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U.S. MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
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USMexNA MEMBERSHIP MEETING, ANA CHICAGO

An Association membership meeting was held during the American Numismatic Association meeting, with fifteen members and guests in attendance. The presentation of the "Best Mexican Exhibit" plaque was made to J. R. Rollo for his exhibit "A Mint Set of 2 Escudos of Mexico". A really exceptional exhibit that not only had several very rare 2 Escudos, but was also constructed so that the viewer could turn the coin over from obverse to reverse. An article will be forthcoming on the exhibit. Mr. Rollo has an article in this journal covering exhibiting, and talks briefly of his winning exhibit.

A round of introductions followed this presentation. Following were financial reports, and a general discussion of Association projects and efforts. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



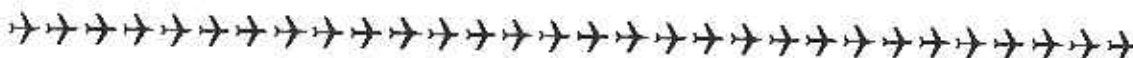
J. R. Rollo and his plaque with your Executive Director

USMexNA CHAT ROOM AND MESSAGE CENTER

Recently the Association setup on Yahoo, a chat room/message center site. This site without cost to the Association will give our members a chance to leave messages and chat with other members that are in the chat room. Current information on the Association can also be found there.

This is an "Open" club, which means that anyone, Association member or not can access it, and use it. Since it was established we have had several hits on it from outside of the Association.

To register for this site go to [<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/usmexna>], or access clubs from the Yahoo home page. Under Yahoo club rules advertising is not allowed so keep that in mind when posting messages. There is a link to the Association's web site, and other links will be added as we go along. A message was sent out to all members just recently on this subject.



Calling card for General Victoriano Huerta, and a 1914 one Peso note that came on a specially made card to Richard Becker, C-5

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION CORNER

By Joe Flores C-2

**STATE OF AGUASCALIENTES
20 CENTAVOS/ TAXCO PESO**

The Mexican Revolution, 1910 – 1920 took its toll of men, women and children on both sides, the Revolutionist as well as the Federal troops. As the struggle progressed many commodities became very scarce, especially metals which were needed for striking coins. They struck coins using all types of metal, and other materials. Some of the coins have been struck over Republic and modern coins. This era of coinage can be found in all thickness from paper thin to extremely thick planchets, and in all denominations from all states.

This brings us to this article about a very unique coin. You seldom find a Revolution coin struck over another Revolution coin, and in this case they used two very common dies. A 1915 Aguascalientes 20 Centavos struck over a 1915 silver Taxco Peso. The 20 Centavos dies are usually struck on copper planchets, and it does not make any monetary sense to devalue the Peso to 20 Centavos. Possibly they used the Taxco Peso as a trial strike, or for numismatic value, nevertheless it did produce a very rare and unique coin. As a collector I am glad they did as it makes the hunt very exciting to be able to find and report.

Numbered by previous authors:

Aguascalientes 20 Centavo ----HW 63; U-AG10; G-AGS 15; G.B. 23

Taxco Peso -----HW 89; U-GUE 53; G-GRO 84; L-S-GRO 45; G.B. 231

P.S. Pro or con comments are always welcome to any articles appearing in the Revolution Corner.

Coin Owner
Joe Flores
P. O. Box 4484
Stockton, CA 95204-4604





General Bernardo Reyes.



José Yves Limantour.



COLLECTING MEXICAN COINS

By: Kurt R. Hartzog, C-64

Why do I collect coins and why should you, and if you do what should you collect? I have asked these questions several times over the years and perhaps the following can answer these questions for you.

I have always been a person that has had a love for history and for "old" things. It is for those reasons I gravitated to coin collecting. When I was a child I received some old German coins from a great aunt, and they fascinated me. Here I was holding a coin that was over 200 years old that went through countless hands until it came to me. I was actually holding a small piece of history.

That got me started on a small scale, and the next time I got really excited with coins was when I went to Mexico City in the early 1960's. I actually received a large five peso silver coin in change, and I scooped up as many as I could.

After getting back to the U. S. I did the right thing and "bought the book". As I said, I have always had a love for history, but in no way was I prepared for the diversity of Mexican coins. Well, I dove in and acquired all the coins from Mexico that my limited budget would accept. I quickly realized that I was not prepared financially to acquire all the coins produced in Mexico since their beginning in about 1700. I figured that I would have to be a multi-millionaire just to compete some of the series. So the question was "where do I start".

The answer came quickly, Modern Mexico. The coins of the 20th Century were easily acquired, and for the most part readily accessible. The shock came early that even some of the 20th century coins were expensive. Yet over the years I have been able to put together a respectable set of the coins of the United States of Mexico. I am in fact missing several of the key coins, and probably never will see them in my collection, but the challenge is there. As any new collector will soon find out, Mexico changes their coin design every few years and some of the series are short lived. Some coins only last for that one year of issue, while others last many years.

Some things I have noticed over the years are that better grade coins are disappearing. I did and still collect most any Mexican coin if the price is right and I "need" it for my collection. I acquired several pieces from the early period that include several cobs and portraits. What I see advertised in many magazines are in conditions of good to very good and very high prices. The State and Federal issues are usually in a poor state of preservation, but one must remember they were crude to start with.

Collecting Mexican Coins, Con't:

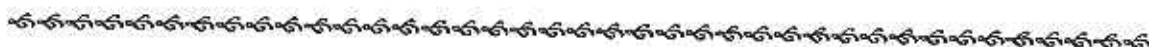
The Republic Decimal coinage is really a very nice series to consider collecting. The larger coins seem to be plentiful like the 1 peso. The minor coins are beautifully designed and for the most part well struck.

The coins of the Mexican Revolution are similar to the coins of the Mexican States issues, crude. They are extremely interesting as these coins were for the most part made under the worst of conditions. These were authorized by people, such as Pancho Villa and Carranza, the very people that shaped Mexico, not that long ago, who also helped issue currency to assist in the financing of the revolution. The fortunes of the Revolutionary leaders, their alliances became a confusion of both legend and fact that history has yet to fully unravel. From February 19, 1913 to December 1, 1920 Mexico had a total of ten Presidents, one of whom occupied the office only 46 minutes.

So what era of Mexican coins do I suggest for the new collector? Well, first I suggest that you get the various reference books that are out there and look at the various series of coins. First find out what you like, and then think of the old pocketbook. Not too many of us can collect the series of gold four escudos of the ruling Kings of Spain. Study the books and see what strikes your fancy. Caution, you have found a series or era that you like but can you complete the series. Some coins have a very low mintage, both old and new. Hey, how about a nice type set? I am still working on one after 20 plus years. It's complete but every now and then I find a better coin to replace one with.

Go for it - it's fun, rewarding and you can learn a lot of history about our neighbor to the South.

Richard R. Hartzog



REMEMBRANCES OF A MEMORIAL TO EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN OF MEXICO

By Don Bailey, C-1

A very rare medal was created in the spring of 1875, by circumstances far removed from its place of issue, the port city of Trieste, then a part of the Austrian Empire. Before one can understand the significance of the medal, its historical background must be understood.

The death of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, is the reason for this medal's issuance. The Emperor, formerly the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of the House of Hapsburg, accepted the throne of Mexico by the Miramar Treaty on April 10, 1864.

Mexico's first independent government had been the empire of August I Iturbide, and through the decades of turmoil which followed his death by firing squad in July 1824, many Mexican Conservatives continued to yearn for the order and stability of Monarchy.

Maximilian came to the throne as a direct result of French Emperor Napoleon III's desire to set up a center of French influence in the New World, using the repudiation of the so-called Jecker bonds by the government of Benito Juarez as an excuse for a full-scale Invasion in 1862.

The proposal was in direct violation of the U.S. Monroe Doctrine, but the United States was deeply involved in our Civil War at this time, and Napoleon was banking on a Confederate victory, which would be followed by recognition of the Mexican Empire.



In defense of Emperor Maximilian, it should be noted that the offer of the crown was supposed to be from a representative majority of the Mexican people. The offer came from a Council headed by General Juan N. Almonte in Mexico City, who set up the French Regency to rule until the arrival of the monarch.

French General Elie Forey convoked a Supreme Council—"Junta de Los Notables", of 35 selected members chosen from 215 prominent Mexicans who had displayed willingness to cooperate with the French, and their project of monarchy.

Memorial to Maximilian, con't:



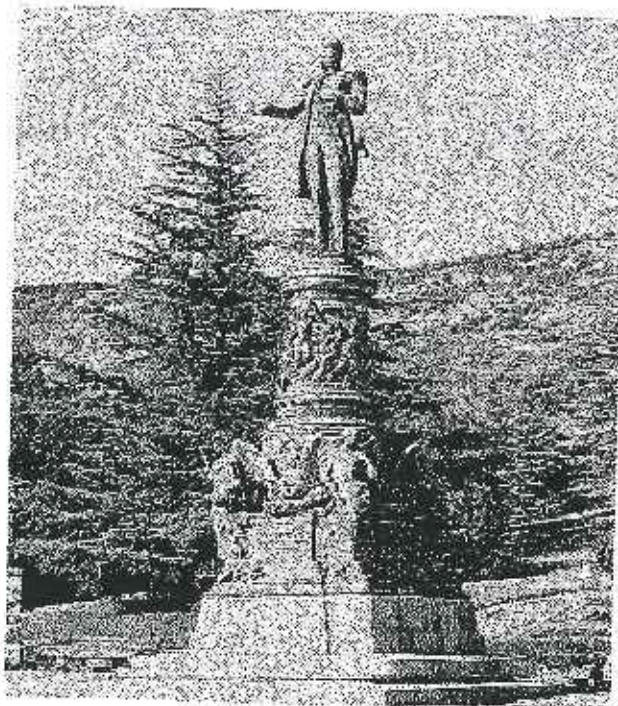
The Junta de Los Notables approved an appeal to the Archduke on July 11, 1863, to which 160 additional signatures were added before its presentation to the Austrian Prince.

Maximilian and his consort, Carlota, daughter of the Belgium's King Leopold I, left Miramar April 14, and arrived in Vera Cruz, Mexico on May 28. They were to reign three years, one month and five days.

The empire's downfall was brought about ultimately by the withdrawal of French forces, divisions among the Emperor's Conservative followers, the resistance of the Republicans under President Juarez, the brutality of some of the French, and to some degree poor judgment, and a misguided sense of priority on the part of the Imperial couple.

After the American Civil War ended, Secretary of State William H. Seward applied unrelenting pressure to force a French withdrawal. The Republican forces were encouraged, both politically, and by clandestinely supplying the forces of Juarez.

After the French were gone, the area under Imperial rule rapidly dwindled, and Empress Carlota sailed for Europe to plead for aid with Napoleon III, and finally with Pope Pius IX, while Maximilian was under siege for 68 days in the town of Queretaro. After surrendering to General Escobedo on May 15, 1867, the Emperor and his two senior generals, Miramon and Mejia were tried by drumhead court martial and shot by a firing squad on June 16, 1867. Carlota's mind gave way before this disaster, and she was to live on in darkness, until her death in 1927, never really aware of the true fate of her "Maxi", or of their dreams for their empire and for Mexico.



The medals under discussion were remembrance pieces in 70 millimeter diameter, struck at the Vienna, Austria Mint in 1874, for presentation to the veterans and dignitaries attending the unveiling in the spring of 1875 of a statue of the Emperor Maximilian erected in the gardens of his beloved Miramar palace, where the whole tragic episode had begun.

The statue, a standing uniformed figure of Maximilian atop a highly ornate base, was erected through the generosity of Austrian and foreign admirers of the late Emperor. This structure was created by sculptor-medalist Johann Schilling, (1828 - 1910).

Memorial to Maximilian, con't:

Only two of the medals were struck in gold, 100 in silver, and 301 in chocolate bronze. The gold pieces weighted 202.45 grams, the silver 155 grams, and the bronze 137 grams.

The Miramar memorial medal was designed by the sculptor of the statue, and engraved by Josef Tautenhayn, (1837 – 1911). Tautenhayn enjoyed a distinguished career as a medalist.

He prepared several coin designs from 1866 to 1879 for Austria and Hungary, with medal credits through 1905. He was appointed Imperial – Royal Chamber Medalist in 1869

The inscriptions, interestingly enough, are in Italian, recalling Trieste's population at that time, as well as Maximilian's years as governor-general of the Kingdom of Lombardy – Venetia, before Italian unification deprived the Austrian crown of these rich territories, whose people may have hated Austria, but venerated the liberal- minded and magnanimous Maximilian.

The medal's obverse is highly complex and ornate, bearing at the center a bust of Maximilian bearing an Admiral's uniform and the Order of the Golden Fleece. Surrounding is an inscription, actually a quote from his last greeting to the city and fleet he left behind in Europe, "**All Austriaca Maria, cui pposi tanto, a quaanti Lascio Amici lungo I Lidi dell'Adria, il Supremo mio Vale.**" (To the Austrian Navy, for whom I have as much affection as for the friends I leave along the shores of the Adriatic, my supreme farewell). The date of the Emperor's execution, June 16, 1867, appears below the bust.

The medal is divided into four parts by figures taken from the base of the Miramar statue, representing the four corners of the earth. Directly below the bust is a Winged Victory bearing the Austrian banner, and trumpet, with the inscription, "To Maximilian of Austria, Emperor of Mexico, MDCCCXXV".

To the right is an allegorical group representing the West, commerce and the Merchant Marine, with a reference to Maximilian's role in fostering Austria's seaborne trade. The South is represented by an Egyptian style figure bearing palm trees, personifications of Welfare and Charity, and the City Goddess of Trieste follow.

Maximilian's role in the building of Miramar is another significant design feature, a group of figures around a young mural-crowned woman personifying the palace and inscription, "**Con Animo liberale soccorse I poverelli-colla Creazione di Miramar abbelli Truete sua Patria d'Elizione,**" (With generous spirit he helped the needy through creation of Miramar he beautified Trieste, his chosen homeland).

Memorial to Maximilian, con't:

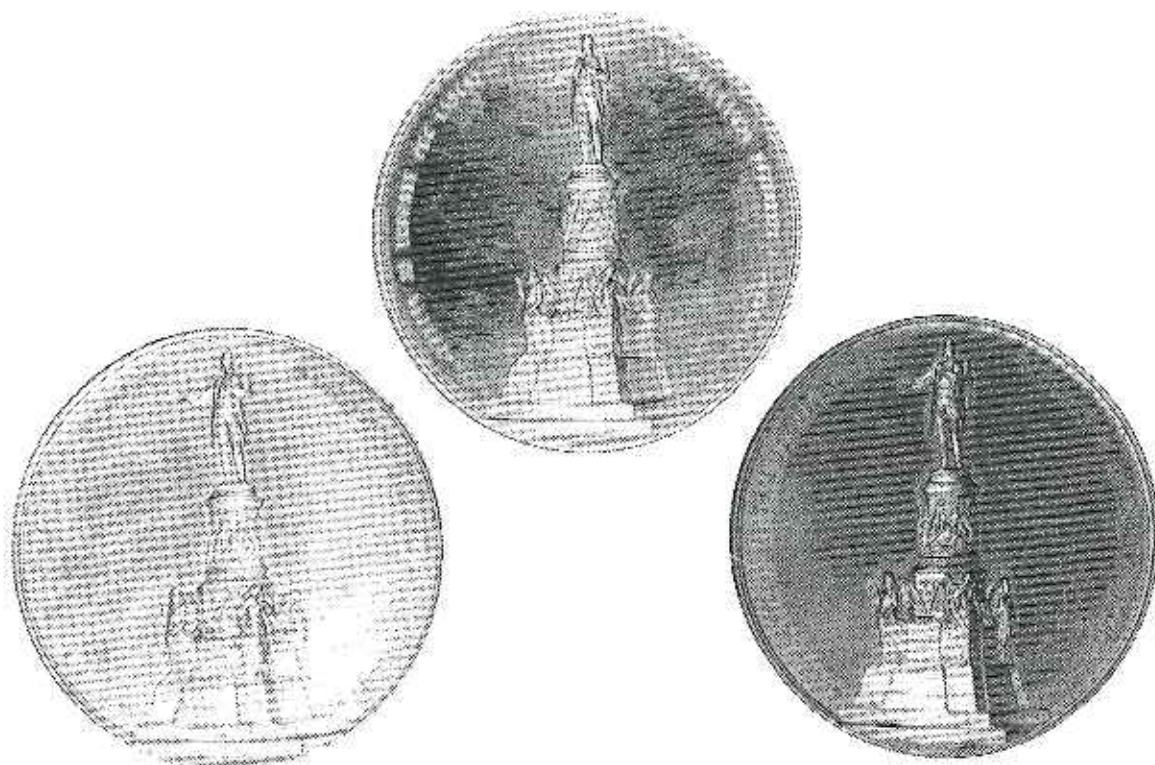
Harking back to Roman mythology, the East appears with a half moon on his forehead, holding a blooming rose. Maximilian's years of service as an Admiral of the fleet are recalled by a group of Amazons on seahorses, and the statement, "Leader of the armed fleet, he cared for its splendor." Rounding out the Four Corners is the north, a vigorous bearded man with a harpoon on rope.



The reverse of the medal has a view of the completed statue and its pedestal adornments, with the observation, "Erected in Trieste through the generosity of national and foreign admirers." Interestingly enough at last report, this statue was still standing unharmed in Trieste, despite the political changes, which saw the district pass to Italy, suffer two world wars, and narrowly avoid total incorporation in Tito's Communist Yugoslavia.

It is known that the bronze strikes were issued in plush lined presentation cases, and I think it would be safe to assume that the gold and silver would have been in cases also.

The rarity of these medals today has been revealed over the years. Back around 1976, when I was doing research on these medals for an article that appeared in the February 1976 Numismatic Scrapbook I canvassed the major collections around the world that might have contained these medals. There are single examples of the gold, silver, and bronze in the Austrian National Collection, originally from the estate of Crown Prince Rudolf. There is one silver without a presentation case in a collection in Mexico.



The Gold, silver and bronze medals contained in the Austrian National Collection.

This author originally had a bronze in a presentation case that came out of Austria in 1968, and a silver one that was in the Hans M.F. Schulman sale of the King Umberto II Collection in 1967. These appeared as lots 93 and 94 in the April 1975 auction of the Don Bailey Collection of the Maximilian Era. This collection after almost twenty-five years is still intact.

Over the twenty-three years since this survey was done I have not seen any of these medals being offered for sale, publicly or by private sale, nor have there been any reports of these showing up in any other collections.

As you can readily observe, one gold, three silver, and two bronzes are known to exist. If any reader has any knowledge of examples of these medals, such as the other gold medal, the remaining 95 silver medals and the balance of 299 bronze medals please contact this author.

Don Bailey
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Homer, MI 49245-0098

WANTED – FRESH BLOOD – WARM BODIES

While on a trip to Mexico City just a few days ago I had breakfast with Mr. Rogelio Charteris Reyes, a thirty five year plus friend, a former President of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, and an outstanding numismatist. Our pleasant conversation turned quickly to numismatics as always, and we talked of the lack of very many younger, (anyone under 65 is younger) up - and - coming Mexican numismatists. There are some that are serious in certain areas, but not in the general scene.

We discussed what will happen when we go, and who will carry on. We felt that the hobby wouldn't stop, but there would be a vacuum, and we talked of what can we do now to insure a strong voice for Mexican numismatics in the future.

This was discussed with Mr. Clyde Hubbard, the Grand Master of Mexican Numismatics, and he agreed to discuss it further at the Guadalajara show. If anyone has any suggestions please let us know. Maybe a mentor programs to teach newer collectors, and work with them to learn, and nurture their interest in Mexican Numismatics.



A VIEW FROM THE PAST

A twenty year old photo that was just uncovered in the archives.
This is why we are asking for FRESH BLOOD above.
You will note who has aged and who hasn't changed
over these many years.

YOU CAN BE AN EXHIBITOR

By J.R. Rollo, C-124

Every collector can be an exhibitor. The first question you must ask is: "What do I have in my collection that I can make interesting to others?" This question has no implication of rarity. If you collect it, it is interesting to you, so why not to others? Your purpose in exhibiting should be to convey your interest to the viewer. You must plan very carefully to accomplish this objective and still comply with the exhibit judging rules of the show. It is critical to the exhibitor to read and understand the judging rules. If in doubt ask questions, because, if you don't play by the rules you cannot win. You may say "So what!" In response, I would reply that everyone who exhibits wants others to recognize that their collection is special to them. So ultimately you want to win. What I hope to do in the next few paragraphs is give the potential exhibitor a few hints on how to exhibit so that you can win.

Probably the most important thing to consider in planning an exhibit is to clearly define the focus of your presentation. Remember that the viewer will probably have little or no knowledge of the subject you are trying to present. This means that the most important first step in planning an exhibit is to select a topic that is narrowly focused. Such topics could include; mints of Mexico, gold types of the Republic, issues of Iturbide, provisional coinage of Pancho Villa, 20th century errors; . . . the list is endless. All that is required is that the material you plan to display adequately illustrates the topic at hand. Few, if any, collectors have sufficient material to illustrate all facets of the chosen topic so don't be concerned that your collection is not complete. However, it is important that the title of the exhibit clearly indicates what you intend to show, so avoid words which would imply the collection displayed is more complete than it actually is. The important thing is to have a clearly defined story to tell. The rest of this discussion will give hints on how to tell this story.

The first topic, I've already mentioned it and I'll do it again and again, is to read and understand the exhibit rules. The "rules for exhibiting and judging – anniversary conventions" of the American Numismatics Association (ANA), for example, cover 13 pages. Not all of this is critical to the exhibitor, but the following is:

Exhibit Standards	Maximum Points
(A) Numismatic information Educational value to the viewer.	35
(B) Presentation Manner of presentation, neatness and eye appeal.	30

You can be an exhibitor, con't.

(C)	Completeness	5
	Completeness of the exhibit material as it relates to the scope implied in the title of the exhibit or other data in the first case of the exhibit.	
(D)	Degree of difficulty	10
	Estimate of the difficulty that the exhibitor had in assembling the material or information in the exhibit. Please note that the material need not be difficult, if the information supplied about it reflects thorough research.	
(E)	Condition	10
	Quality of exhibited material compared too highest reasonably available qualities of like material.	
(F)	Rarity	10
	Scarcity of the exhibited material, without regard to its price.	
	Total Points	<hr/> 100

Note that 65% of the score that you can receive for an exhibit is in the first two items, Information and Presentation. The message in this is simple - have a good story to tell and tell it with style. If you do these two things you are well on your way to a winning exhibit.

Of course, other numismatic organizations' rules may not be identical to those of the ANA, but they will be similar. The important thing is to structure your exhibit so that it follows the rules and concentrates on the first two steps, Information and Presentation.

Now for the first step. Develop a plan, which considers what you have to show, how you can effectively show it, what you can say about the material, etc. While you are going through this step read the rules again. It is important not to overlook any aspect of the exhibit which affects the judging.

The real work is about to begin. Write down what you know about the coins you plan to exhibit. If you don't know very much, now is the time to start your research of the literature and perhaps a detailed study of the coins as well. The more you can put on paper the better. Ultimately you will have much more material than you should use in the exhibit. It is important that you not drive viewers away because there is too much to read. Don't regret the effort that has gone into the research that you do not use. It isn't wasted effort because you are learning more about your coins than you knew before and almost certainly more than you have put on paper before.

You can be an exhibitor, con't:

Now comes the hard part. You have developed pages and pages of material and you can be sure that if you use it all no one will read it, except the judges. The object is to reduce the material so that everyone can read it all and understand what you are trying to say about your exhibit. How you reach this minimum is an individual decision. You must say enough about the coins in your exhibit to interest and inform the general public. To keep their interest the exhibit must balance brevity of comment with content and presentation. The real joy in collecting, new knowledge, and being able to impart this knowledge to others, is at the core of exhibiting. Consider using all the information you have compiled to write an article for your coin club, or a national publication.

Next it is time to lay out your material within the format in which you must exhibit. This is usually a standard display case, which has inside dimensions of 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and is 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. The rules generally allow exhibitors to furnish their own cases, which can be non-standard sizes, but must conform to some maximum area rule. This allows nuts, such as myself, to build their own cases. If you do so you can be innovative, for example, creating mechanisms where the viewer can rotate the coins to see both sides. Strive to balance the material in each case so that the overall effect is pleasing. It is better to use more cases than to cram too much material in a smaller number of cases. However, the rules will specify some maximum display area that you can use, generally 6 standard cases.

At this point you are likely to discover that the written material you have prepared is still too long and it is time to edit it down even more. Remember that the material must be easy to read, so don't make the type too small.

After this editing job look at the material again and ask the following questions:

1. Is it interesting? If not what needs to be done?
2. Is it informative? Why exhibit if you don't inform the viewer?
3. Is it pleasant to look at? If not how can I jazz it up?
4. Is it understandable to the general audience? If not, it is back to the Write and edit cycle.
5. Is it brief? If not you will lose most of your audience, and bore the judges.

As soon as you can answer the above questions in the affirmative your job is done, almost. You go to the show, set up the exhibit and throw your fate into the hands of the judges. Here I must repeat have you read the rules and followed them? The judges certainly have and will.

Generally, after your exhibit and all the others have been judged there is an appeal period during which the exhibitor may protest scores he feels are incorrect. If you have a valid argument concerning a score you can and should appeal. Remember that under review your score can go both ways. If you have made a valid defense of your position your score can be increased, but it can also be decreased if the reviewers so decide.

You can be an exhibitor, can't

The important point is that the judging process need not intimidate you. The judges are fair and are trying to do a good job. If they miss the boat, protest, but do not do so without a valid argument in your favor.

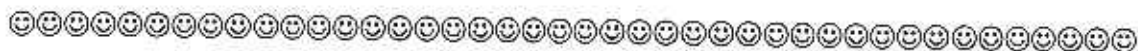
It's all over and you only got a third place. Don't be discouraged. A lot of folks didn't get anything. The most important thing to learn from a first effort is what appeals to the judges and where you were wrong. Talk to them and learn.

Now it's time to try again.

Your writer's most recent effort was at the ANA's 108th Annual Convention in Chicago in August 1999. The topic was "A Mint Set of 2 Escudos of the Republic of Mexico". Note that the title defines a very narrow topic; that is a mint set of 2 Escudos, only nine coins. These coins were displayed three per case with a short text about each coin. The first case also contained text with general information about the 2 Escudos series and the rarity of the series. The second case contained a map showing mint locations. The third case included a bibliography of the material consulted in preparing the exhibit. There were knobs on the fronts of the cases that were used to rotate the coins so both sides could be viewed. Eight were coin oriented and one was medal - oriented so all the rotation devices were not identical.

This exhibit won first place in the Latin American category, but failed to place in the best-of-show judging. So I hope I learned and it is back to the drawing board so I can try again. Hope you do to. (See photo on page one of J.R. accepting the Best in Mexican that was awarded by the Association).

J.R. Rollo
Kerrville, Texas



THE LATE ROBERT GREEN'S MEDAL AND DECORATION COLLECTION TO BE AUCTIONED.

The Mexican medal and decoration collection assembled by the late Robert Green will go on auction in early December. Richard Long, C-16, will be conducting the mail bid auction. The collection contains a very large number of pieces, and covers many areas of Mexico's history.

Bob's collection has been elusive for the ten years or so since he passed away. Bob was well known by the collectors and dealers that attended the Mexico City conventions. He was very successful at turning up good merchandise.

Anyone interested in receiving a auction catalog from Long please contact him at:
Richard A. Long, P. O. Box 296, Langlois, OR 97450

MEXICO RELEASES THEIR 1999/2000 MILLENNIUM COIN COLLECTION

By Don Bailey

At a formal ceremony held at the Banco de Mexico's main bank, the evening of September 20, 1999, the 1999/2000 Millennium Coin Collection was officially released. Mr. Guillermo Ortiz Martinez, Governor of the Banco De Mexico, and the Mexican Department of Education hosted this event.

After comments by Governor Guillermo Ortiz Martinez and other dignitaries the winning designers of the three coins were introduced and presented certificates and sets of the coins. Certificates were presented to other designers.

Other dignitaries with opening comments were Jose Madariaga, President of the Board of Directors of the Financial Group B.B.V. - Probursa, who spoke of working with the Banco de Mexico, and the Casa de Moneda de Mexico to present this coin collection to its customers through their 650 branches, and to fulfill a social duty to make available to the public these coins that have been designed and struck in Mexico.

Gerardo Estrada, General Director of the Institute of Fine Arts, represented the Secretary of Education, Miguel Limon. He spoke of the imagination and talent of the artists that were used in creating a work of art that will be accessible to everyone, a coin. He also spoke of numismatics through history, giving artists and engravers a chance to express the way they see reality. He congratulated the coordinators of this project, the Director of the Bank for this initiative.

The next presentation was by the Central Bank Governor, Guillermo Ortiz, who spoke of this important numismatic collection, and the procedure that was created for the first time in Mexico's numismatic history. The Banco de Mexico called upon the Mexican artistic community to participate in the competition for three of the coins that were launched this evening. He acknowledged the participation of different institutions, and people that took part in the selection of the winning designs; Eugenia Calero - Sub Director de Produccion y Diseno, Este Pais, Magazine, Eduardo Chavez, General Director, National Forum of Plastic Arts; Alejanfro Lazo, General Director, Industrial Design; Duane Douglas, President, Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico; and Alfredo Lelo de Larrea, General director, Casa de Moneda de Mexico.

He went into the procedure as to the process once the winning designs were selected. He also gave public recognition to the excellent work of the artists of the Casa de Moneda de Mexico for turning these winning designs into the reality of coins.

Mexico's Millennium Coin Collection, con't:

After these opening comments the awards were presented:

First theme: The history of Mexico during the second millennium:

Winner: Norma Ma. Vega de Ochoa
Special recognition: Reyes Santana Braulio
Victor Manuel Reyes Ordonez
Ricardo Bayon Jimenez

Second theme: The role of man in the preservation of nature facing the change of millennium:

Winner: Francisco Ortega
Special recognition: Martha Gomez Garcia
Fernando Alba Alfaro
Marco Aurelio Garcia Omadeus

Third theme: World peace towards the third millennium

Winner: Omar Jimenez Torres
Special recognition: Alejandra Silva
Gonzalo Gonzalex Pina and Victor Manuel Perez G.
Mario Alejandro Arizmendi Galvan

After the presentations a reception was held, to give those in attendance to a chance to meet and talk with the officials present, as well as the artists. The only direct representatives from the numismatic field were all members of USMexNA, Duane Douglas, Dr. Luis Wulschner, and your Executive Director. It was indeed an honor to have taken part in this historical event.

The collection consists of four coins, a two ounce, 10 Peso, and three one ounce, 5 Peso commemoratives. These are struck in proof of .999 fine silver. These have legal tender status, and there will be no corresponding circulation strikes issued. These were authorized by decree of April 28, 1999, published in the May 20, 1999 "Diario Oficial". The authorized mintage is 75,000 of each coin.

The Casa de Moneda de Mexico designed the 10 Pesos coin. The reverse design contained within a circle, has representations of three periods of Mexico's history through the use of three architectural structures. These periods are; the Pre-Columbian, the colonial and the modern eras, which structures are respectively the astronomical observatory at Chichen - Itza, the City of Queretaro Aqueduct, and the Library Building of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. Included within this circle are the dates "1999 - 2000", the Mo mintmark, and the \$10 denomination.

Mexico's Millennium Coin Collection, con't:

Surrounding the circle is the inscription, "Segundo Milenio", and a plumed serpent representing Quetzalcoatl, which is considered a symbol of Mexico.

The obverse design of this two ounce coin is the same as on the three one ounce 5 Peso coins. It consists of a large current National Eagle within a circle of ten different National eagles used at various periods of Mexico's history.

This 10 Pesos coin will be 48mm. in diameter, with a weight of 62.206 grams, and it was designed by the Casa de Moneda de Mexico.

To commemorate the arrival of the millennium the Banco de Mexico held a first in Mexican numismatics by conducting a design competition for the three 5 Pesos, one ounce coins. The three areas of subject matter for consideration were:

1. Mexican history during the second millennium.
2. The role of man in preserving nature facing the new millennium.
3. World peace towards the third millennium.

The winning design for the first area of consideration was the design submitted by Olga Maria Vega de Ochoa. This design is patterned after a piece from the Mixteco-Zapoteca culture that was recovered from a Spanish galleon that sank off the coast of Veracruz. These pieces in gold were made by a lost wax process, and are known as "Joyas Del Pescador", "The fisherman's jewels", as they were recovered by fishermen. The design's centerpiece is a profile of an eagle's head with three coiled serpents, the denomination \$5 in a colonial style, the Mo mintmark, and the dates "1999 2000".

The second subject matter for consideration is the role of man in preserving nature, facing the new millennium.

Francisco Ortega Romero submitted the winning design for this section. The main feature of the design is a Monarch Butterfly.

This is an interesting design, in that contained within this Butterfly design are various elements found in nature. Found in this design are a Hummingbird, a Fish, a Macaw, a Shell, a Pelican, a Dove, a pair of Dolphins, a Periwinkle, a Lily, and a Palm Tree. Two tree branches surround the dates "-1900 - 2000", the mintmark, and the \$5 denomination with the Butterfly design, with a pair of outstretched hands symbolizing that the responsibility for the environment that is in our hands.

Mexico's Millennium Coin Collection, con't:

The third subject matter was to signify world peace towards the third millennium.

This design by Omar Jimenez Torres features the symbol of peace, a Dove in the form of a hand, with an olive branch with a loop, and the outer curvature having five leaves which represent the five continents, and expressing the belief that the five continents need to be joined together to achieve world peace.

These three five Peso one-ounce coins will be 40mm. In diameter, with a weight of 31.103 grams.

These coins will be presented in a four-piece set in a mahogany case with "Coleccion de Milenio", and the Banco de Mexico's logo "M/B". The sleeve with the coins slides into the base of the case. The mint certificate is attached, within a plastic case on the base. Singles can be obtained either in a capsule or in a black acrylic standing case.

The official release date within the United States will be in November. The exclusive distributor within Mexico will be Banco Bilbac Vizcaya. Banco Vizcaya will distribute these through their branches as an inducement to establish CDs. The client will receive the 10 pesos coin first for establishing the 60-day account, and then when they renew it for another 60 days they receive one of the Five Pesos coins. As they renew each time they receive the other coins until they have received the complete set. It appears that these will not be available on the numismatic market within Mexico.

The actual date of release within the United States is unknown at this time, as well as the appointed distributors. Anyone interested in being notified as to the official release date, and who the distributors will be please notify us and we will let you know this information as soon as we receive it.

Central Bank Governor Guillermo Ortiz Martinez discussing the Millennium Coin Collection with Your Executive Director.





EMPEROR NORTON I, EMPEROR OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROTECTOR OF MEXICO COMING TO THIS JOURNAL IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE.

In the next issue of the Mexican Numismatic Journal we will have an article on this very interesting individual from early California history. Facsimiles of his scrip will be shown, with what we hope are interesting insights into this nobleman who claimed to be the "Protector of Mexico" after the execution of Emperor Maximilian in 1867.





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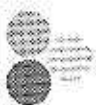
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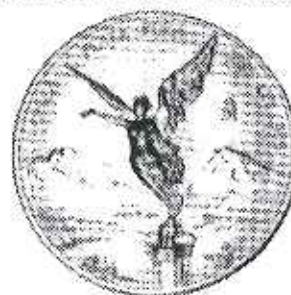
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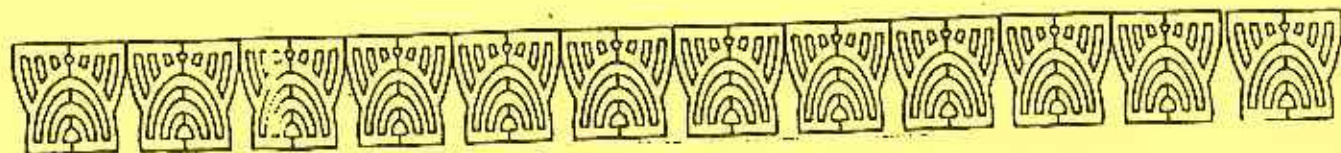
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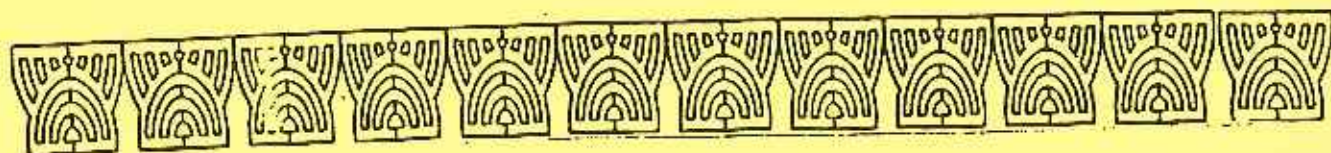
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