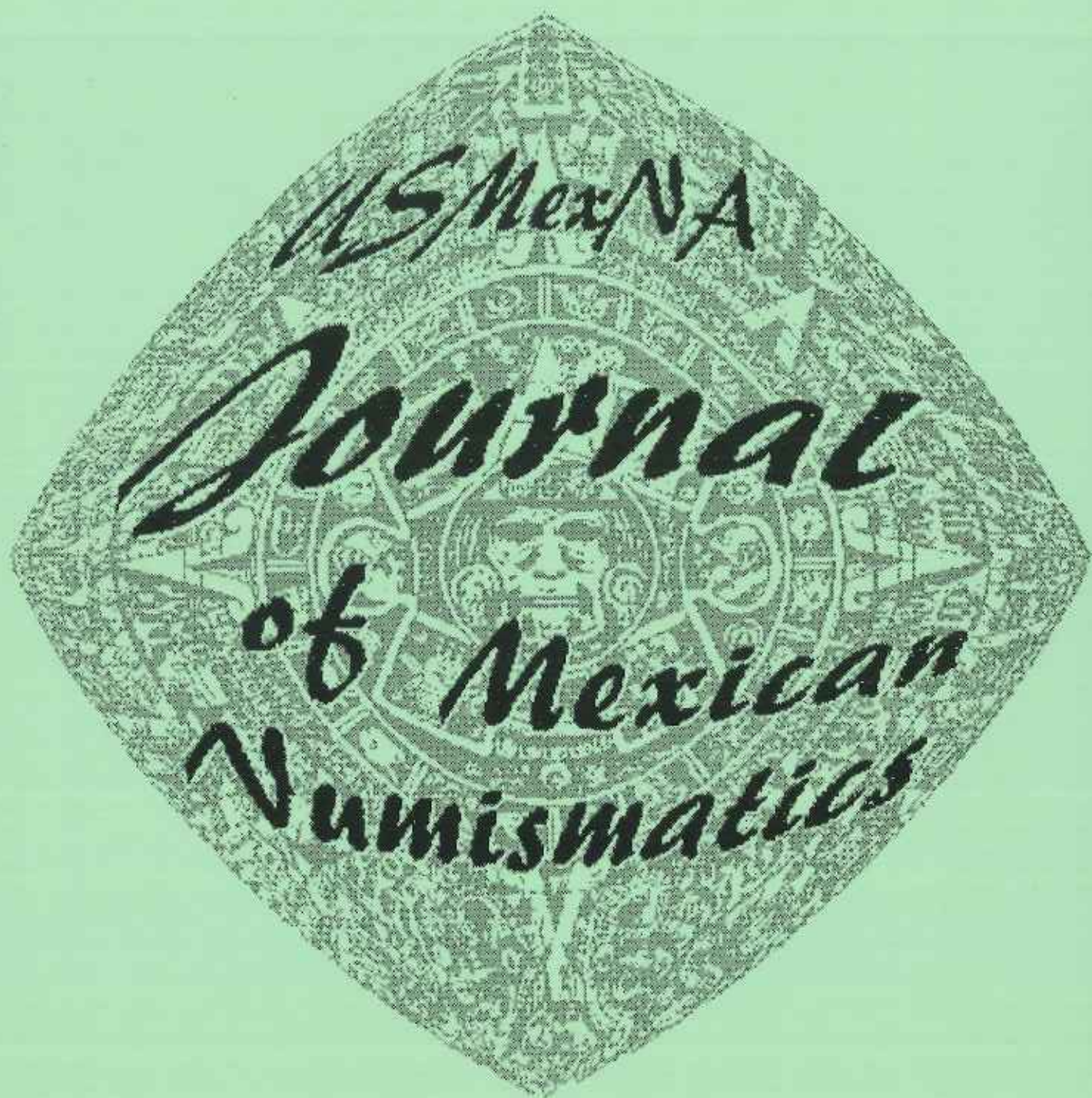


VOL. V

JUNE 2001

NO. I



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

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THE REVOLUTION CORNER

By Joe Flores C-2

JALISCO TWO CENTAVOS

About two years ago at a Mexico City Convention, a very good friend of mind told me that he would like to show me some very interesting coins. To my surprise he brought out a copper, plain edge Jalisco 2 centavos. This coin is struck on a normal size planchet with a new obverse and reverse set of dies. The new sets of dies are much smaller than the common dies, other than the small cap and ray dies that also are very rare coins but that is another story. I have never seen these new dies mentioned by other authors or catalogers.

On my next trip to Mexico City I took my camera to photograph this rarity. The owner of the coin was kind enough to let me take some photos. The coin appears to be a pattern or trial strike.

Are these genuine dies or is someone playing games with us collectors? I have seen other dies that were finished by the engraver but no coins were ever struck from the dies. I have slides of dies that are not totally completed by the engraver. These new dies do seem to have the same flair as the common dies, but maybe it did not meet the approval of the die engraver or one of the Generals. Lots of questions remain.

Photo number 1 is of the common coin, and photo number 2 is of the new smaller dies. Has anyone ever seen this coin in photo number 2? If you have kindly phone, e-mail, or snail mail me any time.

Coin Owner:
Private collection --- Mexico City

Joe Flores
P. O. Box 4484
Stockton, CA. 94204

Phone (209) 462-0759
Fax (209) 462-3157
E-mail pepeli@msn.com



THE REVOLUTION CORNER, CON'T:



PHOTO NUMBER 1 (GB 240)



PHOTO NUMBER 2

THE 1867 SLP QUARTILLA OVERSTRIKE

By Ben Nibert, R-303

An interesting but often overlooked Mexican state copper coin is the 1867 San Luis Potosi ¼ real (KM361) which is sometimes found struck over a 1863 SLP one centavo (KM390.1). This overstrike is not mentioned in the Krause guide but is noted in the Buttrey-Hubbard *Guidebook of Mexican Coins*. There may be more of these in existence than collectors suspect. A guess is that possibly one in twenty may be an over strike. Indeed some collectors in Mexico feel the true ratio to be even less, but with many examples showing little or no hint of the under strike. The mintage of the quartilla is 3,176,704 while that of the centavo is 1,024,813, which may hint at the possibilities of this combination.

The illustrated coin measures 27.0 mm and weights 9.7 grams. Edge reeding is relatively fine, consistent with the quartilla series, rather than the coarse reeding of the centavos. This author has another example (not shown) that is oriented 90 degrees from the under strike, is the same diameter and clearly shows part of the engravers name, Sanabria.

Why did this overstrike come into existence? Possibly there were large numbers of the centavo that did not enter circulation due to the French intervention. These "left overs" were eventually used in 1867 when the decimal system was temporarily set aside, conceivably in reaction to its use by the second Empire. This issue was produced in accordance with the decree of March 15, 1861 which established the metric system and made the centavo the only copper coin (article 7), and the local decree of June 17, 1863 which was to exchange quartillas for centavos. While the Quartilla seems like a throw back to the old Reales, the design and legends may have served as a political statement. The 1861 decimal law was officially ratified on November 27, 1867 which once and for all established the metric system. At any rate we see the return of the decimals in SLP in 1868 with the five and ten centavos. The next SLP decimal copper was the scarce issue of the 1871 centavo. For whatever reason they came to be struck, these quartillas reward sharp eyed collectors and make interesting additions to any collection.

I welcome comments on this or any Mexican state coin. I can be reached by email, bennibert@hotmail.com or phone (956) 668-7323.

The 1867 SLP Quartilla Overstrike, Con't:



A Typical SLP centavo which became
The planchet for many quartilla overstrikes.



The base of Liberty shows
As does the fasces on the
left. Photos are about 2X
magnification.



Part of the wreath,
centavo and date of
the under coin show
Clearly. This over-
strike is oriented 180
degrees from the
original. Some of the
circles on the coin
are the original
berries that were
flattened and enlarged
during the over
striking.

TWO CANNON FOR MADERO

By John O. Hardman, C-103

When Francisco I. Madero launched his revolution, he faced forces with machine guns and artillery which put his forces at a decided disadvantage. In order to overcome this disadvantage, sympathizers in El Paso kidnapped a cannon from City Hall Park, and his troops built two home-made cannons from railroad car axles. For more information about the "kidnapped cannon," see my web site www.netdotcom.com/revmexp/cannonpc.htm. The balance of this article will be devoted to the other two cannon.

The two home-made cannon were made under the supervision of Giuseppe Garibaldi, an Italian soldier of fortune. Garibaldi relates how the cannon were made in his autobiography, *A TOAST TO REBELLION*, and his words are quoted here.

"While putting our men in fighting trim at Madera and Pearson, I happened to visit the repair shops of the Northwestern Railway and found there complete equipment for repairing locomotives. This gave me the idea of building some field pieces of our own. Among my American volunteers I knew I would find a number of good machinists and five of them volunteered for the work. For gun barrels we were fortunate enough to find two locomotive axles, eight inches in diameter. We drilled a three-inch bore through these, but of course we had no equipment for rifling. To strengthen the breech end of the barrels we added steel rings under high pressure which permitted us to construct a strong breech lock and apply lateral supports."

"The breech lock was adjusted so that it screwed in and it contained a firing device consisting of a spring-controlled firing-pin and its trigger, which acted upon an ordinary revolver cartridge. We had thus constructed two breech-loading, smooth-bore guns, which would first receive the shell and then a bag of powder. After the breech had been locked and properly primed with a revolver cartridge, the gun was ready to fire."

"The question of shells worried me, for to cut a sufficient supply of them out of solid metal would have required an endless amount of time, and the result would have been very inaccurate. And then I know that the guns would not shoot straight anyway, since there was no rifling. So I adopted a different plan. My main reason for building the guns was for the psychological effect on the men, so that they would feel that their attack was being supported by artillery and that we could answer the enemy's fire in kind. There was a lot of three-inch pipe available, and this I cut into short lengths. I filled one end with lead and perforated the rest of the hollow pipe with large holes. These missiles when tearing through the air would make a terrifying noise, and I called them howling shells."

"The heavy blast of the departing shot would be accompanied by an impressive amount of black smoke and the shell would sound as if a thousand screaming cats were being hurtled through the air. The moral effect on our men and the enemy was

tremendous, for my howling shells gave a murderous impression. And believe it or not, I once saw an enemy caisson blown up by one of them – quite by accident, of course.”

“The gun carriage presented no difficulty, nor the caisson. We took four wheels from a heavy wagon, and with four mules to act as motive power we had a very respectable artillery train.”

In May 1911, the pieces were used in a “two-gun bombardment” of Juarez. Garibaldi relates how the guns made a terrific racket, but the howling shells did no damage. Timothy Turner, an El Paso newsman witnessed the engagement and tells how the first shot, from the cannon aimed at the cuartel, missed its target and probably landed “forty miles away.” The second shot passed through the water tank in the cuartel. The loss of the fort’s drinking water probably contributed to the fall of Juarez. The third shot resulted in the breech block being blown out of the cannon. This put the gun out of action.

The second homemade cannon was aimed at the bull ring and continued in action until Juarez fell to Madero.

In June 1911, Madero presented one of the guns to the El Paso Chamber of Commerce as a souvenir of the battle of Juarez. Illustration No. 1 shows the cannon pictured on a postcard, and Illustration No. 2 shows the message on the reverse. The cannon presented to El Paso may be the one that lost its breech block, as no block is evident in the photo. Illustration No. 3 shows what I believe to be the second cannon in Juarez. Illustration No. 4 shows one of the cannon outside Juarez. What I believe to be the smokestacks of the El Paso smelter can be seen in the background.

The whereabouts of the cannon given to El Paso is unknown, but it may have been donated to one of the many scrap drives during WWII.

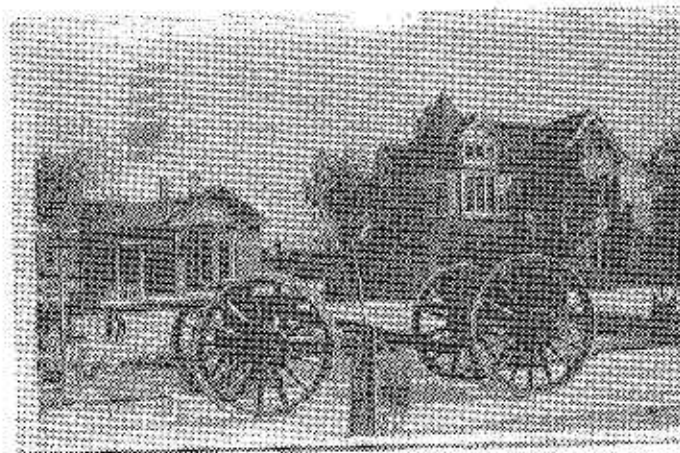


ILLUSTRATION No. 1

ILLUSTRATION No. 1

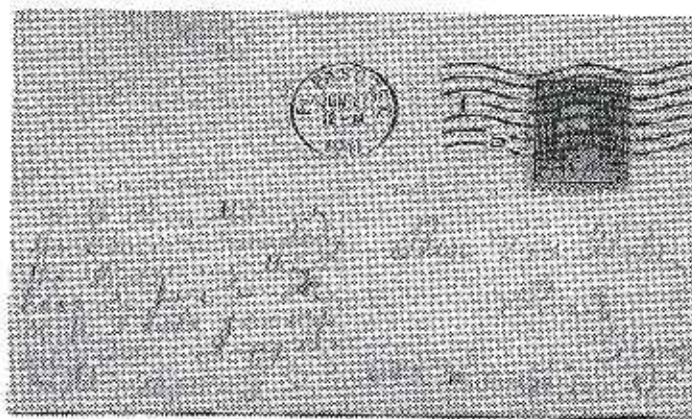


ILLUSTRATION No. 2

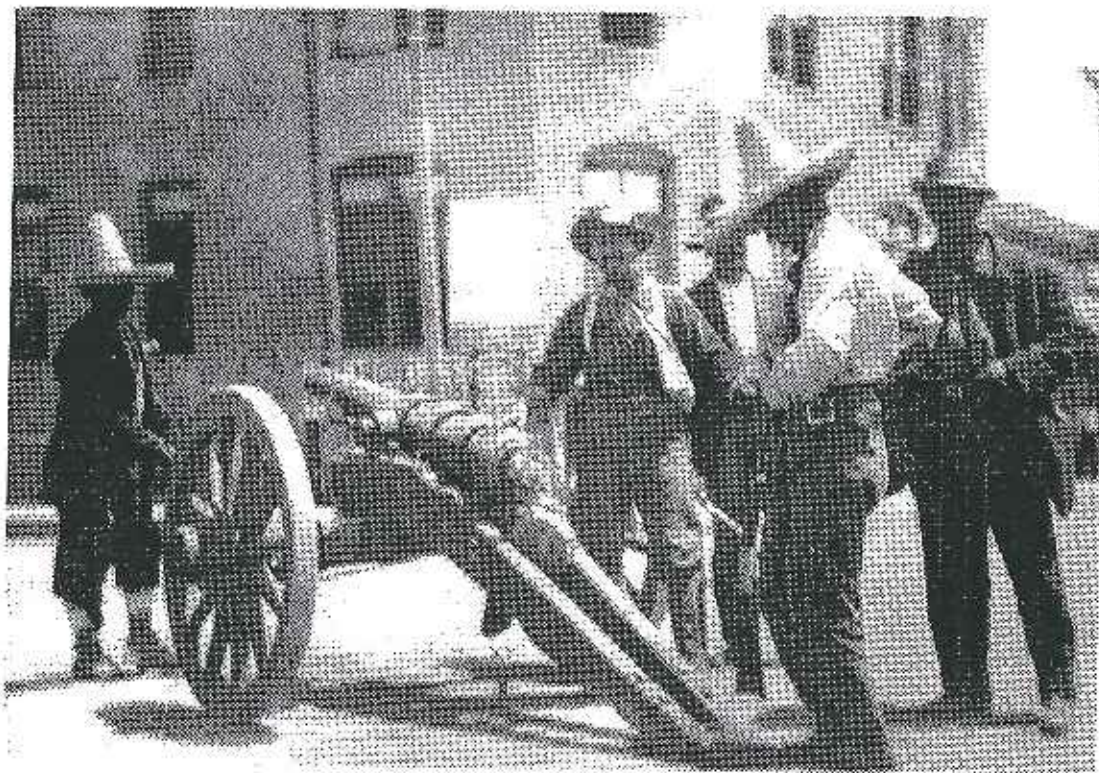


ILLUSTRATION No. 3

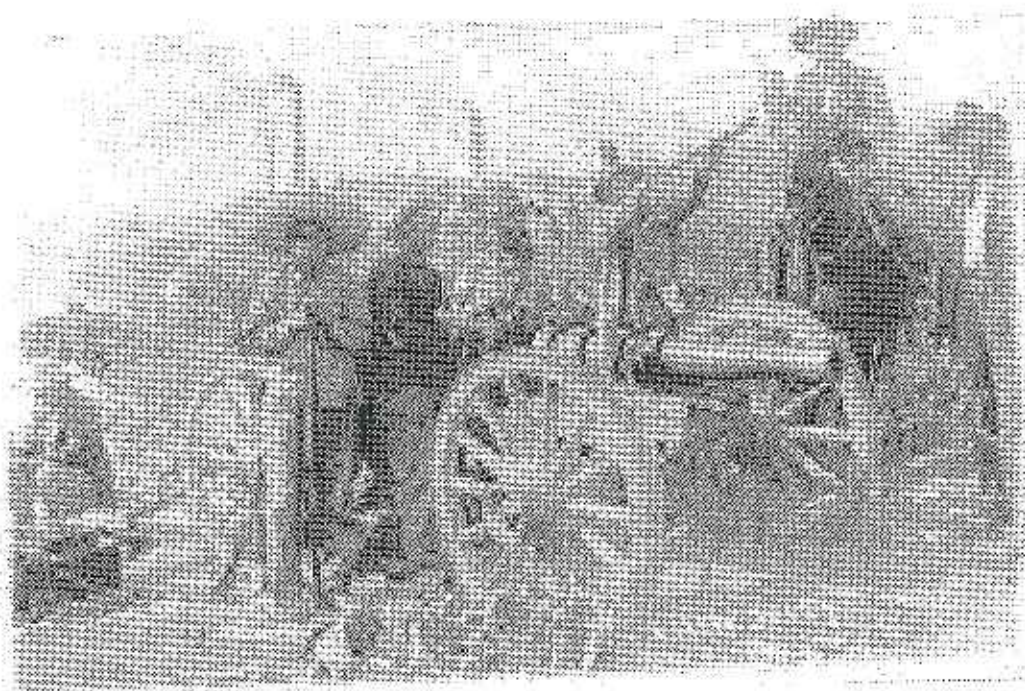


ILLUSTRATION No. 4

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF MEXICAN NUMISMATICS SUBJECT OF PRESENTATION AT USMexNA's MEETING

Don Bailey will be presenting "Thirty-five Years of Mexican Numismatics" at the Association's meeting to be held Friday, August 10th at 7:00 PM. The room location will be listed in the program. A flyer may be picked up from Don Bailey at table #428.

He will address the many changes that have taken place in the Mexican Numismatic field and the many great Mexican numismatists that have come and gone over the years.

There will also be a **"SHOW AND TELL"**, so bring along something that you are very proud of, and that you think the other members might want to see.

If you have any questions, please contact us or stop and see us at the convention.

THE TESORERÍA GENERAL DEL ESTADO NOTES OF
THE EJÉRCITO LIBERTADOR

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

A very rare and very strange group of notes is appended to the Tesorería General del Estado issues of General Francisco Villa. They were first cataloged by Duane D. Douglas, et al, in The Complete Catalog of Mexican Paper Money, Krause Publications, Iola, WI, 1982, as MI-CHI-34 (1 peso), MI-CHI-35 (2 pesos), and MI-CHI-36 (10 pesos). They are currently cataloged in the Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, Specialized Issues, Volume 1, Eighth Edition, Krause Publications, Iola, WI, 1998, as P-S 559 (1 peso), P-S 560 (2 pesos), and P-S 561 (10 pesos).



Image courtesy of W. Crutchfield Williams, II

All three denominations exhibit a blue underprint that is similar to that used on the Tesorería General del Estado 10 pesos notes (MI-CHI-22 / P-S 555). Although the front plate of the note bears a resemblance to the front plate of the genuine Tesorería General del Estado 10 pesos note, it has several features that seem to indicate that it was not prepared by the General Treasury in Chihuahua.

- 1) The frame enclosing the body of the note appears to be continuous. Genuine notes of Chihuahua exhibit the same double-lined black border between the outer "leaf" pattern the body of the note, but have gaps at the corners of these borders.¹ These notes do not have gaps.
- 2) There are no commas following the words "Tesorero General del Estado" at the bottom left, or "Interventor" at the bottom right above the signatures. Genuine notes from the Chihuahua treasury always have commas following these words.²

- 3) There are no abbreviations ("Num." or "No.") preceding the serial numbers, left or right.
- 4) The genuine signature of "S. Vargas hijo" at the bottom left is always preceded by a dot before the "S", above the line formed by the base of the signature. This dot is not apparent on this plate.³
- 5) The plate lacks an imprint from the Treasury at Chihuahua and is quite crude. All of these "defects" are typical of counterfeit notes of this issue and almost certainly indicate that the plate was not prepared at the General Treasury at Chihuahua. This does not necessarily mean that this small group of denominations is counterfeit. Plates may have been prepared elsewhere with the approval of General Villa and the Treasury.
- (6) The treasury seal at the center appears, at first glance to be the seal of the Treasury of Chihuahua, but it exhibits several characteristics that are not found on the genuine seal.



Genuine Seal



2 pesos Seal

- (a) Note that the genuine seal has three lobes on the left half of the nopal cactus on which the eagle is standing. The 2 pesos seal has an indistinct, almost-triangular lobe at the left.
- (b) The genuine seal shows the tail of the serpent extending to the left, between the cactus and the left wing of the eagle, while the 2 pesos seal does not.
- (c) The genuine seal shows the serpent with its mouth closed and tongue protruding. The 2 pesos seal shows the serpent with its mouth open.

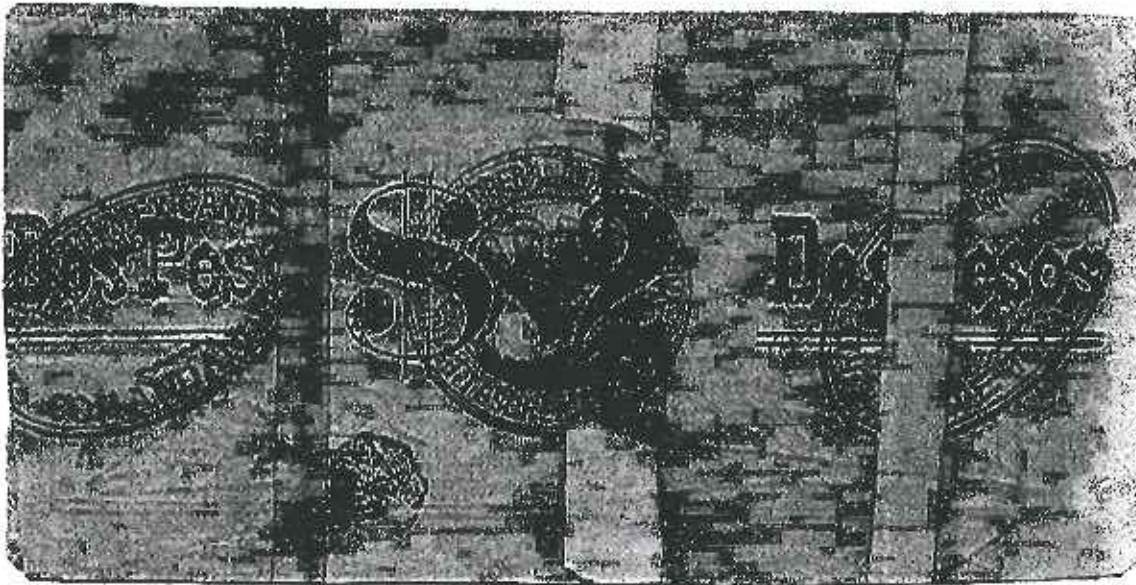


Image courtesy of W. Crutchfield Williams, II

It is on the back of the note that several possible clues to its origin are found. The back of the note bears three stamps: At left - REPUBLICA MEXICANA - EJÉRCITO LIBERTADOR - COMMANDANCIA; At center - TESORERÍA GENERAL - ESTADO LIBRE Y SOBERANO DE CHIHUAHUA; At right - REPUBLICA MEXICANA - EJÉRCITO LIBERTADOR - BRIGADA PACHECO - DETALL.

Most intriguing are the stamps to the left and right of the central seal. Having searched the known military units of the Mexican Revolution, I found only one organization which used the appellation EJÉRCITO LIBERTADOR - the army of General Emiliano Zapata. Further research indicates that Zapata's EJÉRCITO LIBERTADOR DEL SUR included a BRIGADA PACHECO, commanded by General Francisco Pacheco of Huitzilac, Morelos.⁴ Questions arise. Why would a general of Zapata's Liberating Army issue Villista notes? And, if he did issue Villista notes, was it with the approval of General Francisco Villa? The answer may lie in the events that followed the Convention of Aguascalientes in November 1914.

Although the revolution of First Chief, Venustiano Carranza had been victorious, and all revolutionary chieftains had ceased hostilities, many questioned Carranza's approach to establishing the revolutionary government. Carranza attempted to solidify his position with a convention of "selected" commanders at Mexico City in early October 1914. His intentional exclusion of Generals Villa and Zapata irked the other generals to such an extent that Carranza's convention failed. To the First Chief's surprise, the "selected commanders" called for a convention at Aguascalientes where all major commanders of the revolution would be represented. The Convention of Aguascalientes would determine the future political structure of Mexico.

Carranza sent representatives to the convention, but refused to recognize its authority or actions. The result was the establishment of a Conventionist Government of Mexico in direct opposition to Carranza and his Constitutionalist government. The military chiefs "chose up sides" and civil war swept Mexico once again.

Conventionist President Eulalio Gutiérrez named General Francisco Villa Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Convention. General Zapata and his Liberating Army aligned under the Conventionist banner. Thus, Villa became nominal commander Zapata's army. The two generals jointly occupied Mexico City in December 1914. When they met, Villa went to great lengths to assure Zapata that he (Zapata), alone, would continue to command his Liberating Army, and the two seemed to develop a genuine friendship. Their subordinates, however, immediately began to maneuver for individual power, destroying the cooperation between the two armies within only a few months.

On January 16, 1915, Roque González-Garza, a close associate of Villa's, assumed the office of President of the Conventionist government. On January 23, he invalidated all Carranza currency. This act caused an immediate shortage of circulating currency throughout central and south Mexico and upset Zapata considerably.⁵ In May 1915, President González-Garza appointed General Francisco Pacheco, commander of Zapata's BRIGADA PACHECO, Minister of War, indicating the President's trust in Pacheco, and by extension the trust of General Villa. The appointment caused General Zapata to question Pacheco's loyalty to the Liberating Army.⁶ By late 1915, Pacheco was feeling Zapata's lack of confidence in him, and insisted to the general that he was still a loyal member of the Liberating Army. His protestations of loyalty only served to make Zapata more suspicious of him.⁷

On March 13, 1916, Pacheco withdrew his forces from Huitzilac and Cuernavaca, leaving the area open to occupation by Carranza's Constitutionlists. General Zapata was appalled and went, personally, to see what Pacheco was up to. On March 27, General Pacheco presented General Zapata with a written description of his plan. He would take a strong column and, moving to the north, encircle Carranza's army. Once in position, he would attack and destroy them from the rear. Such a move would take Pacheco and his men completely out of General Zapata's control. The plan made the general very suspicious. Either Pacheco was crazy or he planned to defect – perhaps to Villa, or even to Carranza. Having lost confidence in Pacheco, Zapata agreed to his execution. Within a few days Pacheco was taken prisoner by Zapatista soldiers and killed.⁸

My hypothesis of the appearance of this strange and rare issue is as follows:

- 1) The notes were produced at the request of General Pacheco, with the knowledge and approval of President Roque Gonzalez-Garza, and hence with the inferred approval of General Villa. Pacheco's position as Minister of War had made him a trusted lieutenant of the president.
- 2) General Pacheco intended their use solely within the area of influence of his Brigada Pacheco, i.e. Huitzilac, Cuernavaca and environs.
- 3) They probably appeared sometime between late January 1915 and October 1915.
- 4) The notes were most likely produced and printed in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos.
- 5) They were an unintended source of suspicion on the part of General Zapata, thus their period of production was probably short. Many examples may have been destroyed, as General Pacheco tried to assure Zapata of his loyalty. A short production period and destruction of extant notes would account for their rarity.

Perhaps further research into these curious issues will clarify their proper place in the history of the Mexican Revolution.

END NOTES:

- ¹ Periódico Oficial, Chihuahua, 22 March 1914, Aviso
- ² Telegram from Jesús Ramos, El Tesorero General del Estado de Chihuahua, 30 January 1915.
- ³ Periodico Oficial, Guanajuato, 10 December 1914.
- ⁴ Brunk, Samuel. Emiliano Zapata! – Revolution and Betrayal in Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1995, p.84
- ⁵ Brunk, Samuel. Op. Cit. pp. 160-161.
- ⁶ Brunk, Samuel. Op. Cit. p. 172
- ⁷ Brunk, Samuel. Op. Cit. p.187
- ⁸ Brunk, Samuel. Op. Cit. pp. 188-189

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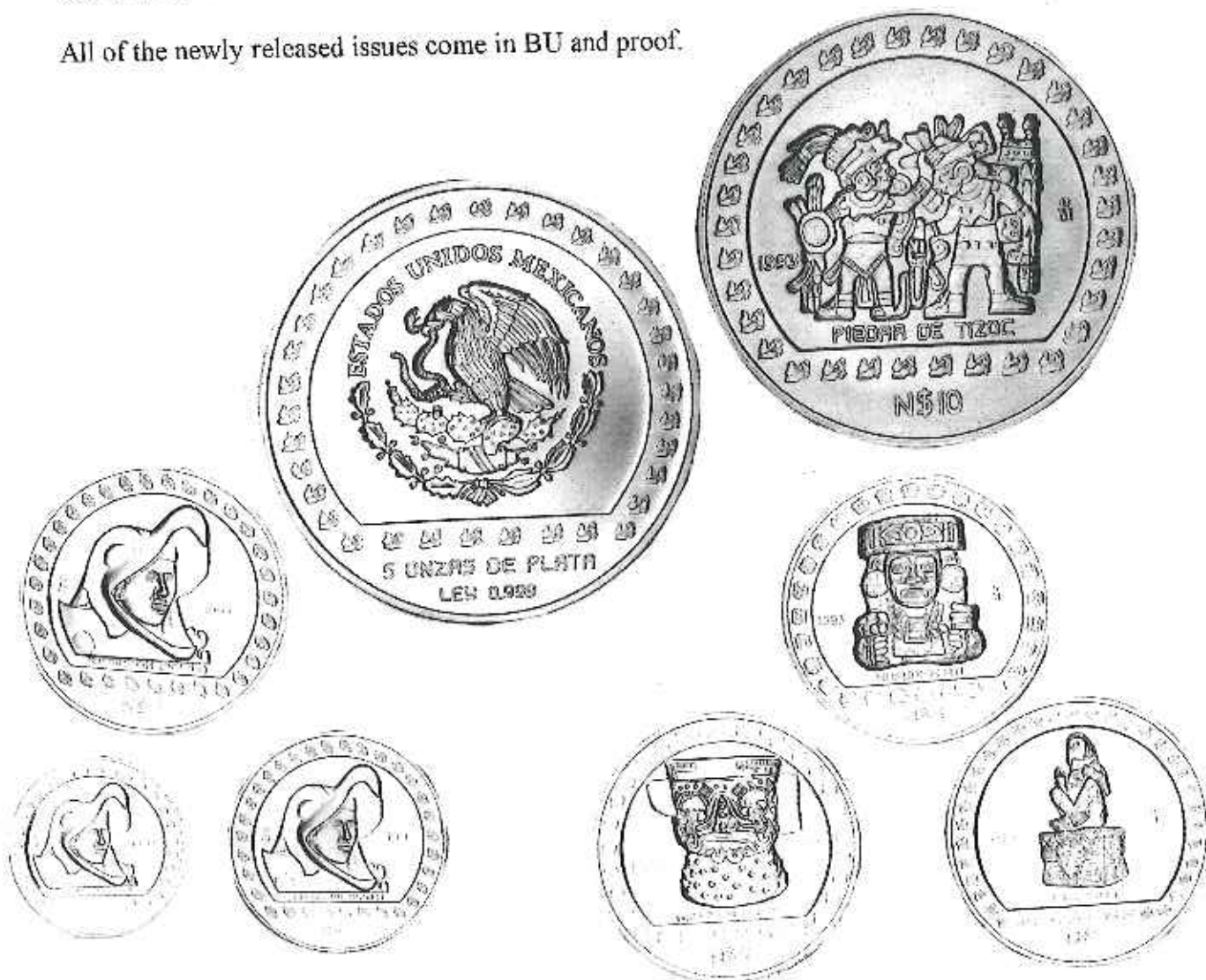
BANCO DE MEXICO RELEASES NEW VERSIONS OF THE AZTEC COLLECTION

The Banco de Mexico recently released new denominations in the 1992 Aztec Culture Collection from their popular Pre Colombian series.

When the 1992 issues were released they were issued in \$10,000 in BU and proof for the Piedra de Tizoc \$100, \$50 and \$25 in BU and proof for the Guerrero Aguila, and \$100 in proof for the Huehueteotl, Xochipilli and Brasero Efigie. Early in the release of this series the \$10,000 in proof was changed to N\$10, and released, but the BU was still issued in \$10,000.

This was during the change over from Pesos to New Pesos and the Peso coins were issued after that and these denominations were no longer legal. So to avoid confusion among the citizens the denominations were changed over to the new Peso denominations, and as some of the denominations were not legal until 1993 the date of issue was 1993.

All of the newly released issues come in BU and proof.



SONORA CUARTILLAS

By Claudio Verrey, C-112

I recently bought a group of 40 cuartillas from Sonora, 12 dated 1861 and 28 1862. I have had many of these the past years but never 40 pieces at the same time. I think that it will be interesting to describe the varieties that I found in this group. I have other varieties of these two dates, but I decided to include just the pieces of this group. I will describe the others in a future article.

1861



Photo#1

Large dates 11 pieces

Small dates 2 pieces

PHOTO #2

Large date

Roman numeral "I's" 4

Arabic numeral "I's" 7



Large Date Reverses
"Roman numbers"

The right part of the wreath (Laurel branch) finish with one leaf that is over two tips of two other leaves, with a total of 4 pieces.

"Arabic numbers"

The right branch finish with two leaves, with a total of 7 pieces. (Photo #3).

PHOTO #3



1862



PHOTO#4, Normal date 10 pieces, 1862/9 18 pieces

The wreath branch finish with only one leaf in all 28 pieces, and none has a dot after Sonora. Some had a tiny line, which is the remainder of a leaf of a previous die that was repunched (Photo #5).



PHOTO #5

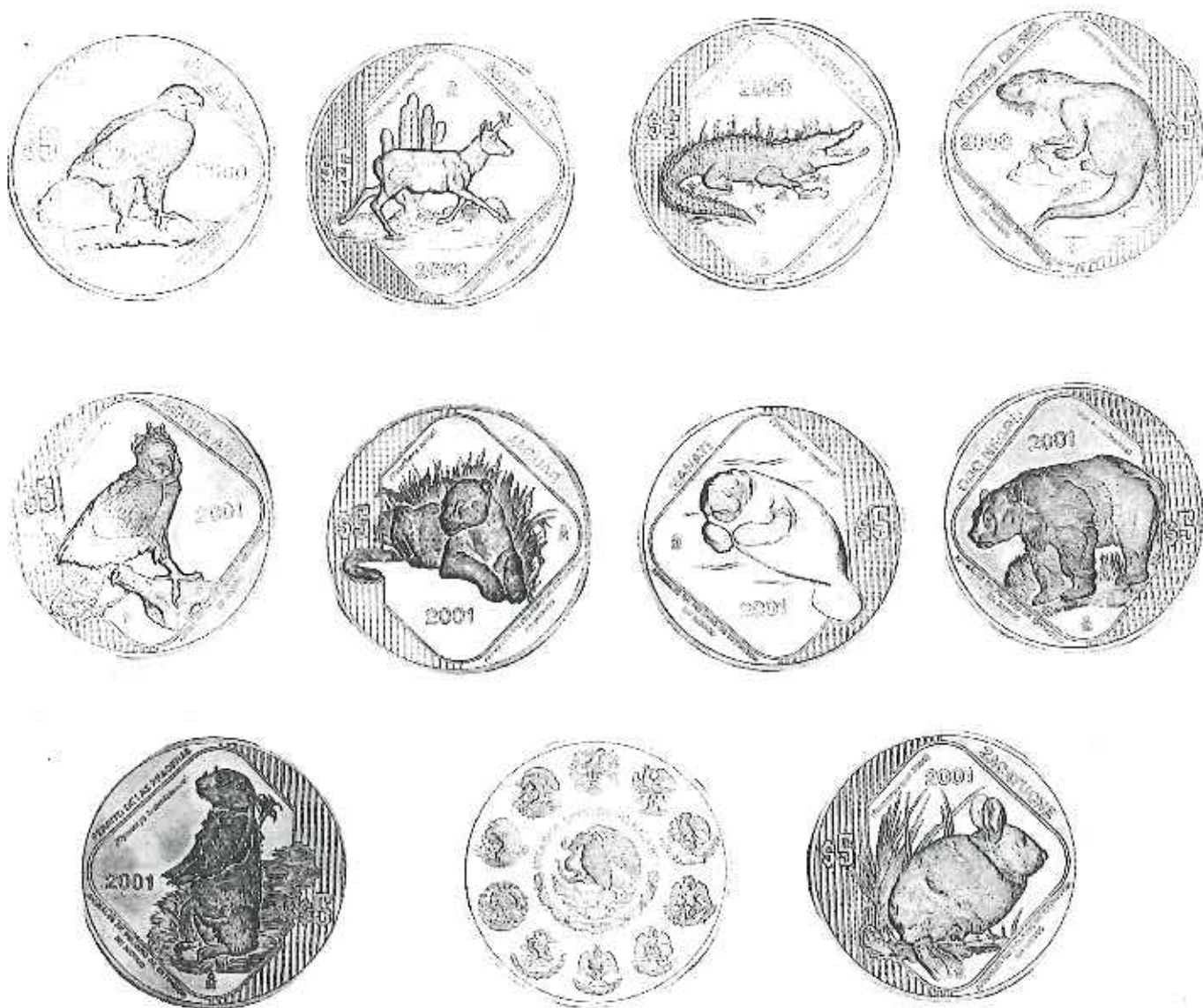
Conclusions:

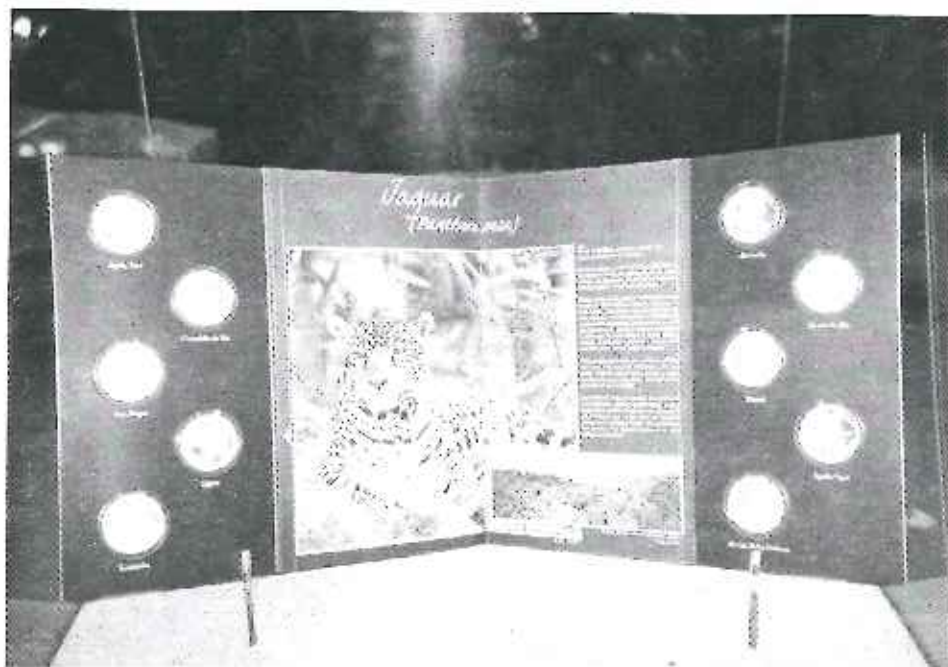
1. The pieces dated 1861 and 1862 seem not to exist with a dot after the date like the 1859 issues.
2. The 1861 small date must be scarcer than the large date.
3. The 1862/9 (There is no clear 5 to consider it 62/59), although it is not cataloged in any reference book it is NOT rare.
4. The 1862 pieces with no dot after Sonora are much more common than the ones that have it.

BANCO DE MEXICO RELEASES THE ENDANGERED SPECIES IN MEXICO COLLECTION

In a recent ceremony in the lobby of the Banco de Mexico in Mexico City the "Animales En Peligro De Extincion En Mexico" (Endangered Species in Mexico) collection was officially released. This ten coin set is in .999 one ounce silver BU, with a five Peso denomination. These feature the "Aguila Real," the "Berrendo," the "Cocodrilo de Rio," and the "Nutria de Rio" dated 2000, and the "Aguila Arpia," the "Jaguar," the "Manati," the "Oso Negro," the "Perrito de las Praderas" and the "Zacatucho," all dated 2001. These sets come with an album that is very nicely done.

The Association was well represented by several members from Mexico, as well as Joe Flores and your editor from the United States.





Album for the Endangered Species Collection.



Duane Douglas and Dr. Luis Gomez Wulschner.



Don Bailey with Director Javier Portilla Elguero of the Casa de Moneda de Mexico.



Don Bailey in discussion with Casa de Moneda de Mexico's Director General Alfredo Lelo de Larrea As Duane Douglas looks on.

PHOTOS BY JOE FLORES



Javier Portilla Elguero with Vito Alessio Robles and Alberto Hidalgo, President, Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico.

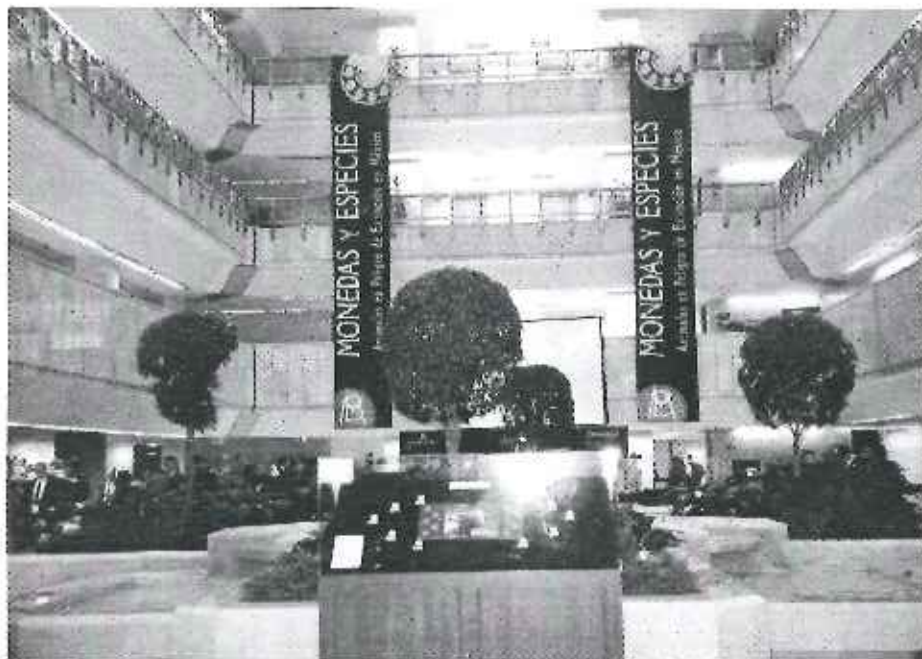


Banco de Mexico Governor Guillermo Ortiz Martinez is discussing the collection with Don Bailey and dignitaries.

PHOTOS BY JOE FLORES



**Auditorium where presentation
Was made showing the vast
Amount of press in attendance.**



**The lobby of the Banco de Mexico
Where the reception was held following
The presentation showing one of the
many display cases.**



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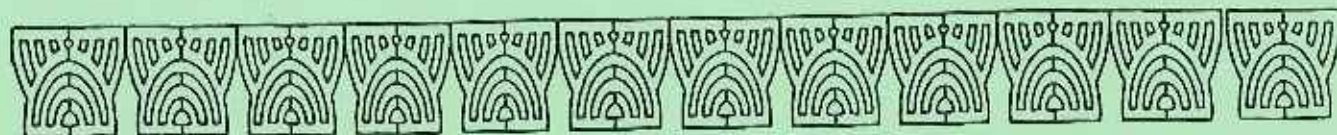
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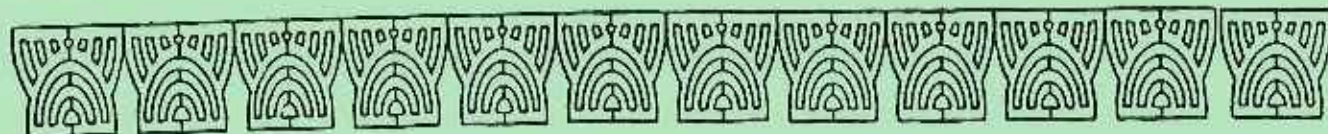
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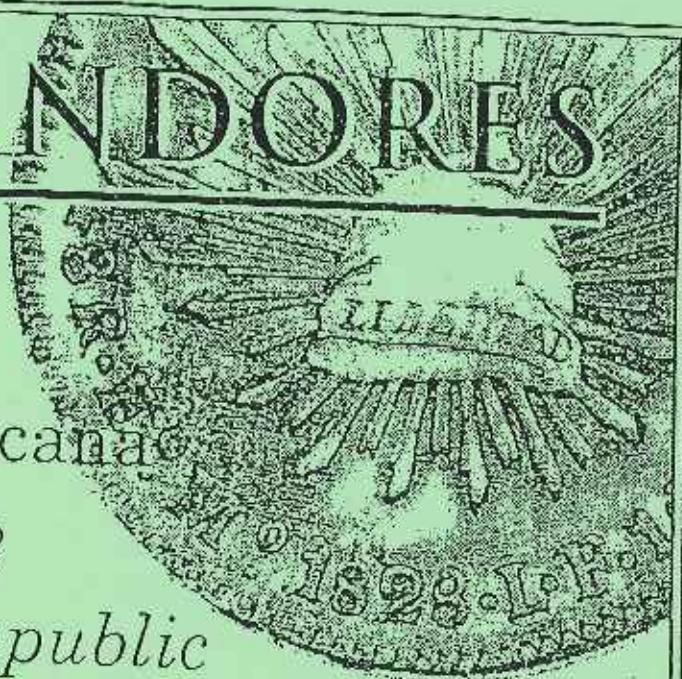
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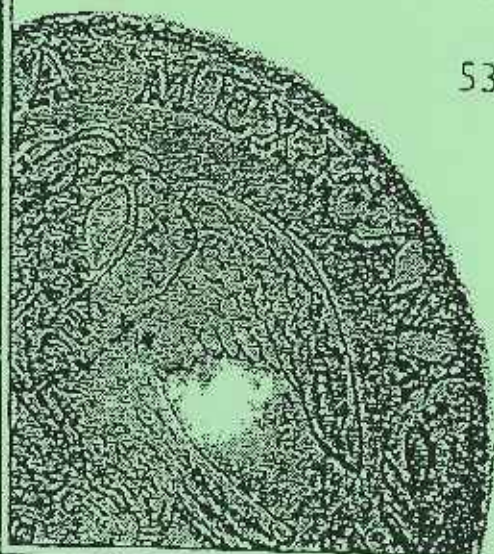


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