b, Coyoacan, Exposicion de Frutas y Legumbres, and G-E168b, Coyoacan, Exposicion de Maquinaria. These all came in 49 or 50mm, bronze. It appears that the center portion of the die design was used in preparations to strike this piece.



PHOTO #1 OBV.



PHOTO #1 REV.



PHOTO #2 OBV.



PHOTO #2 REV.

**THE JOHN JAY PITTMAN AUCTION, PART THREE
MEXICAN SESSION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1999**

David Akers Numismatics, Inc. P.O. Box 373, Stuart, Florida, 34995, has made available an advanced copy of the Mexican session for the Association membership. This session will contain five hundred and three lots, and the session will start at 12:30 sharp, Saturday August 7, 1999. Catalogs of this sale can be obtained from David Akers at the before mentioned address. Their telephone numbers are (561) 781-4200, (800) 895-2632, Fax (561) 223-1964. Their web site <http://www.akerscoin.com> Go to **PRESS RELEASE** to get an update on the auction, and to view limited lots.

Lot preview will be from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM from Saturday, July 31st up to the auction, on Saturday, August 7, 1999 at 12:30 when it will start. The auction will be held at the Westin O'Hara, 6100 N. River Road, Rosemont, Ill., 60018. A special room rate has been arranged by the Akers company. When you make reservations please let them know you are there for the auction.

The breakdown and a few of the highlights of each section in this session are as follows. Space doesn't allow for all the lots to be listed but I will try to list some from each section. There are several group lots that contain some interesting sounding items.

CARLOS AND JOHANNA:

There are 12 lots, With the highlight being:

Lot #2829, Early series two Reales, ND, G. Nesmith 10, Calico, Calico and Trigo (CCT) Ty 66, No 106. AU, estimated at \$1,500 - \$2,000.

GOLD COBS:

There are 24 lots, with the highlights being:

Lot #2863, Philip V. 4 Escudos, date off flan, KM-55.1 CCT Ty51. No. 230 or 231Extremely Fine, but no sign of circulation wear, but sea salvaged. Mint Mxo and assayer's initial J is clear, and denomination IIII mostly visible. Very weak, and irregular around the entire border of the coin. No date. Estimated at \$2,000 - \$2,500.

Lot # 2864, Philip V. 4 Escudos 171(3) J., KM-55.1, CCT Ty. 52 No. 232, Extremely Fine. Sea salvage or ship wreck coin. MX o, J. estimated at \$2,500 - \$3,000.

Lot #2868, 1714 J, Philip V 8 Escudos, Rare variety with date over GRAT. CCT Ty.28. No.144 Extremely fine. Ship, or salvage coin that is essentially mint state. An interesting, and rare variety, with the date 171(4) over GRAT. Estimated at \$6,000 - \$8,000.

COLONIAL MILLED COINAGE:

There are 68 lots, with the highlights being:

Lot #2896, Very Rare 1733 MF 8 Reales. Philip V 8 Reales, 1733, MF, KM-103. Extremely Fine - Almost Uncirculated in terms of wear, but lightly burnished giving coin a proof like appearance. Date double punched. Estimated at \$3,000 up.

Lot 2897, Philip V 8 Reales, 1734/3, M.F., KM-103. Uncirculated, very sharp strike, full frosty mint luster, and beautiful natural toning. Estimated at \$700 - \$1,000.

GOLD ESCUDOS:

Lot #2941, Outstanding 1794 8 Escudos. Charles IIII, 1794 FM. KM-159, CCT Ty. 8a No.43. FR-43. Uncirculated. Outstanding luster, fully proof like fields. Sharply struck, and well centered. Estimated at \$1,000 - \$1,500.

Lot # 2942, Attractive 1809 8 Escudos. Ferdinand VII, 8 Escudos. 1809 HJ, KM-160, CCT Ty. 17, No 38. Almost Uncirculated, few carbon spots. Estimated at 900 - \$1,200.

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE:

Only 9 lots in this grouping, with the highlight being:

Lot #2946. Sombrerete de Vargas. 8 Reales, 1812, KM-177. CCT Ty. 135, No. 563. Very Fine - Extremely Fine. Weak in two places. Plate looks really nice. Estimated at \$250 - \$350.

EMPIRE OF ITURBIDE:

There are 7 lots in this section, with Lots # 2954, 2955 and 2956 being three different styles of the Iturbide 8 Reales. KM-304, KM-309, and KM-310, all graded Almost Uncirculated, and each estimated at \$250 - \$350.

REPUBLIC REALES AND ESCUDOS:

There are 166 lots in the Reales section, and 58 in the republic Gold. I will not list all the rarities but a few good selections. This is in my view the strongest section of the auction because of its depth. The selections are:

Lot #2994 Very Rare Ca 1831 MR. 8 Reales. Chihuahua, Ca 1832 MR. KM-377.2. DP-Ca01. Very Fine - extremely fine. Lustrous and proof like with attractive medium reddish-gold, blue and violet toning. DP notes this date is very rare. Estimated at \$1,500 - \$2,000.

Lot #3018. Rare and Popular Do 1824 RL "Hookneck" 8 Reales. KM-376, DP-Do01 and Hubbard-O'Harrow-33, F1S7. Extremely Fine. 35mm. Considerably smaller than usual. Well struck, but slightly off center. Estimated at \$600 - \$900.

Lot #3031. Rare High Grade Eo Mo 1828 LF 8 Reales. KM-377.5. DP-EoMo01. Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck and well centered. Attractive toning. Estimated at \$2,000 - \$3,000.

Lot #3033. Very Rare EoMo 1830 LF 8 Reales. KM-377.5, DP-EoMo03. Very Fine. Light toning, rim bruise. By far the rarest of the three EoMo dates. As DP notes, "This date is one of the 'classics' of the series."

LOT #3111. EXTREMELY RARE Pi 1864 RO 8 REALES. KM-377.12. DP-Pi52. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually mint state. "The Finest of Approximately 6 known Specimens. This coin is well struck on the cap and eagle, but the date and some of the letters in the legend below the cap are flat. The obverse is mostly brilliant and semi-proof like with excellent luster, and some reddish-gold toning. The reverse is also semi proof like and has beautiful multicolored toning of reddish gold, violet and blue. This is the premier coin in John Jay's Mexican collection. Lot 3667, the JB Parker sale was a Very Fine example with a chop, and it brought \$27,500.00. This is estimated at \$20,000 - Up.

GOLD COINS OF THE REPUBLIC:

There are 58 lots, with 20 lots of ½ Escudos, 8 with 1 Escudos, 8 lots with 2 Escudos, 4 lots with 4 Escudos, and 16 lots with 8 Escudos. A few of the highlights are:

Lot #3159. Beautiful high grade Zs 1862 VI. 2 Escudo. Almost Uncirculated. Partially proof like surfaces. Generally well struck, but weak at the 8 and especially the 6 of the date as well as the V of the assayer's initials. A few light hairlines in the fields. Estimated at \$1,250 - \$1,750.

Lot #3164. Rare Ca 1846 RG. 8 Escudos. KM-383.1. FR-67. Extremely Fine Surfaces are partially proof like and has only a few light hairlines and contact marks. One of the rarest 8 Escudos from this mint. Estimated at \$1,200 - \$1,500.

Lot #3173. Very Rare Mo 1823 JM "Hookneck Eagle" 8 Escudos. KM-382.1. FR-63, Hubbard-O'Harrow Fine. Sharply struck, and well centered. Repunched 8 and 3 in date. The repunching barely visible at the bottom of the two numerals.

EMPIRE OF MAXIMILIAN:

There are only 6 lots in this group. Two lots stand out and they are:

Lot #3181. Maximilian 50 Centavos, 1866-Mo KM-387. Uncirculated. Sharply struck. Rainbow colored toning, hairline free, but there are a number of tiny pinpoint carbon spots on the obverse. Estimated at \$500 - \$700.

Lot #3182. Maximilian 1 Peso, 1866 Go. KM-388. Extremely Fine - Almost Uncirculated. Partially prooflike, with beautiful multicolored toning. Estimated at \$600 - \$900.

REPUBLIC DECIMALS:

There are 34 lots within this section. Several group lots. The highlight is:

Lot #3205. Rare Ga 1870 C One Peso. KM-408.3. Fine - Very Fine. Weak near the borders and on the eagle's breast. A touch of multicolored iridescence. Very rare date, one of the two rarest of the entire type. Estimated at \$600-\$750.

REPUBLIC DECIMALS - GOLD:

There are 69 lots in this section, 43 lots of the One Peso, 6 of the Two and One Half Pesos, 8 of the Five Pesos, 5 of the Ten Pesos, and 5 of the Twenty Pesos. A few of the highlights are:

Lot #3261. Rare Zs 1888 Z 1 Peso. Kn-410.6, FR-164. Choice Uncirculated. Partially proof like, sharply struck on the devices, but weak at the borders especially on the reverse. There are some light hairlines in the reverse fields, but the obverse is very choice. Only 280 were struck at Zacatecas. This may be a noverdate, i.e. 1888/7 although no 1 peso gold coins were struck at Zacatecas in 1887. Estimated at \$500 - \$700.

Lot #3263. Extremely rare Go 1871 S ½ Pesos. KM-411.3, FR-153. Weakly struck at the borders, but sharp on the main design devices. Only 600 pieces were struck. Estimated at \$2,000 - \$2,500.

Lot #3264. Extremely Rare Ho 1888, G 2 ½ Pesos. KM-411.4, FR-154. Choice, Almost Uncirculated virtually mint state. Semi proof like surfaces, with only a very few light hairlines and contact marks in the fields. One of only 5 - 6 Examples Known. Estimated \$5,000 - \$7,000.

Lot #3270. Extremely rare Do 1878/7 B 5 Pesos. Unlisted overdate and assayer. KM-412.3. Very attractive with some light hairlines and minor marks. Estimated \$2,000 - up.

Lot #3271. Extremely rare. Go 1871 S 5 Pesos. KM-412.4. Uncirculated very sharply struck with satiny surfaces. Few minor contact marks and hairlines. Estimated at \$2,000 - \$2,500.

Lot #3277. Very rare As 1888 L 10 Pesos. KM-413. FR-129. Almost Uncirculated, little or no actual circulation wear, but lightly to moderately hairlined on both sides. Some of the hairlines are obviously intentional and seen to be the result of an attempt to eradicate areas of porous copper around the letters. Estimated at \$1,750 - \$2,250.

Lot #3281. Very Rare Choice Uncirculated Oa 1873 E 10 Pesos. KM-413.8. FR-136. Sharp strike, The 7 in the date has been repunched with the diagonal of the original 7 partially visible to the right. Estimated at \$1,500 - \$2,000.

PATTERNS:

There are four lots in this section, the highlight being:

Lot #3288. Very Rare 1832 2 Reales from Durango. Struck in white metal. Very Choice Uncirculated. Not listed in KM, but similar to Pn-24, the same design struck in bronze and silver plated. Estimated at \$500 - \$800.

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS:

There are 17 lots in this section. Nothing really rare just some really choice coins. Lot #3303 is a Very Fine 1914 Peso, and lot #3304 is a Choice Uncirculated 1949 peso.

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS GOLD:

There are 11 lots in this section, with the highlight being:

Lot #3317. Rare Uncirculated 1920 10 Pesos. KM-473, FR-166. Estimated at \$600 - \$800.

REVOLUTIONARY ISSUES:

There are 12 lots in this section, with highlight being:

Lot #3324. Army of the North, Gem 1915 One Peso. KM-619. Gem Uncirculated. Full mint luster and virtually flawless surfaces. Estimated at \$200 - \$300.

The above descriptions are abbreviated from the catalog, and one should reference the catalog for full descriptions. This catalog will serve as a nice reference book after the auction.

A personal note from your Editor. I have known John for almost all of the thirty-five years I have been in this area of numismatics. I met John early on, having been introduced by the Late Maury Gould, who I consider my mentor in my early years. I enjoyed the many, many chats that I had with John discussing Mexican numismatics, and the collectors within this field. John treated me the same the first time I met him as he did the last. Even though U.S. was his first love he really liked Mexican numismatics, and John is missed by the ones that knew him.

VERY RARE 1733 MF 8 REALES



2896. Philip V. 8 Reales, 1733 MF KM-103. Extremely Fine-Almost Uncirculated

EXTREMELY RARE Pi 1864 RO 8 REALES



3111. Republic. 8 Reales, Pi 1864 RO. KM-377.12. DP-Pi52. Choice Almost Uncirculated.

VERY RARE Mo 1823 JM "HOOKNECK EAGLE" 8 ESCUDOS



3173. Republic. 8 Escudos, Mo 1823 JM. Hookneck eagle. KM-382.1. FR-63. Hubbard-O'Harrow Type 1. Very Fine.

EXTREMELY RARE Ho 1888 G 2 1/2 PESOS



3264. Republic Decimal. 2 1/2 Pesos, Ho 1888 G. KM-411.4. FR-154. Choice Almost Uncirculated.

VERY RARE CH 1873 M 20 PESOS

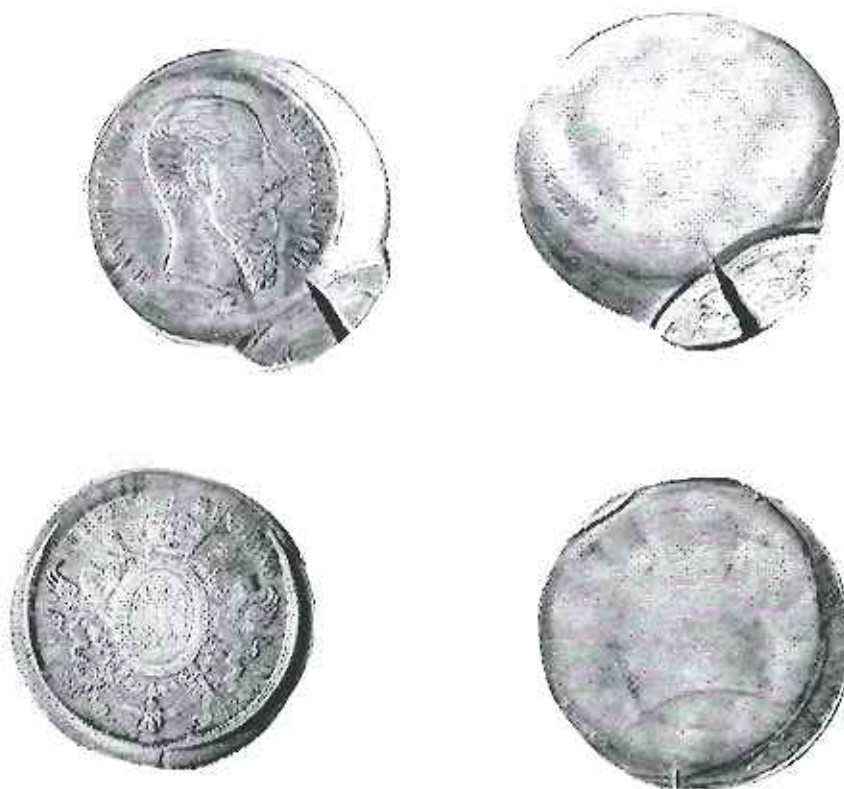


3283. Republic Decimal. Twenty Pesos, CH 1873 M. KM-414.1. FR-121. Choice Almost Uncirculated.

VERY RARE As 1888 L 10 PESOS



3277. Republic Decimal. Ten Pesos, As 1888 L. KM-413. FR-129. Almost Uncirculated.



RARE AND INTERESTING MAXIMILIAN SMALL LETTER PESO STRIKES

The above two Maximilian 1866 Mo Peso strikes were offered to me several years ago during an International Numismatic Convention in Mexico City by a collector. These are from the dies of the Small letters Peso.

The story that went with these two pieces as best I can remember was that these came from the family of Jose Fernandez Ramirez, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Maximilian's Cabinet, and that these were trial strikes of the Small Letters Peso.

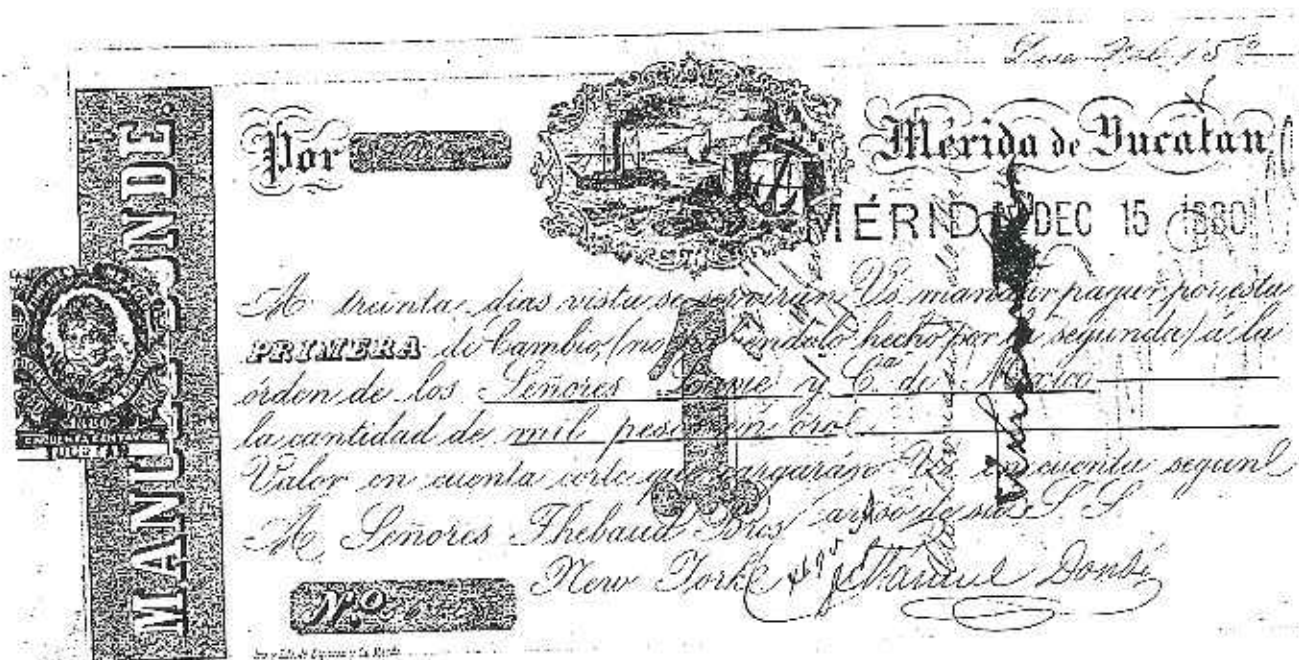
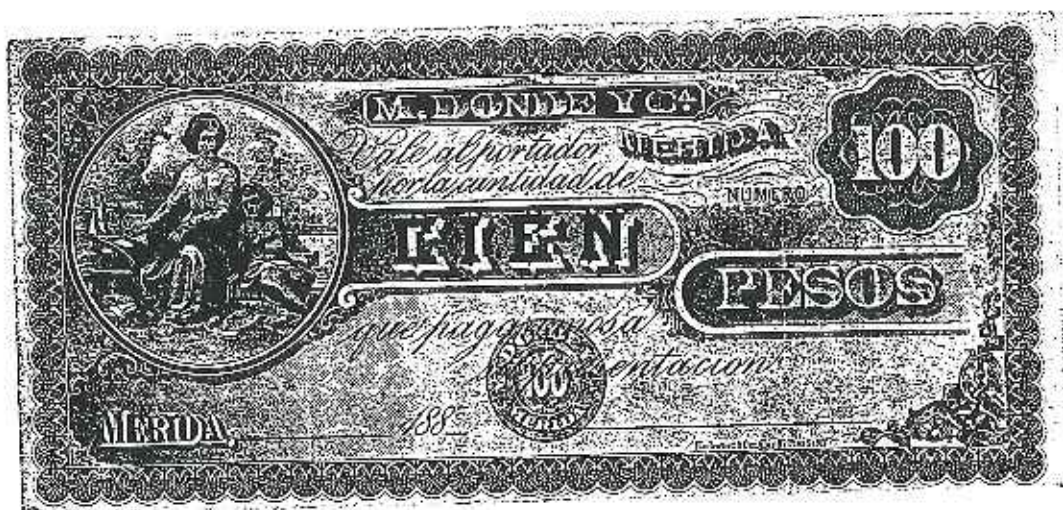
There is serious question to this story, as from my understanding Ramirez was one that was opposed to Maximilian's effigy appearing on the Imperial coinage. Carlota arranged for Ramirez to go with her on a trip to the Yucatan in November of 1865, and while they were gone Maximilian made arrangements to have the coins with his effigy struck.

Which ever story is true these are really neat. I don't remember what he was asking for them, but it was a lot of money that I did not have at that time. If anyone has seen these pieces in anyone's collection I would love to chase them down.

Don Bailey, C-1

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CUSTODY OF RICHARD BECKER C-5

Merchant script and 1st of exchange for Manuel Donde & Co., Merida, Yuc., 1880.





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THE NUMISMATICS OF EMPEROR AGUSTIN DE ITURBIDE OF MEXICO

By: Don Bailey, C-1

Since Mexico secured its independence from Spain in 1821, there have been two proclaimed emperors of Mexico who resided in Mexico: Agustin de Iturbide, and Ferdinand Maximilian, and one who resided in the United States, Emperor Norton of California, who proclaimed himself to be the protector of Mexico following the death of Emperor Maximilian in 1867. we will cover the reign and numismatic history of the first emperor in this article, the other emperors are each a tale of their own,

Agustin de Iturbide was born in Valladolid in the state of Morelia. He was a clerical and a royalist, and he sympathized with the idea of independence. He had fought under Trujillo at Monte de Las Cruces and shown his leadership abilities in the war with the Guerrillas in Guanajuato. In 1810 Hidalgo had offered Iturbide, an officer of the provincial garrison at Valladolid, a position in his army, which Iturbide refused and instead joined the royalists.

Iturbide was a very cruel leader. Within a two-month period in the state of Michoacan, he captured and shot 19 guerrilla chieftains and 900 of their followers.

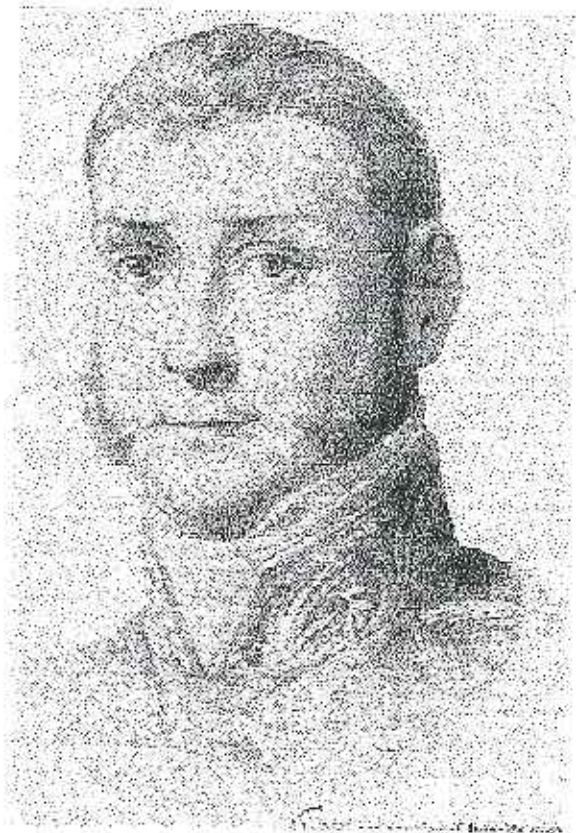
In 1820 he was sent on a military expedition in the south against Guerrero. The clergy who had helped Iturbide obtain this command thought that with the crushing of the Guerrero forces Iturbide would be made Viceroy and give them a free hand.

Iturbide had his own plans - to be the Liberator of Mexico. After suffering a defeat, he decided to join the rebels. He appropriated for his personal use a train loaded with half a million pesos worth of silver.

In February 1821 in the town of Iguala, he published a plan of independence whereby Mexico was to be an independent monarchy. This monarchy was to be governed by King Ferdinand, or some other prince. The church was to retain its privileges, and the Creoles and Gachupines were henceforth to be equal. These three guarantees made up the "Plan of Iguala".

Guerrero, the general whom Iturbide was sent to defeat, but whom he lost to, would meet with Iturbide at Teloapan and join him by supporting Iturbide's Plan of Iguala. Through the summer, all the forces of the liberals and royalists joined in supporting Iturbide and his plan. When the new viceroy, Juan O'Donohu, arrived in Veracruz, he was besieged, and the only way out for his family was to accept the plan. He did this in August at Cordoba.

Iturbide, now insured of success, changed the original plan; Mexico was now to be a monarchy, but not restricted to the European royal families. O'Donohu went to Mexico City and assumed the head of government position as the plan called for. Iturbide arrived there on September 27, 1821, and in October, Veracruz, Perote and Acapulco surrendered, and the Spanish army retired to the island of San Juan de Uloa. The whole country of Mexico was now independent.



On May 19, 1822, Iturbide was proclaimed Iturbide Augustin I of Mexico. The next year was filled with political and social conflicts and infighting that weakened Iturbide's control. He sent a message to the congress saying that he had accepted the crown only under compulsion and he now wished to abdicate. He also put in a claim for 150,000 pesos. On March 19, 1823, the congress accepted his abdication, and sentenced him to perpetual banishment.

In the spring of 1824, he informed the Mexican government that Spain was planning a reconquest and asked that he be allowed to return to Mexico to fight again for independence. The government in return decreed that if he returned he would be executed. Iturbide was unaware of this decree; he had already departed on his trip back to Mexico with a supply of proclamations and paper money.

Iturbide arrived on the coast of Tamaulipas in the summer of 1824. Not knowing of the death sentence, he proceeded peacefully to the town of Padilla, where he was arrested and immediately executed. Iturbide became a hero among the Mexican reactionaries, while the landowners and clergy preferred to give Iturbide the credit for winning independence rather than Morelos and Hidalgo. In 1838 the remains of Iturbide were moved from Padilla to their final resting place in the Cathedral of Mexico.

The Iturbide coinage was authorized by decree of June 11, 1822, but there were two measures taken in the period between independence and the coronation of Iturbide. On Nov 22, 1821, the provisional government authorized the continued striking of Ferdinand VII coinage until new dies for the coinage of the new government could be prepared. They also authorized the continued circulation of the provisional money of Zacatecas at face value. Consequently we have coinage with the Ferdinand VII effigy struck after independence.

The last date to appear on the half, one, two, four and eight Reales of the royalist Mexico City Mint is 1821. The eight Escudos gold also has the 1821 date. The November 22, 1821 decree of the provisional government decreed the dies for the colonial style coinage would be used until June 1822, but it is believed that the colonial style coinage was struck until 1832, usually with dies dated 1821. Eight Reales of this type are known to be dated 1821 and 1822 from the Durango, Guadalajara and Zacatecas mints.

During the reign of Iturbide, copper coinage of 1/32, 1/16, eighth, and quarter Reales were twice authorized, but never struck. There are eighth and quarter Reales of a regional copper issue from Durango for the providence of Nueva Vizcaya. The obverse of the eighth real has a form of the coat of arms of Durango, with the mintmark "D" at the left, and the denomination at the right. The reverse has the inscription "De La Provinci de Nueva Vizcaya", and the date below. The eighth real was struck in 1821, 1822 and 1823.

The obverse of the quarter real has a different style of the coat of arms with the mintmark "D", and the denomination at the left and right. The reverse again has the inscription "De La Provinci de Nueva Vizcaya" and the date 1822, which is the only year it was produced.

There were also a few provisional silver coins struck in Honduras during this reign of Iturbide. Until this time the territorial limits of Mexico reached from the northern limits of California South to the border of present -day Panama by the annexation on January 5, 1822, of the former "Capitania General de Guatemala".

There were some proclamation medals issued for Chiapas, Quezaltenango, Guatemala, and Leon. At this time the only known coinage is from Comayagua and Tegucigalpa. All are dated 1823, and are known only in two Reales denomination. This annexation was terminated July 1, 1823.

All the coinage of Iturbide has basically the same design, but there are several varieties of eagles, legends and placement of assayers' initials and mintmark. There are four major bust styles of Iturbide and two major eagle styles.

The half real struck in silver has on the obverse medium portrait with the legend "Augustinus Dei Providentia" with the mint mark and the date below. The reverse has the crowned imperial eagle facing to the right in a sitting position on a cactus. The legend around reads "Mex. I. Imperator. Constitut." The Assayer initials, "J.M.", appear below. There is no denomination shown on the half reales that were issued in 1822 and 1823.

The one real was issued in only 1822, and the obverse is the same as the half real, but has a wavy truncation of the bust. The reverse is the same as the half real, but the denomination was placed below the eagle.

The two Reales, which were issued in 1822 and 1823, were similar in design as the one Real, but of different treatment, again of the truncation of the bust.

The eight Reales have five different obverses, and three different reverses:

Obverse 1: A small head of a youthful appearing Iturbide. The "Agustin" is abbreviated to "August".

Obverse 2: A large head of a mature Iturbide.

Obverse 3: Large head of Iturbide with Agustin legend spelled out as "Augustinus".

Obverse 4: Has a medium head and again the full "Augustinus".

Obverse 5: This has an extremely long trunk on the neck, and is rarely encountered.

Reverse "A": a small upright eagle with outspread wings, facing left. The legend, "Mex. I. Imperator. Constitut", beginning at upper right. The denomination "8R", and the assayer's initials, "J.M." follow.

Reverse "B": A large eagle, the same as on the minor coinage with the legend staying the same as Reverse "A".

Reverse "C": Has the large eagle as in reverse "B", but the legend begins at the lower left.

The eight Reales were issued in 1822 in a variety of combinations of obverses and reverses. There are 1A, 2B, 2C, 3B, and 3C. There was one with the "A" reverse but the bust of 1823 eight Escudos. The only type eight Reales issued for 1823 is the 4C variety, with the 1823 date.

Gold was issued under Iturbide in four and eight Escudos denominations. The four Escudos were struck in 1823. The obverse is the same as the silver coinage in that year. The reverse has a cartouche with arms containing an eagle similar to the second eagle design.

The eight Escudos were struck in 1822 and 1823. The 1822 eight Escudos have the obverse bust style, as the half Reales, and the legend on the obverse misspelled as "Augustinus". The 1823 eight Escudos has the obverse the same as on all of the 1823 coinage, and a reverse the same as the four Escudos.

The assayer's initials that appear on all the coinage of Iturbide are "J.M." for Joaquin Davis Madrid. There was also an assayer "J.A." for Jose Garcia Ansaldi, who served from 1812 to 1833, but his initials do not appear on the coinage of Iturbide. The edges of all Iturbide coins have a circle and rectangle pattern.

By decree of Dec. 20, 1822, Iturbide authorized the issuance of a million pesos of both two and ten peso notes, and two million pesos in one-peso notes. These promissory notes, redeemable in one year, were the first paper currency of Mexico.

This decree specified the method of discharge of all public and governmental transactions. The basis of settlement was two-thirds coin and one-third paper currency. The public did not like the use of paper in place of the common silver usage, and this distrust became one factor in Iturbide's collapse. The republican government on April 11, 1823 demonetized the Iturbide notes. But these were allowed to be accepted for payment of taxes. The republican government, on May 12, 1823 issued a series of one-peso notes to be used for redemption of the Iturbide notes, and also for general circulation.

These notes were known to be printed on the back of Papel Bulls of 1818 and 1819.

These notes issued by Iturbide under decree of Dec. 20, 1822 all have the basic design of an imperially crowned Mexican eagle, in an oval with the denomination "Un Peso", "Dos Pesos", or "Diez Pesos". With the serial number at the top, and the inscription, "El Imperio Mexicano promete pagar esta cantidad de [with denomination] con arreglo al Decreto de 29 de Diciembre de 1822, sobre este asunto". Mexico 1 de Enero de 1823," and bear the signatures of the Ministro de Hacda, Tesorero Gral., and the Contador Gral. These notes in the first series are uniface, crude, and, measure about four inches by six inches. These Iturbide notes of the first series have been heavily counterfeited in the past, so care should be taken when purchasing them.

The second series issued on the 1818 and 1819 Papel Bulls, while not an issue of Iturbide, does pertain to the period. It has the Mexican eagle in an oval within a wreath for the Un Peso note, while the Dos and Diez Pesos have the eagle surrounded by a wreath without an oval. The inscription "Las Tesorerias de la Nacion pagaran [the denomination] substituyendose este nuevo papel precisa y unicamente para el cambio de los que se presentaren del sello anterior, cuya fabricacion y emision ha cesado por decreto del soberano Congreso de 11 de Abril ultimo. Mexico 5 de Mayo de 1823." Two of the three signers are the same as on the first issue. The difference is the signature of the Ministro de Hacda.

The only decoration established by Agustin Iturbide is the Imperial Order of Guadalupe, which was authorized by decree dated February 20, 1822.

Four classes of this order were decreed. Iturbide was decreed to be the "Gran Maestre". The next class was "Caballeros Grandes Cruces", which was limited to a total of 50. Next was the "Caballeros de Numero", which was limited to 100. The lowest order was "Caballeros Supernumerarios", with the number being limited by the Gran Master Iturbide. At this time there is nothing available to indicate how many of these awards were presented.

The Grand Master wore the collar order, the breast star pinned on the left chest, with the badge suspended from a wide green, white and red sash crossed over from the right shoulder. The Caballeros Grand Cruces wore the same pieces in the same fashion as the Gran Maestre. The Caballeros de Numero wore the badge suspended from around the neck from a narrow green, white and red ribbon. The Caballero Supernumerarios wore the insignia pinned to their jacket suspended from a narrow green, white and red ribbon.

The Collar Order of the Imperial Order of Guadalupe is made of enameled gold, with the oval medallion with a figure of the Virgin of Guadalupe suspended from the collar, which is made of alternating ornate links and oval disks.

The breast star of the order is also made of enameled gold, with the obverse having a four-armed cross with each arm of the cross being made up of three enameled single pointed leaves with ball tips. The leaves of each arm are enameled in the national colors of Mexico - green, white and red. In the center of the cross is an elliptical medallion with the figure of the Virgin of Guadalupe on a white enameled background. Around the medallion is a green enameled band.

Surrounding the center medallion is a ribbon inscribed "Religion, Yndependencia, Union." Behind the four armed crosses is a wreath of olive and palm.

The badge of the order has the obverse similar to the breast star in that it has the four-armed cross enameled the same with the olive and palm wreath behind the cross. The difference is in the treatment of the center medallion. The badge has a white enameled background with the Virgin of Guadalupe figure surrounded by a green enameled band inscribed "Religion, Yndependencia, and Union."

On the reverse of this enameled gold badge is a red enameled medallion with the inscription in white letters, "al Patriotismo Heroico." The suspension device is a Mexican eagle on a crown.

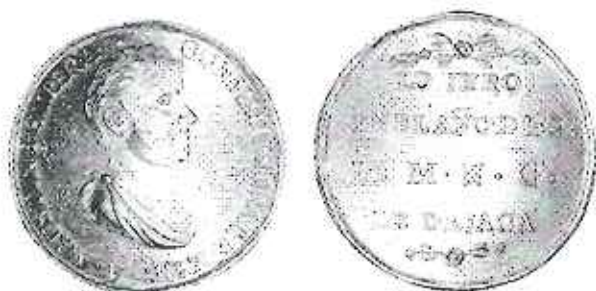
The insignia of this order also in enameled gold is similar to the badge except that the suspension device is a crown. This order ceased to exist with the abdication of Augustin de Iturbide, to be later reinstated in 1853 by General Santa Anna, and again in 1863 by Emperor Maximiliano. All three series are different from the others. The Guadalupe Orders are all hard to come by, but the Iturbide are the rarest of the issues, and seldom seen.

The medals of the Iturbide period are numerous, and come in gold, silver, bronze, gilded, and silver plate, and in all sizes from 20mm to 58mm. The numerous medals are too many to list for this article, but in Frank Grove's *Medals of Mexico*, Volume II, he lists 35 different medals. If counted in the various metals they total 68 different medals.

These proclamation medals were issued for various reasons and from various towns and states, such as the 1821 "Proclamation de la Independencia" from Mexico City, the 1822 "Inauguracion de Agustin" from Mexico City, as well as issues from Aguascalientes, Chiapas, Durango, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Oaxaca, Pitic, Queretaro, Silao, Taxco, Toluca, Veracruz, Zacatecas, and Villa Gutierrez de Aguila.

This aspect of the numismatic history of Iturbide is a field all its own and the history of this interesting period of Mexico can be told through these proclamation medals.

As we have seen in the preceding, this brief period – less than one year – of Mexico's long and vastly interesting history has brought the numismatic field a beautiful set of coinage, some interesting paper currency, numerous medals, a few rare decorations, as well as having a profound effect on the history of Mexico.



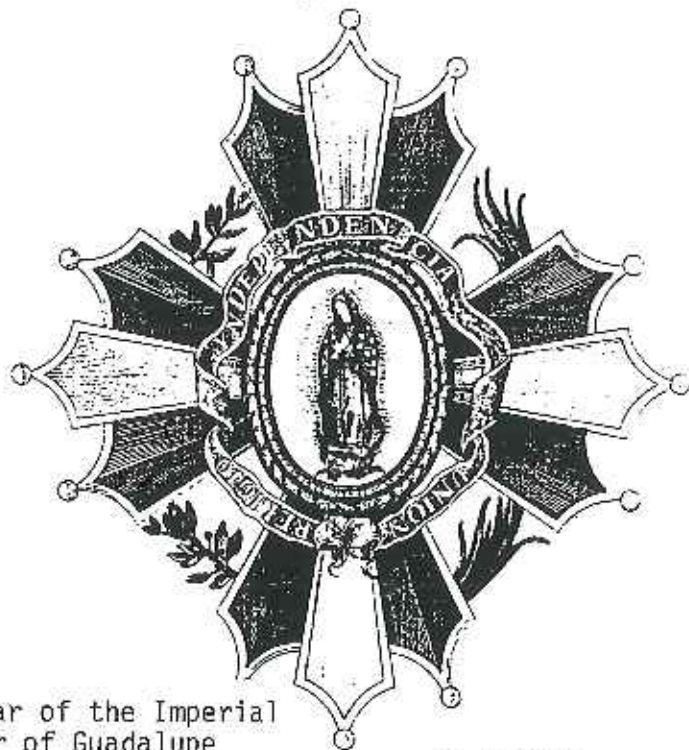
ITURBIDE 1822 MEDAL FOR
OAXACA, G-40a



RARE 1822 Mo 8 SCUDOS GOLD
KM 313.1



Collar of the Imperial
Order of Guadalupe



Breast Star of the Imperial
Order of Guadalupe



Insignia of the Imperial
Order of Guadalupe



Badge of the Imperial
Order of Guadalupe



Iturbide in a uniform of a
Mexican General in 1821

1st Aero Squadron In Pursuit of Pancho Villa

Taking part in Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing's 1916 Mexican expedition was a learning experience for the U.S. Army's first air arm--mainly in regard to its own deficiencies.

By Gary Glynn

The worried young pilot flew south, deeper into hostile territory, navigating by the stars. Below the fabric-covered wings of his Curtiss JN-3 "Jenny" darkness had already obscured the unfamiliar landscape of northern Mexico. Lieutenant Edgar S. Gorrell had never flown at night before, and his engine was overheating.

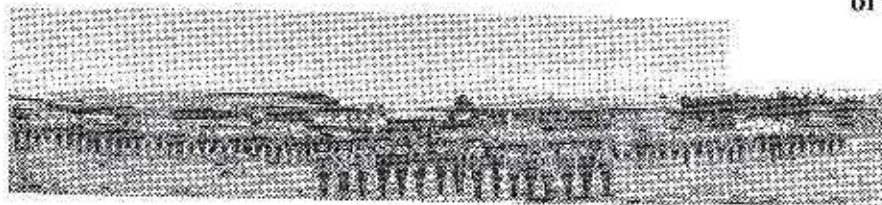
The flight had been jinxed from the start. Pre-flight preparations consumed more time than expected, so the eight planes of the 1st Aero Squadron had not taken off until late in the afternoon on March 19, 1916. Not long after they flew south from Columbus, New Mexico, Lieutenant Walter G. Kilner had turned back with engine problems.

Navigation errors contributed to the squadron's problems. Each plane carried a different type of compass, and the aviators were equipped with poor maps. Only one flier, Lieutenant Townsend F. Dodd, had ever made a night flight before. After the sun dropped behind the Sierra Madre, Gorrell lost sight of his fellow pilots and flew on alone. Finally, hopelessly lost, Gorrell turned and headed north again, but his plane had reached the limit of its endurance. With the engine on the verge of seizing up, the young pilot brought the crippled plane in for a rough but successful landing by moonlight.

Gorrell knew that he was deep within enemy territory--territory occupied by the mounted and heavily armed followers of Mexican revolutionary General Francisco "Pancho" Villa (the assumed name of Doroteo Arango). He drew his .45-caliber pistol, abandoned his plane and fled into the darkness. Gorrell's first journey into northern Mexico was typical of the fate awaiting the pilots of the 1st Aero Squadron, the only American air unit to fly in combat prior to World War I.

The outbreak of World War I during the summer of 1914 first revealed the inadequacy of America's military aviation program. At the war's outset, the entire air force consisted of 12 officers, 54 men and six planes. At the same time, dozens of British, French and German airmen fought daily over the trenches of the Western Front. Although the numbers of U.S. men and aircraft tripled in the next year, then

The 16 officers of the 1st Aero Squadron pose before some of the unit's 77 enlisted men and eight aircraft at San Diego, Calif., in September 1914.



tripled again, the 1st Aero Squadron remained America's sole operational air unit until 1917.

The squadron was organized in September 1914 and first based at North Island, San Diego. But in March 1915, five pilots, 30 men and three planes had been sent to Galveston, Texas, in response to tensions along the U.S.-Mexican border. The entire squadron was transferred to Fort Sill, Okla., where the pilots were issued eight Curtiss JN-2s and charged with learning aerial artillery spotting.

Shortly after arriving at Fort Sill, two planes and four pilots were transferred to Brownsville, Texas. It was there, on August 26, 1915, that the airmen first took up one of their new planes. Lieutenants J.C. Morrow and B.Q. Jones encountered turbulence at 1,100 feet, and their Jenny unexpectedly dropped 200 feet. The shaken aviators managed to coax the plane up to 4,500 feet but found it extremely difficult to control. On a subsequent flight, Morrow and his observer were badly hurt when their JN-2 nose-dived during takeoff and smashed into the ground.

The rest of the squadron also tried out the JN-2s and found them less than satisfactory. Pilot R.B. Sutton was badly injured and his observer (who sat in the front seat) was killed during one flight. After that accident, the artillery officers at Fort Sill categorically refused to fly in the JN-2s except during "war and in case of absolute necessity."

The JN-2s were grounded, and one of the planes underwent wind-tunnel testing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The testing revealed what the pilots already knew--the plane was dangerously unstable except at very low altitudes.

Glenn Curtiss, who had designed the JN-2, agreed to modify the plane. He redesigned the wing, gave the tail a larger surface area and installed a more powerful engine. The rebuilt planes, designated JN-3s, were more stable. But they also were heavier, and the extra weight reduced the operational ceiling of the Jennys, which would prove to be a major handicap in the high valleys of the Sierra Madre.

As the airmen of the 1st Aero waited for new planes, tensions reached a breaking point along the U.S.-Mexican border. In 1915 Mexico was a country torn by revolt, with several powerful men fighting for control. Pancho Villa, a former bandit leader who had served briefly as Mexico's president, was one of the most colorful of the belligerents. After being driven from power by the followers of Venustiano Carranza, Villa retreated to northern Mexico. There he led hundreds of well-armed supporters in a fight against the Carranza regime.

Villa attacked a Carranza garrison at Agua Prieta, just a few miles from Douglas, Ariz., during the fall of 1915. He was driven back with heavy losses, but his raid caused concern across the border. In response, the U.S. Army dispatched the 1st Aero Squadron to San Antonio, Texas, where the squadron took possession of its new JN-3s.

Villa withdrew to the rugged province of Chihuahua and reassessed his situation. His military forces had been decimated at Agua Prieta, and he had suffered a major political setback after U.S. President Woodrow Wilson recognized Carranza as the

legitimate ruler of Mexico. Villa knew that his only hope for victory lay in forcing American intervention in Mexico, which he in turn hoped would trigger a revolt among the peasants of Chihuahua, many of whom regarded the charismatic guerrilla leader as a folk hero. With this in mind, Villa and a large band of horsemen stopped a train in Mexico on January 11, 1916, and executed 19 of the Americans on board. The border region erupted in panic from San Diego to Brownsville. Two months later the situation was further inflamed when, on March 9, 1916, hundreds of Villa's horsemen crossed the border and raided Columbus, New Mexico. The town was looted and burned, and 17 Americans were killed.

President Wilson immediately asked President Carranza of Mexico for permission to send U.S. troops into his country, and Carranza reluctantly gave permission "for the sole purpose of capturing the bandit Villa." Wilson then ordered General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to "pursue and disperse," the forces commanded by Villa. One of Pershing's first acts was to order the 1st Aero Squadron to New Mexico. The squadron left Fort Sam Houston on March 13, 1916. Two days later it arrived in Columbus with eight JN-3s, 11 pilots and 82 enlisted men.

Gorrell noted that when the squadron arrived, it "was in horrible shape. The airplanes were not fit for military service, especially along the border. Some of us carried pistols, and two fliers had .22 rifles." Despite their lack of readiness, the fliers prepared for combat. Pershing crossed the border with 6,600 men a week after the Columbus raid. As the soldiers pushed south, hoping to encircle Villa's forces, the 1st Aero Squadron was ordered to Casas Grandes, in Mexico, 90 miles from the U.S. border.

The squadron's commander, Captain Benjamin D. Foulois, then made a serious mistake. He ordered his pilots to take off late on the afternoon of March 19, thus ensuring that the flight would land in the dark. Just after takeoff, engine trouble forced Kilner to turn back.

It grew darker, and Foulois realized that they would have to land. Four planes set down at Ascension; however, the three pilots in the rear had drifted apart and did not see the others land. Alone and flying at night for the first time, each pilot continued south in the dark. Lieutenant Joseph E. Carberry landed at Janos, 10 miles south of Ascension. After nearly colliding with Gorrell in the dark, Lieutenant Robert H. Willis, Jr., landed at Pearson, 40 miles from the nearest American troops. He abandoned his badly damaged plane and began the long walk to Casas Grandes.

Mechanics in Columbus replaced the engine in Kilner's plane the following morning, and he flew to Casas Grandes without incident. Upon landing, he found to his surprise that he was the first to arrive. He then took off and flew 10 miles to Pershing's headquarters at Colonia Dublan, where Foulois and the three others who had landed at Ascension soon appeared. Willis walked in the next day, and a detachment was sent out to salvage his plane. (The salvage party was fired on but eventually recovered some parts of the plane.) Meanwhile, Gorrell remained missing.

Gorrell stumbled around until dawn after abandoning his plane in the dark. Then he approached a remote ranch, intending to steal a horse. Pistol in hand, the airman confronted a mounted Mexican. Gorrell offered the terrified man \$8 to guide him to

the nearest American troops. The guide was none too eager, knowing that Villa's men would kill him if he were discovered helping an American, but the pistol in the young pilot's hand persuaded the Mexican. Gorrell's reluctant savior carried the airman 20 miles to a column of U.S. cavalry at Ascension.

Gorrell rested for a few hours, then borrowed a Ford sedan from the U.S. 6th Infantry. He drove back to his crippled plane with fuel and oil and managed to start the engine. He flew the plane 30 miles south to Ojo Federico, where he landed near an American truck convoy. He refueled, but as he taxied for takeoff, his wing struck a fuel barrel. Once he was airborne, the canvas began to rip from the wing. Gorrell brought his plane down once again and hitched a ride to Colonia Dublan, where he finally rejoined his squadron. Two days later he returned to his plane, repaired it and flew it back to headquarters.

While Gorrell had been wandering through the rough country of Chihuahua, the other fliers of the 1st Aero Squadron were assigned to locate American troops advancing south along the Mexico Northwestern Railway. Lieutenant Dodd, with Foulois in the observer's seat, flew toward Cumbre Pass. Foulois reported that "the plane began to buck and shake violently in ever-increasing turbulent air. We had the throttle on as far as it would go, and the engine was straining valiantly at its limits. Ahead, the ground rose abruptly above us, and I knew that much as Dodd and I wanted to complete our mission, we had reached the absolute ceiling of our plane. We had no choice but to return to headquarters and report our failure." Discouraged, they returned to Colonia Dublan.

One of the squadron's Jennys, piloted by Lieutenant Thomas Bowen, was caught in a gust of wind during takeoff later that same day. Bowen was injured in the ensuing crash and the Jenny was destroyed, leaving the squadron with only six functional planes (including Gorrell's still-missing craft). Over the next several days, the fliers again tried to push the JN-3s over the mountains, but the 100-hp engines were not powerful enough. After only a few days of operations, it became clear that the JN-3s (which had been designed as trainers) could not fly over the 12,000-foot-high mountains, nor could they withstand the gusty winds, rain, hail and snow that were prevalent in the area.

There were other problems with the planes as well. Their wheels bogged down in the deep sand, and the hot, dry air quickly dried out the wooden planes. Especially troublesome were the propellers, which delaminated in the dry heat. Metal propellers were too heavy for the underpowered engines, and only a propeller laboriously carved from dried native wood proved successful. The pilots soon learned to carry a spare propeller, stored in a humidity-controlled box strapped to the side of the fuselage, on every mission.

News of the equipment problems of the 1st Aero Squadron quickly leaked back to the rest of the country. Byron Utecht, a *New York World* correspondent accompanying the Pershing forces, quoted Foulois when he wrote that the airmen were "risking lives ten times a day, but are not given equipment needed." Utecht said the pilots blamed "politics, personal ambition and utter lack of knowledge of aviation as being responsible for the dangerous plight of the 1st Aero Squadron." Lieutenant Herbert A. Dargue was quoted as saying, "It is nothing short of criminal to send the

aviators up under such conditions as we are meeting here."

Utceht, who had not submitted his work to the censors, was kicked out of Mexico, and Pershing's inspector general questioned all the officers of the squadron. With an eye on their careers, the fliers denied the quotes attributed to them.

The squadron's mechanics—some of whom used motorcycles to quickly reach a downed aircraft—did all they could to strengthen the Jennys for use in Mexico, but there was only so much that could be done. After several abortive attempts to cross Cumbre Pass, the 1st Aero Squadron concentrated on carrying mail and dispatches between Columbus and the columns moving south into Mexico. In this capacity, the squadron proved to be successful. During the last few days of March, the six remaining planes flew approximately 20 missions with messages for the various columns of Pershing's command. The planes were moved to Namiquipa beginning April 1, 1916, where 19 missions were flown on one day without a problem.

Foulois knew that his aircraft could not long withstand the rigors of desert flying, and he devised a plan to conserve the remaining planes. He suggested that a radio-telegraph link be established between Casas Grandes and Namiquipa, and that motorcycles be used for routine message traffic. The planes would be reserved for emergency use. He also requested 10 new planes capable of performing in the adverse conditions of Mexico, but he was informed that all available aircraft were already with the punitive expedition.

The 1st Aero Squadron did receive more trucks and personnel, however, and by May 1 the squadron boasted 16 officers and 122 enlisted men. Even though Pershing's forces met and defeated a large force of Villa's troops at Parral, the fliers played no part in that action. The planes, in fact, had not yet been equipped with any type of offensive weapon larger than a .22-caliber rifle or a .45-caliber pistol, even though machine guns and bombs had been ordered to outfit them. (The squadron had received a shipment of 3-inch artillery shells in April, but none of the aviators knew how to use them as aerial bombs.)

The Signal Corps had previously experimented with bombsights, bomb-release mechanisms and a variety of aerial explosives, but the tests had been abandoned because Brig. Gen. George P. Scriven, the chief signal officer, felt that airplanes should be used solely for reconnaissance. Many years later, Foulois somewhat ruefully noted that "using the airplanes as offensive weapons...was contrary, of course, to military policy at the time."

The squadron moved to San Geronimo on April 5. Just a day later, Kilner's plane landed too hard, tearing off a wheel. The JN-3 ground looped and was destroyed. The squadron was down to five planes on the eve of its most important and hazardous mission. Early on April 7, 1916, two planes took off and flew from San Geronimo to Chihuahua. One was piloted by Dargue, with Foulois sitting in the observer's seat. Carberry was at the controls of the other plane, accompanied by Dodd. The two planes flew to Chihuahua City with identical messages for Marion H. Letcher, the American consul in that city. Carberry landed north of Chihuahua and Dodd set off with the message for Letcher, while Dargue landed south of the city.

Foulois exited the plane, then ordered Dargue to fly north and rejoin Carberry. Foulois started into town, but as Dargue's airplane was climbing, he was fired on by four mounted Mexican policemen armed with Winchester rifles. Foulois heard the shooting (the first recorded attack against an American military plane) and intervened. The Mexicans stopped shooting but trained their weapons on Foulois, who later said of the episode, "There was nothing I could do but put my hands up—and pray." Surrounded by bystanders shouting "kill the gringo," Foulois was carted off to jail.

Dargue and his plane were unhurt by the gunfire, and a few minutes later he landed near Carberry's plane, where an angry crowd of Carranza supporters had gathered. The Mexicans, indignant about the American incursion into their country, began to vandalize the two planes. They burned cigarette holes in the wings, cut the fabric and removed a number of nuts and bolts from the aircraft. In desperation, the two pilots started their engines.

The enraged crowd threw rocks as the aviators lifted off. Carberry managed to fly to an American-owned smelter six miles away, but Dargue's plane was struck by one of the stones and the stabilizer was damaged. Dargue brought the crippled plane down safely but was immediately surrounded by the hostile crowd.

Meanwhile, even though he had been dragged off to jail, Foulois managed to contact a Colonel Miranda of the Mexican army, who released the airman and escorted him to the military governor of Chihuahua, General Eulallo Gutierrez. Gutierrez ordered his troops to help Foulois find Dargue. When Foulois and his escorts arrived, Dargue was doing his best to hold off the angry mob, armed with no more than his wits and bare hands. Dargue's plane was repaired later that afternoon, and the somewhat shaken airman flew back to San Geronimo.

The incident revealed the unpopularity of the American intervention among Mexicans of every political persuasion. Indeed, the airmen of the 1st Aero Squadron felt the anger of the populace on more than one occasion. On the following day, April 8, Mexicans fired at Carberry and Dodd as they flew over Chihuahua. Lieutenant Carlton G. Chapman made a forced landing that same day at Santa Rosalia, where he was captured by Carranza supporters. He was eventually released, but not before looters stole field glasses, goggles and ammunition from his plane.

Carranza's forces, led by Minister of War Alvaro Obregon, did not initially resist U.S. intervention. But it wasn't long before the Mexican president, a strong nationalist, became increasingly concerned about the American presence in his country. Fearful that some of his military commanders might defect to Villa, Carranza began to demand that the Americans return home.

Carranza's troops resisted Pershing's forces on several occasions. One of the worst clashes occurred on April 12, 1916, at Parral, when American cavalrymen fired on a hostile crowd of Carrancistas. Two soldiers were killed, as were a large number of Mexicans. That afternoon, Foulois carried an ultimatum from a furious General Gutierrez to Pershing, demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

A defiant Pershing scribbled a reply that he would withdraw when he was ordered to

do so by the U.S. president or the secretary of war, which Foulois carried back to Chihuahua City. (The wings of Foulois' airplane were damaged during that flight and were replaced with the wings of one of the remaining planes, leaving the squadron with only four aircraft.) The Wilson administration was having second thoughts about the punitive expedition, and Pershing was ordered to halt operations while high-level officials conducted talks on the situation in Mexico.

Dargue and Gorrell took off on a reconnaissance mission to locate a force of Carrancistas on April 14. They flew 315 miles, an unofficial American distance record at the time. Lieutenant I.A. Rader undertook a similar mission on that day but was forced to land at Ojito, nearly 100 miles from the nearest U.S. force. He abandoned his plane, leaving the squadron with only three planes.

Five days later, Dargue and Willis undertook another scouting mission to Chihuahua City. They carried a new Brock aerial camera capable of making sequenced photos, but they experienced engine trouble 20 miles northwest of Chihuahua and crashed in the woods. Dargue was unhurt, but Willis was temporarily pinned in the wreckage and suffered a broken ankle and a severe scalp wound. The plane, the camera and the photographic plates had all been destroyed in the crash, so Dargue set fire to the wreckage.

In the dry conditions, the surrounding forest caught fire, and the conflagration raged out of control, consuming thousands of acres of countryside. The two men escaped the flames and began to walk to San Antonio, Willis hobbling on his broken ankle. After traveling 40 miles, they stole a mule and rode the remaining 25 miles into San Antonio.

While Rader, Dargue and Willis were walking home, the remaining two JN-3s and the rest of the squadron were sent back to Columbus for refitting. The fliers arrived on April 20, 1916, and found four new Curtiss N-8s, an export version of the JN-4, the latest model of the Jenny. These were the first of 94 JN-4s ordered by the Army in 1916 (the JN-4 soon became the standard U.S. trainer).

The aviators tested their new planes during the last week of April and found them lacking. Foulois was particularly unimpressed. He condemned the N-8s at first glance, then set fire to the two surviving JN-3s for good measure. Despite his wanton destruction of government property, Foulois was promoted to major. The airmen complained so bitterly about their new planes that the N-8s were quickly withdrawn from the border and sent to San Diego, where they were used for training and experimentation. The Technical Aero Advisory and Inspection Board of the Signal Corps decided instead to equip the 1st Aero with the Curtiss R-2, which boasted a 160-hp engine.

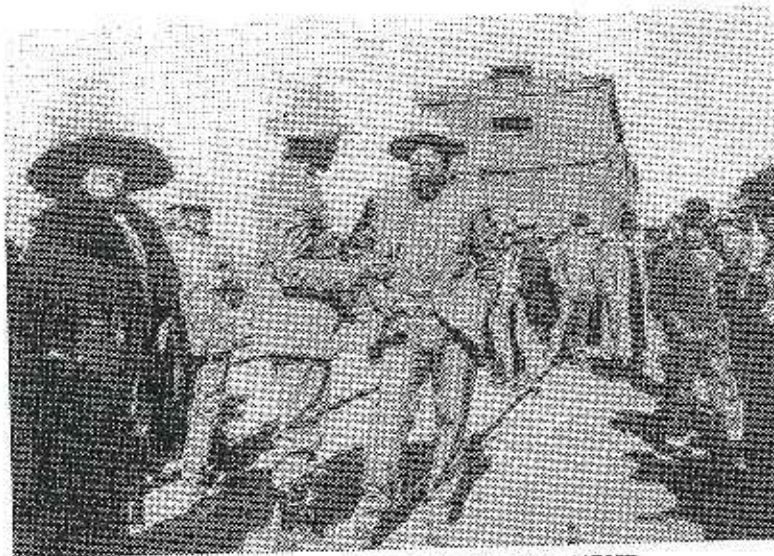
Twelve R-2s were delivered to the squadron in May, but the planes, which had been very hastily constructed, were missing vital spare parts and had faulty wiring and leaky fuel tanks. The aircraft even lacked compasses, instruments and tool kits when they arrived. The experienced mechanics at Columbus soon put the planes into flying shape, however. The R-2s used in Mexico were eventually equipped with automatic cameras, radios and Lewis machine guns, as well as incendiary and explosive bombs (the weapons were never used in Mexico).

Despite the use of airplanes, the U.S. Army never managed to locate the elusive Pancho Villa. Instead of easing tensions along the Mexican border, the U.S. incursion only further inflamed the situation. In late June, a clash between an American patrol and a force of Carrancistas left 12 Americans dead and another 23 as prisoners. Anti-American demonstrations occurred throughout Mexico, and Pershing was informed by the Carranza government that his movement in any direction but north would be resisted. Although more U.S. troops continued to pour into Mexico, the services of the 1st Aero Squadron were needed less and less after reliable ground communication links were established.

The pilots of the squadron flew 540 missions in Mexico between March 15 and August 15, 1916. The average mission length was 36 miles. The squadron's greatest contribution was maintaining communications between Pershing's columns, which penetrated 700 miles into Mexico. As the summer of 1916 turned to fall, the U.S. military began to worry less about Pancho Villa and more about the war in Europe. The last U.S. troops left Mexico in February 1917, just two months before the United States entered World War I.

Although the 1st Aero Squadron remained at Columbus until August 1917, most of the experienced fliers were transferred to several new squadrons being formed. Major Foulois rose rapidly through the ranks and soon commanded the U.S. Air Service of the First Army during World War I.

General Black Jack Pershing also had a new command, but before leaving the border area to take charge of the U.S. Expeditionary Force in Europe, he thanked the 1st Aero Squadron for "the faithful and efficient service it has performed as part of this expedition." On August 5, 1917, the 1st Aero Squadron, commanded by Major Ralph Royce, left Columbus for the Western Front.



Courtesy Museum of New Mexico, Neg. No. 117657

Pancho Villa grants an interview in between fighting and riding. The Mexican expedition was a useful learning experience for the U.S. Army, but Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing failed miserably at achieving his objective--catching Villa.

ARTICLE FROM **AVIATION**

THE ORIGIN OF THE COUPON OF 400 CENTAVOS OF MONTERREY, 1996

By Ricardo de Leon Tallavas

On April of 1996 everything was ready for the 400th anniversary of the Northwestern City of Monterrey, due on September 20th, and as a numismatist I thought of another way to celebrate that date aside from the medals already in process, an issue of paper money.

Because the number of years would sum 400, I thought of a coupon accepted in a more voluntary way just in the Local Association of Merchants, backed up through the Funds of Monterrey's Treasury, money that wouldn't hurt the Municipal Budget because the amount would be so insignificant that even if 2500 of this 400 centavos would have been issued they could barely represent 65 American dollars. These would be signed by the Mayor and the Governor as a distinction for the 4th Centennial instead of the usual City's Treasurer or State's Comptroller.

So in my laptop I started the designs on my own. I selected the most representative designs of my hometown, and I gathered 10 obverses and 8 reverses, which I presented to the Sociedad Numismatica de Monterrey, A.C, to get the general opinion of my fellow numismatists.

Finally I got the design that you are seeing on these photocopies. I made them in 10 different colors of paper, same number of textures, and in two inks, (not combined, nor mixed but monochromatic) hunter green and sepia. The papers vary from white, pink and blue, to orange and even light green.

I made about 400 of them, maybe even more, but nowhere close to a 750 range. I had them cut and printed in Monterrey, and made most of them overprinted with the "0000" serial number on one side, and the legend "Muestra sin Valor", (Specimen without value) to give and to show to the people/media the way they would look, if I get general approval from the citizens, and the sympathy from the Merchants as well.

I met with the key people on both sides, but nothing happened; everyone was very cautious to react to this idea; every one except for the Mayor. I made several coupons bearing the serial number "0001" to show the Mayor in a private meeting that was covered by the local media, and in front of the cameras he signed 11 of them to show his support for this idea.

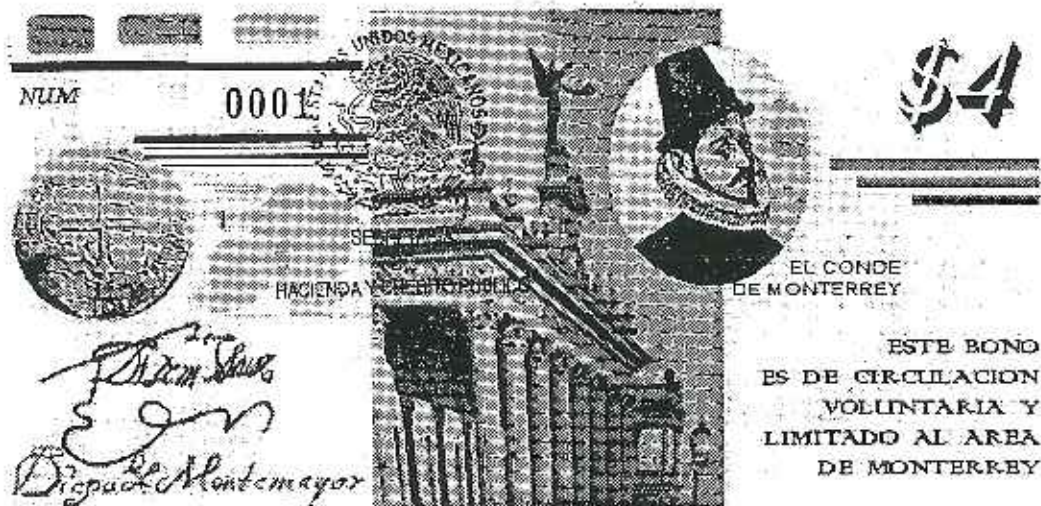
When I showed the coupons to the Governor, especially those signed by the Mayor, he declined to put his signature on them, much less to give the O.K. to the idea for 2 reasons. The most important was that the Mexican Constitution forbids anyone to "print or make local money", especially backed up by any of the Local Authorities. The second reason was that the Mayor was not of the same political party, therefore the whole idea had to be terminated.

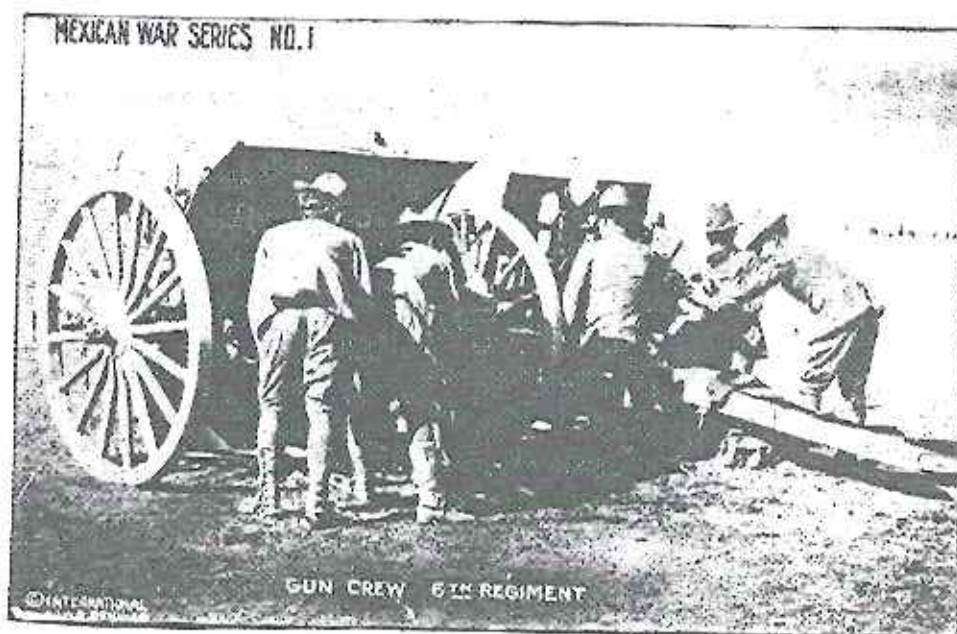
The Mayor added the official seal on the back through the Secretary of Hacienda, but the whole concept didn't work. However this has been the closest attempt to revive the local issue of money in Monterrey since the mid 1940s, when emergency issues by the banks and factories were printed for the public.

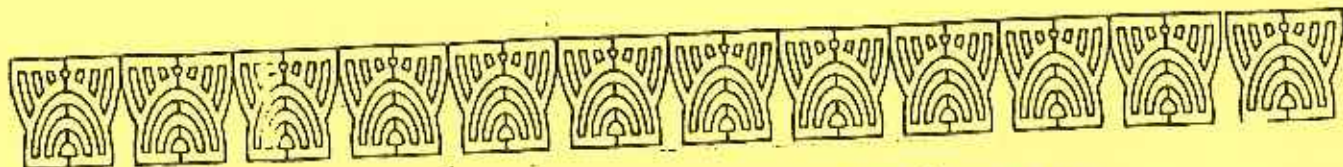
I certainly don't know how to catalog this piece that I made, and that exists with (11 pieces), and without (about 9) the hand-written signature of the Mayor bearing the number "0001", with the overprint, and in uncut sheets of 2 (about 15) missing all the overprints.

I really would appreciate any comments on this respect, because regardless of its success this was a trial of some historical importance, and since it has been three years since these coupons were made I thought it was time to bring them to the numismatists' attention.

Ricardo de Leon Tallavas







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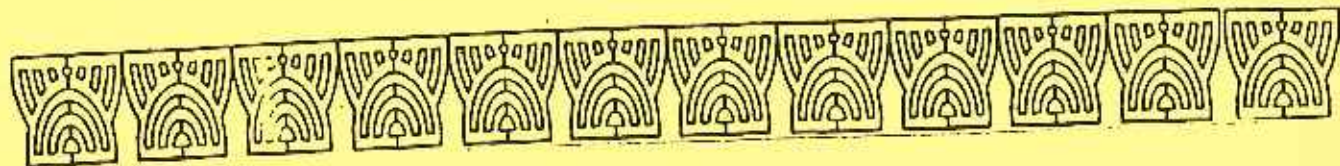
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