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NO. IV



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

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2002 DUES NOW DUE AND PAYABLE

The dues for 2002 are now due and payable. The 2002 annual dues are just \$15.00. All dues are to be made payable to "United States Mexican Numismatic Association" and sent to:

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

If you have any questions as to your dues status please let us know. The Board thanks the members for their support which allows us to disseminate the quarterly.

THE REVOLUTION CORNER

By Joe Flores C-2

OAXACA 5 CENTAVO

I bring you another report on a rare coin from the Mexican Revolution of 1910 – 1920, from the State of Oaxaca. About a year ago I received a phone call on this specimen and I had my doubts. Over the years I think we all have had these calls on such rare coins and have been disappointed. In this case, I was very pleased to see this great coin.

Here is a great example of a new find. This is a uniface trial strike of a 1915 Oaxaca five centavos on a silver ten centavos size planchet. It has the same bust as the "LA VENTANA" Oax. #16. This is the first coin of its kind I have seen. I believe this coin to be unique, as I can find no record of it in any previous author.

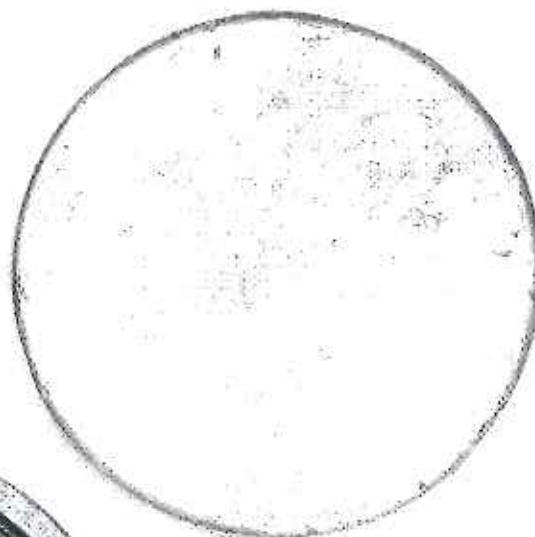
Since I obtained this coin, I have been desperately trying to find out something about the provenance. So far, I know it came from a collector who only collected coins from the State of Oaxaca, but I have no name--yet. I have seen some of his other coins and he indeed had some real rarities. In Mexico, almost all the collectors that sell their coins like to keep all their business real private, possibly for tax or security reasons.

Edge -----Plain
Metal -----Silver (plata)
Dia. -----26 mm
Thks. -----3.00 mm
Wt. -----14.30 grms

Coin owner

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A high quality brass Zacatecas 1825 quartilla.

By Michael E. Ontko, R-201

State coppers in Mexico.

When Mexico achieved its independence in 1822, it had been ruled by the Spanish for three centuries. In that time, coins were issued in the system of eight reales in a peso and eight escudos in a doubloon. Copper coins circulated freely in the United States; however, in Mexico, the populace viewed them with suspicion and contempt. The colonial government did not issue them in any large quantity until 1814. In 1824, the Mexican Congress prohibited the striking of copper by the federal government, even while permitting it to the individual states. The penurious condition of these states, the result of corruption, incompetence, rebellions and banditry, led them to issue quantities of copper and brass 1/16, 1/8 and 1/4 reales far beyond the needs of trade. These circulated along with a mass of commercial, municipal and hacienda tokens and counterfeits. Discontent with this state of chaos led Congress in 1837 to ban further issues of copper and devalue most of the existing coinage by half. Despite this, state copper coinage continued until the 1860s, when the decimal system was instituted. Even so, the cessation was gradual. The last state copper was the Durango 1/4 real of 1872 and hacienda tokens denominated in reales were issued in the 1880s.

State coppers in Zacatecas.

The first Zacatecas brass coins are dated 1824. They were issued every year until 1836. The federal 50% devaluation of state issues carried out in March 1837 did not include the Zacatecas 1/8 and 1/4 reales. Buttrely and Hubbard comment that the Zacatecas issues were less counterfeited than the others. The decree of 1837 halting the production of copper coins was honored in Zacatecas until 1845. The last Zacatecas 1/8 real is dated 1863, the last 1/4 real is dated 1864. The issues, spanning forty years, constitute the most extensive series of state coppers in Mexico. There are seventeen dates of 1/8 reales and twenty four dates of 1/4 reales. On the reverse, a flying cupid holds a liberty cap on the point of his arrow; on the obverse, a pyramid supports the book of the law and several wreaths. The obverse legends oscillate between "Est[ad]o Lib[er]e Fed[erac]o de Zacatecas" and "Departamento de Zacatecas," depending on which political party held the mint. The conservatives held that the Republic was merely an association of sovereign states (similar to the views of the states' rights advocates in the American South in the 1830's) while the liberals maintained that the states were merely departments of a centralized government. The mass of the people found both parties to be oppressive, greedy and incompetent in office.

Collecting state coppers.

While the large and small size decimal centavos of 1869-1905 are avidly collected today, the prior issues of state and municipal coppers are comparatively neglected. The state issues are not rare, but they were generally poorly struck with crude dies on cheaply made blanks and then heavily circulated. The specimens typically available today are only barely recognizable as coins and arouse little lust among collectors. The standard catalogs list state coppers from Good (normal condition) up through Very Fine (unusually nice) and ignore municipal and other issues

Zacatecas 1825 quartilla, con't.

completely. State coppers in About Uncirculated or better are so rare that when they are offered in auctions, the price realized is usually a multiple of the estimate.

This specimen.

The specimen shown, an 1825 quartilla, was obtained at the October Long Beach show from a dealer who normally offers only European coins. According to him, this coin resided in the collection of Daniel Dupuis (d. 1899), engraver in the French Mint. When his descendants sold his collection of French patterns, this coin was included. While the coin has a planchet crack and may once have been cleaned, it is unusually well struck. All the letters of "LEY" are clear and the details of the little town on the reverse are sharp.

Readers are invited to submit photos of high quality or unusual state and municipal coppers to this journal. Even the editors of the Krause catalog were often unable to obtain good photos of some types, so a reference collection of photographs would advance our knowledge of these complicated and elusive issues.

Sources.

T. V. Buttrey and Clyde Hubbard, *A Guide Book of Mexican Coins*, 6th ed., Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 1992.



NECESSITY COINAGE OF GUATEMALA SEVENTEENTH TO NINETEENTH CENTURIES

By: J. Roberto Jovel, C-7

THE BOOK AND THE AUTHOR:

The history of Guatemalan numismatics has already been written. Works by Ignacio Solis on *Memorias de la Casa de Guatemala*, as well as by Kurt Prober on *Historia Numismatica de Guatemala*, allow the coin collector to obtain a general idea of how numismatics evolved in that country over the years. Nevertheless, there exist gaps of information concerning specialized subjects of Guatemalan numismatics.

Necessity coinage, defined as coins minted during abnormal conditions such as economic or political crises, is one of them. The present book comes to fill such a gap, covering the period comprising the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Centuries. It links all necessity coins to the social, economic, political and historical circumstances that prevailed when they were produced.

Necessity coins were issued by Guatemala in many instances during that period. The book covers Guatemalan necessity coins since the mid-Seventeenth Century when – still under the Spanish crown – debased coinage from Peru was the main specie and had to be counterstamped locally. It follows Guatemalan history to the time when, under the Central American Federation, Guatemala was forced to issue its first and only *siege coin*. It also describes the reasons for the counterstamping on cobs and round milled coins, made by the already independent Republic of Guatemala. In so doing, the book provides significant and original contributions to Guatemalan numismatic history, by documenting two cases of necessity coins of which little or nothing was known in the past. These are the 1663 “large crown” counterstamp on Peruvian dos reales coins and the 1839–1840 counterstamp made at Quetzaltenango, when this city was the capital of the short-lived state of Los Altos in the Central American Federation.

The author, Roberto Jovel, C-7, has been involved in the field of Spanish American numismatics for more than thirty years. His wide professional experience, acquired while serving his native El Salvador's Government and the United Nations in the field of social and economic development planning, combined with his numismatic knowledge, provide the proper background for this undertaking. He is a member of many numismatic groupings, including the American Numismatic Association, the American Numismatic Society, the United States Mexican Numismatic Association, Numismatics International, and the Chilean Numismatics Association. He is also a Director of the newly formed Central American Numismatic Association. Mr. Jovel has written a book on the *Numismatic History of El Salvador*, as well as a number of articles on Spanish American numismatics in different periodicals. He resides alternately in El Salvador and Chile.

Necessity Coinage of Guatemala, con't:

Contents of the Book:

Foreword
Introduction
The "Large-Crown" Counterstamp in 1663
The Provisional Coinage of 1829
Counterstamping of Cobs in 1839 - 1840
The State of Los Altos Counterstamp in 1839 - 1840
Counterstamping Milled South American Coins 1840 - 1841
The 1894 ½ Real Counterstamp
Bibliography
Annex: Summary of Necessity Coins and Counterstamps

How to Order:

To order a soft-bound copy of the 117-page book, which is amply illustrated, send a check or international money order for US\$ 25.00 – which includes postage within the United States – to the author at the following address:

Roberto Jovel
VIPSAL 1921
Post Office Box 25364
Miami, FL 33102 - 5364
rojo59@telesal.net

Payment via PayPal or Bill Point is also acceptable.



WANTED: ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Association is currently looking for a member who would be willing to assist the Executive Director in the varied duties that have to be performed to keep the Association going. His duties would include handling the receipt and recording of dues, billing and collection of advertising fees, maintenance of the membership listing, and general administrative duties.

As the Association offices are relocating to Hemet, California, the ideal candidate would be located in Southern California. Anyone interested in assisting please contact the Association.

OBVERSE AND REVERSE

By T.V. Buttrey, R-246

The story is told that Lincoln, trying to make someone understand the importance of precision in definition, asked him, "How many legs does a cow have?" to which the answer was, "Why four of course." "All right," said Lincoln, "let's call the tail a leg, then how many legs does a cow have?" "Well then, five." "No," said Lincoln, "it still has four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it one."

Dunigan and Parker's *Resplandores* is a most useful Mexican numismatic book, wonderful in its array of material, a virtually complete photo record of the 8 Reales of Mexico from 1823 to 1897. I keep it by my side. But there are aspects of its presentation to be questioned and perhaps the most serious is its use of the terms "obverse" and "reverse".

The eagle on cactus holding snake has been the regular, indeed almost the only obverse of the coinage of the Mexican Republic since its beginnings in 1823 -- getting on to two hundred years. Exceptions are the bronze 1/8 real, 1841-1861; the bronze centavo, 1863; the silver 1/4 real, 1842-1863; and the nickel 1c, 2c and 5c, 1882-1883. Otherwise all denominations in all metals have borne that device as the obverse type along with the legend "República Mexicana" or "Estados Unidos Mexicanos", sometimes with date and/or mintmark.

Nevertheless, in some collecting circles the usage has arisen, and is followed in *Resplandores* of illustrating the coins backwards, with the reverse first, the obverse following. The origin of this peculiarity probably lies in collectors' arranging their trays of earlier Republican coins with the reverses upward so as to reveal the varying details of mintmark, date, and assayer, rather than the little-varying obverses. Whatever the source, this system continues to be followed today even when the eagle die itself bears all the information of date of issue, mintmark, and national name (e.g. the 1921 \$2). The inversion of illustration is continued by some dealers who today illustrate the whole of the Mexican Republican coinage, even the revolutionary coinages, backwards.

This may be felt to be just a curious aberration. But what is serious is that, in *Resplandores* and elsewhere, the *terminology* is then inverted, so that, throughout this book the eagle die is referred to as the "reverse", the cap and rays as the "obverse".

This is not good, and it is not trivial. It's not enough for the authors to justify this distortion of language by claiming "literary license", saying, "we are not affiliated with the government of Mexico" (*Resplandores*, p. xvii). A serious point is at issue here: whether the terms which we use to communicate have any meaning. Some apparently have concluded that since the collector is more likely to be interested in the mintmarks, dates and initials of the cap and rays face we are free to call that face the "obverse". From which it follows that *anyone* can arbitrarily redefine the nomenclature for *any* series of coin, depending on how he feels about it. That way lies chaos. Today, in the

OBVERSE & REVERSE, Con't.

Mexican coinage, because of this distortion of terminology we literally cannot know what is meant when one of us says, "these two coins were struck from the same obverse die".

The earliest coins were manufactured from a single engraved die, placed below on the anvil, and an upper punch. Conventionally the figured type has been called the obverse. Later an engraved upper die was introduced, conventionally called the reverse. The terms have had implications not only as to manufacturing technique (though with modern coinages the relative position of the dies doesn't matter), but also to type significance, because it has been generally true through the 2700-year history of Western coinage that a coin doesn't just have two faces, it has a major face (obverse) and a minor one (reverse).

By confusing this settled terminology we don't just confuse our own communication, which is bad enough. By imposing our own arbitrary definitions we decouple the coin from its production -- that is from the people who conceived it and designed it -- we lose sight of the minds behind it. The obverse eagle of the Mexican Republican coinage may be uninteresting to some collectors, but it has a purpose. It is essentially the seal of the authority responsible for the validity of the coin, and as a seal it has its own political and historical point to make. From the beginnings of Republican coinage the eagle of the obverse die announced the two essential distinctions between the old order and the new: first, the eagle as symbol, in the place of the monarchical head, stated that this was a nation of citizens, not a dependency of some ruling family; and second, this eagle, deliberately derived from Aztec legend, rather than from the old traditions of European eagles, signified the establishment of a new American order of power, independent of the European past.

This eagle has been felt to be so important that it has permeated Mexican symbolism to this day -- for example still central to the national flag. It has been essential too that the national symbol appear on the obverse of the coinage.

There may be another reason for the current fad of inverting the Mexican obverses and reverses, the fact that a few 19th c. Mexican patterns, and quite a few 20th c. circulating types, carry a historical portrait on the reverse. This is foreign to our conception of how a coin works: for us, the portrait should signal the major face, not the minor face. No one doubts that the portraits of the Spanish kings on the pre-Republican coinage, or of Agustín I or Maximilian on their imperial coinages, embellish the obverse (but note that Maximilian's 1c, 5c, and 10c bear an obverse eagle). And of course our own experience of American Liberty head and portrait coinage, from 1793 to this day, is of regular obverse heads. Therefore (the argument, or the sentiment, may run) the Mexican portrait too should fall on the obverse, so we'll just call it that.

But the modern Mexican portrait doesn't fall on the obverse, as all Mexican coinage law makes clear. In dealing with these coins we impoverish our own understanding if we force them to conform to our own preconceptions or, simply, to our own taste.

However we react to the eagle obverse we cannot turn it into a reverse by redefining it: it

OBVERSE & REVERSE, Con't:

is the obverse and nothing else. Let's put an end to this confusion, accept the world as it really is, and realize that the conception of types in the Mexican coinage -- not the same as ours -- emphasizes a historical and political achievement much more important than mintmarks, dates, and assayers' initials.

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**REMY BOURNE TO AUCTION THE DON & LOIS BAILEY
NUMISMATIC LIBRARY AT CICF IN APRIL 2002**

In light of their pending move to California, Lois and Don Bailey have decided to put their reference library up for auction. This consists mainly of several hundred pounds of reference books pertaining to Mexico with several autographed rare issues that seldom come on the market. There are also reference books on other areas of numismatics that they have either collected or handled over the past thirty five years.

The library will be part of Remy Bourne's Fifteenth Public Auction Sale to be held at the Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5440 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois, in conjunction with the 27th Annual Chicago International Coin Fair. The sessions will be Friday, April 5 at 1 PM, and Saturday, April 6, at 9:00 AM. This sale will also include books from Tom and Pat Sebring, and Richard and Pam Watts. Further particulars may be obtained from:

Remy Bourne
509 - 40th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55421 - 3834
(763) 789-7070, Fax (763) 789-4747
E-mail remybourne@qwest.net

ASSOCIATION LOSES ANOTHER MEMBER

We hear that Gene Dyer, R-109 of Los Gatos, California, recently passed away. Gene was a long time collector of Mexican coins, and along with his wife, Zee, were frequent visitors to the International Numismatic Conventions in Mexico.

Gene joins the ranks of deceased members of the Association, which includes Bill Johns, Houston, R-185, Greg Whitney, C-14, California, Rufus Garland, and George Schaffer, California.

Their presence as well as their knowledge in their chosen area of collecting will be missed. All were long time serious collectors, and assets to the Mexican numismatic field.

**MONEDAS EMITIDAS POR EL GOBIERNO DE REPUBLICA
1863 - 1867 (COINS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC DURING MAXIMILIAN'S EMPIRE 1863 - 1867)**

This is the second part and conclusion of this booklet by Jose L. Cossio and published by the Sociedad Numismatica in 1963.

Section 5 continued:

Having finished the coining of the 40,000 Pesos to which the decree of last March 7th refers to, it will proceed to destroy the dies and matrices used for the minting, proceeding in accordance to the 2nd article of the decree of January 1st of the present year.

So the President decrees that the commission of Commerce will be composed of C. J. Felix Maceyá, D. Domingo Leginuysld and D. Guntaro Noye. Together with you and the supervisor and assayer of the Casa de Moneda of this capital, the commission will witness the destruction of the mentioned dies and matrices.

I inform you for your knowledge and pertinent effects.

Independence, Freedom and Reform Chihuahua, May 1, 1865 - Iglesias - C. Blas Balcarcel, Special Commissioner of the Supreme Government - Present.

Special commissioner of the Supreme Government, in accordance with the directions given by this Ministry in the Supreme Order of 1st of the present month, proceeded on the day before yesterday to destroy the dies and matrices used for the minting of the copper coins decreed in the present year. It was done according to the terms expressed in the act, a copy of which I have the honor to send you - fulfilling the disposition dictated by the Supreme Government- Independence, Freedom and Reform Chihuahua, May 4, 1865 - Blas Balcarel -C - Minister of Funds and Public Credit - Present.

At 11:00 on May 2, 1865 the following met at the Casa de Moneda: the special commissioner of copper minting, the Supervisor and the Assayer of the mints, the businessmen appointed by the Supreme Government and the manager of the mint. They gathered in order to witness the destruction of the matrix and dies used this year for the minting of 100,000 Pesos in cuartillas of copper. These were ordered to be coined by the decrees of January 1st and March 7th of the present year. The following order was read:

"Ministry of Funds and Public Credit - Section 5a - Having finished the minting of 40,000 Pesos mentioned in the decree of last March 7th it will proceed to the destruction of the dies and matrices used in the minting proceeding in accordance with the 2nd article of the decree of January 1st of the present year.

"By virtue of the power invested in the Citizen President, he orders that the Commission of Commerce be made up of C. Jose Felix Maceyra, D. Domingo Leguina Zabel and D. Gustavo Moye. You and the managers and assayer of the Casa de Moneda will witness the destruction already mentioned.

"I let you knowpresent."

Immediately they proceeded as follows:

The matrices and dies presented by the Director were heated and, using hammer and punch, the seals were erased from 46 dies, obverse and reverse. All this in accordance with the 2nd article of the decree of last January 1st, and also in accordance with the order attached.

This act is drawn up for the records. It is signed by all commissioners and keeping the original in the archive of the manager copies are sent to the Ministry of Funds and to the government of state – Blas Balcarcel – Pedro Ignacio de Irigoyen – Jose Maria Gomez de Campo....

A copy Chihuahua May 2, 1865 – Blas Balcarcel.

And copies Chihuahua May 5, 1865 – Iglesias

**Secretary of State
Department of Hacienda and Public Credit**

Section 5a

The citizen President was pleased to send me the following decree;

Benito Juarez, Constitutional President of the Mexican United States, to its inhabitants, do know:

The least burdensome means of producing the necessary resources for public expenses is the minting of copper coins in a fair amount. It is evident that there is a scarcity of such coin in this capital and other points of the state. In use of the powers with which I am invested I decree.

Article 1. There will be minted in the Casa de Moneda at this capital the amount of 60,000 Pesos in copper coin, entirely equal in value, weight and type to the ones minted lately.

Article 2. The total product of 60,000 Pesos ordered by this decree will be mortgaged and assigned for the payment of the unavoidable loan imposed on the 11th and 22nd of the month ending. From which is given notice on this date.

Article 3. A special commissioner assigned by the Supreme Government will take care of the distribution between the money lenders. The free amount coined daily will be distributed proportionally to the amount lent by each of them until the complete suppression of the debt.

Article 4. The same special commissioner will participate in the minting. After finishing the task a commission of commerce nominated by the government and the commissioner will witness the destruction of the matrixes and dies.

Therefore I order to be published and circulated given due fulfillment.

At the Palace of the National Government in Chihuahua on July 29, 1865 – Benito Juarez – C. Jose M. Iglecias, Minister of Justice, Promotion and Public Instruction, and the Secretary of Funds and Public Credit. I let you know for your own knowledge and general interests.

**Collection
Of
Laws, Decrees and Circulars
Issued by the Supreme Government of the Republic**

Including from his departure from the Capital on May 31, 1863 until his return to the same on July 15, 1867.

**VOLUME III
Printed Government palace
Under Jose Maria Sandoval
1867**

Ministry of Funds and Public Credit

Section 5a

Together with the official statement of last August 28th, which arrived with delay I received the copies of the documents relative to the contract that General Jesus Gonzalez Ortega tried to approve with you. This is an account of the establishment of a mint in San Francisco, CA.

General Gonzalez Ortega that gives himself the title of Constitutional President of the Mexican Republic, which he also tries to rule from abroad, though he doesn't exercise and public power nor does he have the right to do it. In consequence, his actions are null and void, and are of no value from which he tries to be the legitimate ruler of Mexico. As to your pretense that the President of the Republic Benito Juarez would bestow the authorization for the establishment of a mint in San Francisco, California, and on the same conditions as your contract with General Jesus Gonzalez Ortega, it is not possible to accept such a petition, as the coinage is one of the signs of national sovereignty, and this

should not be coined for any reason or under any circumstances outside the territory in which that sovereignty is being exercised.

From superior order I'm acknowledging you as a consequential of your communication.

Independence, Freedom and Reform, Chihuahua, October 29, 1866 – Iglenas M. D.
Gullermo H. McKee New York.

Ministry of Justice, Promotion and Public Instruction.

Section 2a

The Citizen President was pleased to send me the following decree:

"Benito Juarez, Constitutional President of the United States of Mexico, to its inhabitants, do know:

"Have noticed the use of an inaccurate phrase in the 3rd article of the October 26th decree, when stating the weight of the 10 and 5 Centavo coins, and when it mentioned the diameters assigned before.

"I decree that such changes in the article be the following: The coins of 10 Centavos will weigh exactly 1/10 of a "Peso Fuerte" and will be 17 millimeters in diameter. Those of 5 Centavos will weigh 1/20 of a "Peso Fuerte," and will be 12 millimeters in diameter. Both coins will have a filigree in the circumference of both sides.

"Therefore I order this to be printed, published and circulated, and given due fulfillment. Given at the Palace of the National Government in Chihuahua, Nov. 8, 1866, Benito Juarez" - C. Jose M. Iglencs, Minister of Justice, Promotion and Public Instruction.

I let you know for your own knowledge and general interests

Independence, Freedom and Reform, Chihuahua, Nov 8, 1866 Iglencs C. Governor and Military Commander of the State of

The editor thanks Jose L. Cossio for putting this information together, and for the Sociedad de Numismatica de Mexico for publishing it.



PARDON OUR FLUB ON THE OCTOBER, 2001 JOURNAL

Some how the unedited version of the Journal was sent to the printers. My apologies to the authors and to Michael Ontko, whose proof reading went unpublished.

MAXIMILIAN OF AUSTRIA

By F. L. Sarmiento

From Volume XXVII, November 1863 Harper's New Monthly Magazine

As the name of the Archduke Maximilian of Austria has been brought somewhat prominently before the American public of late, as the probable occupant of the new Imperial throne of Mexico, I have thought it might not be uninteresting to give a short sketch of that prince.

The writer, or rather *talker*, as he would wish the reader to consider him, had during several years of close communication, both official and otherwise with his Imperial Royal Highness (then Viceroy of the Provinces of Lombardo-Venete [*now part of Italy—ed.*]), many unusual opportunities of learning his true character and worth, as well as understanding his remarkable ability – which extends not only to matters within the range of drawing-rooms and courts, but to the minutest details of scientific and manual labor. But what he had to note, and that with wonder, was the total freedom of this prince from the many prejudices which usually hang upon and overwhelm with ridiculous affection the scions of royalty.

With our Press it has long been the fashion, in imitation of that of England, to decry Austria and everything Austrian and the chief object of this “Chat” is to correct many evil impressions that have gone forth against that nationality, as well as to prove that there are men high in its councils, who through born and nurtured at its court, and surrounded by the traditions and superstitious fallacies of “Royal right and sovereign prerogative,” are yet intelligent and far-seeing enough to value, to their fullest extent, not only the American people, but the free and enlightened institutions by which they are governed.

One such is the subject of this sketch, Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph, Archduke of Austria, Commander-in-Chief of the I. R. Marine, etc., etc., and eldest brother of the present Emperor of Austria, Francis Joseph I.

Raised in the gayest capital in Germany, or, perhaps in the whole world; educated at one of its most brilliant courts; this prince, though always of a cheerful disposition, was never prone to frivolity or the many follies by which young men, situated like himself, usually enervate alike their brains and systems. While others were flitting the “golden moments” away – taking part in pompous shows, or indulging in the effeminacies of a life at court – *he* was immured with his professors, or deeply intent upon some erudite work of his great friend Humbolt.

Educated, too, by men who feared not to tell him the truth – men who had his welfare solely at heart, he “possessed opportunities” – I am using his own words – “seldom, alas! Accorded to princes.” Nor has he shown himself to be unworthy or unappreciative of the lore and devotion thus bestowed upon him by his early teachers.

MAXIMILIAN OF AUSTRIA Con't.

Like all of the Austrian princes, Ferdinand Max, or the Archduke Maximilian, as he is called by the English, had to begin with the lowest rank of his profession, and although his exalted birth has of course been instrumental in securing him his present high position, I have been assured by those who have known him best that his talents would have placed him there sooner or later. His knowledge of nautical affairs is surprising, extending from holy-stoning a deck to close-hauling a frigate; while many are the anecdotes told of his regarding for some time a stupid "landlubber" trying to tie some complicated knot or other, and finally losing all patience, and "lending a hand" himself.

At such times he generally ends by saying: "There, you stupid fellow, your Admiral has to show you how to do things properly." But once, it is recorded, the Admiral got a retort from a plain, thick-headed Dalmatian, who, chafed at seeing a thing done so easily which had seen to him so impossible, grumbled as he turned away, "Many thanks! If I got *your* pay I could do it too."

Though eminently ambitious, Maximilian has never lent himself to any of the numerous cabals of the court, either to abet his followers' cravings or to satisfy his own; still it has been his fate to play a prominent and distinguished part in the history of the Austrian Empire, which has yet to be acknowledged and appreciated by the world. The true extent of the wisdom and liberality shown by this prince, in his rule over the people of the Lombardo-Venete, will probably never be known outside of a certain circle, nor properly appreciated even by the people in whose behalf it was exerted. Nobly he did what he thought to be his duty. Self-sacrificing, he threw every obstacle in the way of the stern military despotism urged as a necessity by designing men upon the central Government, and not only ameliorated the position of the Italian people under his charge by vast improvements undertaken and supported by his own private purse, but proven himself, too, so kindly lenient as to win their sincere affection. The first time I saw the Archduke Maximilian was at Venice, upon the occasion of the festivities and ceremonies usual during Easter holidays. It was Easter Sunday, that day of joy and promise to the Christian world, and it was to be celebrated with all the pomp and gorgeous ceremony peculiar to the Roman church. His Imperial Highness, as well as the young and charming Princess, his wife, was to assist at the attendant procession, which promised to be a very grand affair. Being desirous of seeing a prince whom I had heard so often and so favorably spoken of, I determined to break through my usual custom, which was to avoid crowds and become a spectator of the pageantry.

Venice – with its romantic and interesting memories, its magnificent palaces and majestic domes – possesses, even amidst its ruins, more accessories for grand spectacles than any other city in the world. Everything there is unreal – theatrical. The very architecture is of a strange, gorgeous richness, which seems more like the aerial fret-work of the imagination than the substantial creation of human hands. There is a scenic fitness about what may be termed the "properties" – a tranquil serenity induced by the proud evidences of ancient glory that impresses and imposes upon the imagination; while the very

MAXIMILIAN OF AUSTRIA, Con't

quietude of the atmosphere, that *perceptible absence* of the noise of coaches and chariots, which at ordinary times swells the heart so gloomily, adds on such occasions a novel power to the scene, and lends the courtly show an increased awe and majesty.

I was late. And by the time I arrived the procession was issuing from the principal entrance of the grand old cathedral. Slowly it wended its way along the prescribed course, accompanied alone by the rich swelling tones of the organ. A magnificent train of glittering jewels and glowing colors. A huge serpent, in which was blended all the hues of the tropics. The religious portion of the programme had finished with the solemn Pontifical Mass which was just over. It was, then a courtly show alone. First came the halberdiers of the prince, in rich old Venetian costumes of maroon and white velvet. And the fiery Italian eyes of the by-standers lit up with a pride indescribable as they marked this tribute to their ancient glory. Next came the personal servants of the members of the prince's suit – running footman, etc., etc., in the liveries of their several masters. Then followed the *valets des chambre* in magnificent court-dresses of blue and silver – the colors of the princess. Then the Dalmatian servants of the prince in their picturesque and flowing national costumes – half-barbaric in their Oriental splendor – followed by over one hundred pages, chasseurs, and footmen of the vice-regal household.

Here intervened a space when a mass of generals, field-m Marshals, courtiers, etc., appeared – all dressed in the rich uniforms of their several ranks and their breasts literally *blazing* with jeweled “orders” and “decorations.” Among them walked the famous Lieutenant Field Marshal Gorizzuti, the military governor of the city – one whose character is of iron, and who neither gives nor expects mercy. He it was, who when during the last Italian campaign the Venetians had sought to gain the upper hand and failed – replied, in his rude and broken Italian, in answer to their prayers that he would not bombard their beautiful city. *Venete bon, lo bon; Vente non bon, lo bomb, bomb, bomb.* – “If Venice is good, I’ll be good; but if Venice is not good, I’ll bomb, bomb, bomb.” Bad Italian as it was it was understood, and “*Venice was good.*”

A tall light, graceful figure followed the stern marshal – a space being reserved about him so that he walked alone. Slenderly yet compactly built, a frame neither enervated by luxury nor broken by dissipation, he was commanding yet modest. Fresh – complexioned, with a broad and noble forehead – his deep blue eyes somewhat thoughtful but kindly – the only feature which might possibly prevent his being termed eminently fine-looking was his mouth, which partook of the character of the Hapsburgs. But even that, through heavy, was agreeably and sweetly-formed, with an expression of nobility and magnanimity. Dressed in the plain, dark-blue uniform of the Austrian navy, while all about him were covered with the tinsel insignia of rank, he alone was without ornament, while, with one hand thrust carelessly in the half-unbuttoned breast of his uniform, he appeared neither to delight in the mummerly which a stupid custom had prescribed, nor to be paying attention to the forms accompanying it, but regarded it rather as a necessity which must be gone through with.

MAXIMILIAN OF AUSTRIA Con't:

This the people saw, and the revengeful glances which had been so liberally showered upon the bedizened courtiers now softened, while the gratefully-uttered whisper of "Maximiliano" which ran from one to the other, assured me of what I had already divined, viz., that this plainly-dressed personage was Maximilian of Austria!

Of the train of magnificently-dressed ladies that followed I will speak but of one – the Archduchess – who, habited in a rich court-dress of crimson velvet and white satin, looked as lovely and regal as it is possible to look. Charlotte of Belgium, however, it is not what might be termed strictly beautiful, but is, as the French have it, *elegant – tout a fait elegant*. With rich brown hair and hazel eyes – those sure tokens of amiability – she has yet more the appearance, or rather, I should say, the *evidences*, of having been educated at a court than any other royal lady that I have seen. She is every inch a princess, and her queenly head that day needed no herald to proclaim its royal birth, nor the dazzling crown of precious stones which surmounted it to give it majesty; for even as it disappeared up the grand stairway, among the sculptured arches of the palace, did it bespeak its own high origin.

So the procession had passed – without one single word of approbation on the part of the populace, except that grateful mutter of "Maximiliano."

Alas, how fearful is the hate for Austria, and how blind! What, then, must have been the merits of a prince who, being of the hated race, has yet succeeded in winning their esteem, if not their love?

Maximilian of Austria has indeed been a blessing to the Italian people. He has obtained more than one amnesty for them, and bid return to their homes those whom tyrannous subordinates had caused to fly from wives and children dear. In doing this, too, it was not his nature to seek the praise or glorification of the world, but rather to conceal the good he had done. The grateful swell of the returned exile's bosom, as he clasped in his arms the loved ones from whom he had been so long and so cruelly separated – the tearful blessings of the wife, or mother, or sisters, as they clung convulsively to the form of him who was more than life to them – these were the tributes that he loved the best, and that he sought alone.

One of the prince's pet projects for the improvement of the city of Venice, as the sea-port of his vice-regal dominion, was the cutting of a canal, direct from Malamoco through the different islands of the Lagoon, up to the city proper. This was to have accommodated vessels of the largest class, and was conducted and supported entirely by his private purse. As it was likely to be a tedious task, he had ordered the canals already existing to be cleaned, so as to admit vessels of 2000 tons being moored alongside the quays. This had been accomplished, and great was the joy of the Venetians thereat.

While this work was going on Maximilian was every where. Supervising this, overseeing that. Making every thing go right, and watching that the work was conducted honestly

MAXIMILIAN OF AUSTRIA, con't:

and economically. His little black *gondoline* (without of designation of rank) was to be seen everywhere. One day this light boat came into collision with a large one, bearing a number of working men. It went crashing through the bow of the larger and apparently stronger boat, consigning its cargo of living freight to the swift tide of the Lagoon. The Prince would have plunged instantly to their aid, had he not been restrained by his followers.

Nor did his care cease until he had seen them deposited in safety. Kindly guarded with warm garments from the fatal effects of the malaria, for it was in the winter season, and a proper donation, "*buona mano*," with which to drink his health. One little child, who had been in the boat the prince carried away with him – wrapping it in his own cloak, and not leaving it until it was deposited with numerous gold-pieces in its mother's lap.

In ordinary times the Archduke goes about in citizen's dress. A plain black or dark-blue suit, cut apparently after a manner of his own, neither quite in nor quite out of the fashion. And on this occasion the poor mother never suspected for a moment that the plainly-dressed gentleman, who had so kindly brought her back her child, was "Maximiliano." She therefore treated him throughout as a "Signor Ingles," and as such proffered him the hospitality of her poor house, which was freely accepted, and it was not until long afterward that she learned that it was the Viceroy, and brother of her Emperor, that she had entertained. The Archduke's *gondoline* was, whenever its master was in Venice, a conspicuous object. Darting here and there, it seemed always on the go; while every morning, regularly, it was to be seen gliding swiftly in the direction of the Arsenal, where a noble frigate, the *Dandolo*, was being built.

"When," said one of his aids-de-camp to me one day, "his Imperial Highness goes away *satisfied*, which is very seldom the case, we feel that we need bother ourselves no longer; for you may depend upon it, every bolt is then in its right place."

"Is he, then so very observing," I asked, "I have always understood that it was comparatively easy to deceive a prince. That is, if his followers wish to deceive him."

"It is not so with Max. His eye takes in every thing. He sees more than any man I ever knew; and with his quiet and sarcastic way points it out and waits until it is corrected. As for telling him a lie I don't believe there is a man living who would dare to do so. He would detect in a minute. Another peculiarity," continued the aide, "which he possesses, is to *see* that all his orders are duly executed. In this matter he trusts no one – not even his nearest friends. For instance, you remember the music on the piazza last Sunday? The prince was at a window listening. One of the pieces a little Hungarian air, struck his fancy. He sent to the leader of the band to obtain a copy arranged for the piano. That evening it was left at the palace. The prince, well – satisfied, sent the man a present, but with it is a *receipt-book*, to obtain his acknowledgment of its actual reception – thus

MAXIMILIAN OF AUSTRIA con't:

obviating the difficulty under which the snuff-boxes, diamond-rings, etc., of the Russian princes sometimes labor. Nine-tenths of them, it is said, never reach their destinations." Indeed, in his business way of doing things Maximilian is any thing but Austrian; and in many respects his feelings and habits are more those of an American, evinced among other things, by his fondness for fast traveling. He is very fond of our nation, and never does he show to such advantage as when in conversation with one of our countrymen. His administration for every thing that is noble; for the great principles of self-government; for the strength of mind that dares to think and feel differently from the great mass of ordinary mortals, attracts him, apparently, to our people. I have seen him before now, with some stickler for rank and precedent, quite ill at ease, scarce able to say a word. But the moment his look turned to an American face it assumed a different expression, and he spoke warmly and well – making his conversation so interesting that one would rather hear him talk than to talk oneself, and producing his arguments with an honest conviction that assured his listener even more than his words.

One of his particular favorites was a well-known gentleman of New York, Mr. Gilbert, who was building a floating dry-dock for the Austrian Government. To this gentleman, who enjoyed frequently and unreservedly his confidence and hospitality, I might appeal, were any corroboration necessary of my correct appreciation of the princely character.

I have dwelt somewhat at length, perhaps, upon traits of character that at first might appear insignificant, from the fact that I hold it all-important that the American people should know correctly and *thoroughly* one whom Destiny seems about to set down as it were, by their side. This is the most important since it will remain with them to say whether they will live at peace with their new neighbor or not. One thing is certain the new Emperor will not be the one to create differences with a people whom he respects and admires.

Laying aside all questions, then, as to the desire of the Mexicans for a monarchy, those who know Maximilian may safely avow, that if a foreign prince is to be imposed upon them, no better neighbor could have been selected. Let us then hope that we, as we assuredly shall, will find a friend in him, that the Mexican people may yet find beneath his mild sway and liberal government those blessings which long years of anarchy and bloodshed have as yet failed to produce.

We appreciate this interesting insight of the period into Maximilian, as furnished by John Light, a student of the Maximilian Era of Mexico.

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FRAUDULENT TOKENS REAPPEAR IN GUADALAJARA

By Russell Rulau, reprinted from the October 2000 *World Coin News*

Fake and fantasy Mexican tokens are once more being produced in Guadalajara, Mexico, according to numismatic observers in Guadalajara, Cuernavaca and Mexico City.

A spat of imitations manufactured in the same area plagued U.S. and Mexican markets in the 1970s. The 1970s concoctions are described and illustrated in the 1992 and 2000 editions of my catalog, *Latin American Tokens*.

Though it was reported about 10 years ago that the Guadalajara forger had died in police custody, Mexican specialist Clyde Hubbard recently said, "he still breathes and fabricates." What's more, Hubbard reports, the forger's style has improved to the point where his output is dangerous.

As the author of *Latin American Tokens*, I constantly monitor reports of dangerous forgeries. On Aug 10 at the Philadelphia ANA convention, Hubbard gave me excellent color photographs of 70 different imitations of Mexican Colonial and Early Republic period (1750-1840) "tlacos," as these crude copper tokens are known.

Readers of *Numismatic News* were warned of this situation – without illustrations – in the Aug. 1 edition on page 24. At that time I requested that Hubbard and other Mexican specialists send me specimens or photos for a warning to the collecting public.

Coin dealers in Mexican cities are reportedly now selling these fakes, as fakes, at about U.S. \$2 each. Genuine *tlacos* would bring from \$10 to \$100 each for common varieties, and even at wholesale would trade at a minimum of \$6. Honest dealers make no effort to mislead customers, Hubbard stated. Both Hubbard and Arthur Garnett of Oregon, another expert in fake Mexican tokens, warned that it is only a matter of time before the new products are offered throughout Latin America, the United States and Europe, as genuine pieces.

The forgers have learned many lessons since 1970. They no longer "heat treat" sheet copper to appear aged after striking from deliberately crude dies. They now use thick copper blanks of varying sizes, frequently casting the pieces in molds the way many originals were made, and then chemically induce the green patina of age called verdigris to resemble long burial in earth.

If colonial or Early Republic Mexican tokens are offered, potential buyers should look for several clues:

Wear. Avoid pieces that lack evidence of circulation. Uncirculated tlacos do not appear on the market.

Color. If made of cooper, avoid pieces that look heat-treated. These appear streaky brownish-red. If green verdigris is present, try chipping it off; patina has strong surface tension.

Many words in the inscription. Genuine pieces usually carry one to three words and a design.

Cost. If the seller wants less than \$10 for a token, be suspicious. If he asks under \$5, don't buy it. Distress sales of tlacos in back alleys do not occur; genuine pieces are far too scarce.

Most coin dealers and coin club libraries have a copy of *Latin American Tokens*. Compare the offered item with a pictured item, and if they differ, err on the side of caution. The new second edition (June 2000) has a large number of illustrations of early tokens, but the first (1992) edition also carries many illustrations for comparison purposes.

Twelve forgeries currently offered in Mexico are illustrated with this report.¹ These represent only a sampling of the fakes. The Esquia de Bola 1798 tlaco of Mexico City would be worth \$200 in VF if genuine, but the forger made a mistake – he put the date as 1798, while genuine pieces (Rulau DF 100 and 101) are dated only as 98, with the 17 understood. Forgers it seems, often try to “improve” on reality

Please do not send suspected fake tlacos to *World Coin News*. The staff does not have time to devote to this activity. However, written reports of fake pieces offered are welcomed.

A special thanks to Russell Rulau, World Coin News and Clyde Hubbard for this information.



In the 1970's the Guadalajara forger copied illustrations from books. In 2000 he is using techniques used to make originals, casting thick copper flans, then “aging” chemically with fake verdigris (green patina). All his work is “too good,” as the fakes exhibit no wear from circulation. This plate of three bogus pieces displays monogram-like brand marks. (All photos courtesy of Clyde Hubbard, Cuernavaca.)

¹ See plates for article on page 21 & 22.



In the 1970's the Guadalajara forger copied illustrations from books. In 2000 he is using techniques used to make originals, casting thick copper flans, then "aging" chemically with fake verdigris (green patina). All his work "too good," as the fakes exhibit no wear from circulation. This plate of three bogus pieces displays monogram-like brand marks. (All photos courtesy of Clyde Hubbard, Cuernavacao)



The Guadalajara forger's technique in producing bogus Mexican tokens of the Colonial and Early Republican period has improved to the point where collectors must be careful in buying these pieces from anyone but expert dealers. Shown here are quite convincing fakes of Taretan 1833, Ameca 1809, Paroda 1806, Lh Ca 1813, Sayula 1806 and Esquia de Bola 1798 in copper. All were produced in Mexico in 2000 and sold there for about \$2 each.



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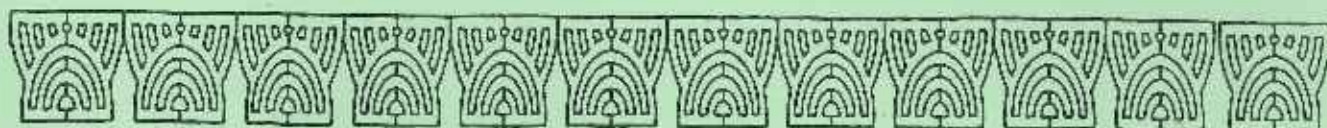
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