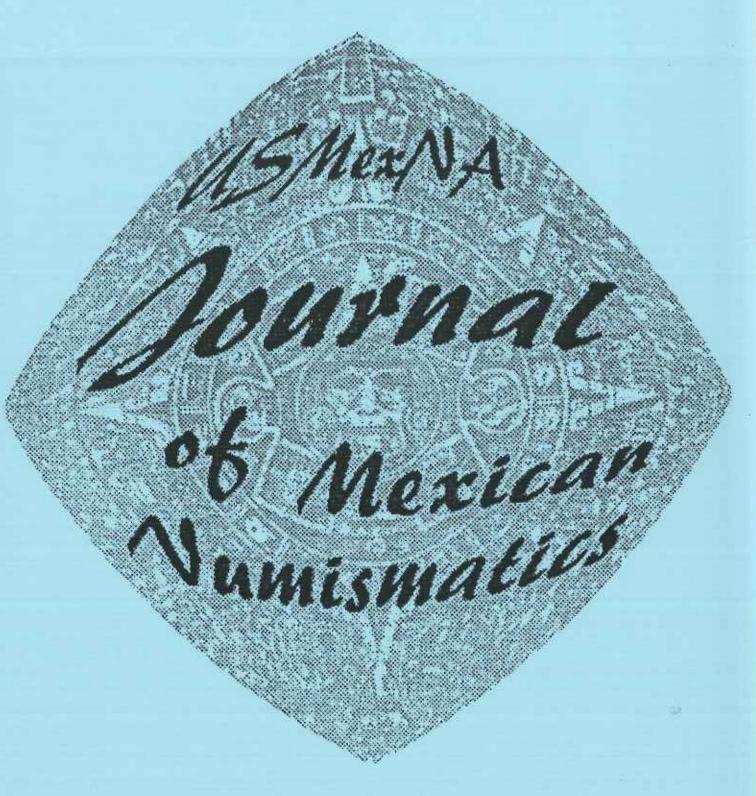
VOL. VI



U. S. MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Don Bailey, Editor, Associate Editor Stephen Searle PMB #139, 250 D South Lyon Ave. Hemet, CA 92545

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ASSOCIATION 2003 DUES DUE AND PAYABLE!!!!

The Association dues for 2003 are now due. They are as they have been since we started in 1997, only \$15.00 a year. Please put your Association number on your payment. The officers of the Association appreciate your past support and hope that you will continue to support our efforts to promote Mexican numismatics around the world. If you have any questions please let us know.

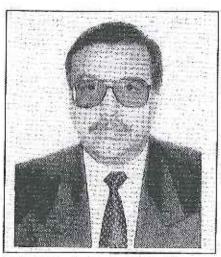
SOCIEDAD NUMISMATICA DE MEXICO SETS INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONVENTION DATE AS FEBRUARY 5 – 8, 2003.

The Sociedad announced the dates and location for their next upcoming International Numismatic Convention as February 5 – 8 at the Hotel Del Prado, Av. Marina Nacional 399, Mexico City. Details will be released as they become available. If you would like to be notified as the information becomes available please let me know. Past President Alberto Hidalgo will serve as the Bourse Chairman. He can be contacted by e-mail at notafelius52@hotmail.com.

LIC. JOSE ANTONIO BATIZ VAZQUEZ ELECTED AS SOCIEDAD NUMISMATICA DE MEXICO PRESIDENT

At the Monday, November 11, 2002 Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico meeting in Mexico City the new officers were installed.

Lic. Jose Antonio Batiz Vazquez was elected as President for the term November 2002 to October 2004. Elected to serve with Batiz were Lic. Javier Lopez Lerena as Vice President, Dr. Luis M. Gomez Wulschner as Secretary, Ing. Alberto Hidalgo as Treasurer, Ing. Vito Alessio Robles as Director, and Arq. Miguel Barrera Lojero and Sra. Marissa Gonzalez as Directors of Promotion and Publications respectively.



Lic. Jose Antonio Batiz Vazquer



Presidente Alberto Hidalgo with your Editor, after being awarded the Jose Tamborrel and the Sociedad's President's Awards. Luis Gomez Wulschner also received two awards.

THE REVOLUTION CORNER By Joe Flores, C-2

20 PESO OAXACA

Another great Revolution rarity was sold to me at the Guadalajara numismatic convention in October 2002. This coin is the first one I have ever seen, and did not know that this coin even existed. As in most Oaxaca gold coins, the five, ten and twenty Pesos have a reeded edge. I only know of one other corded edge coin and it is very rare.

This coin is the same as the known one except it never was gold plated. At first came the thought of someone had removed the gold plating. After studying the coin I am happy to say that did not happen. This coin could well be a trial strike?

My good friend, the late Mr. Woodworth (Woody) and I knew of the one known corded edge. We listed this in our book "La Ventana" as Oax.128.

This new find will always have its' own I. D. with a planchet defect on the Obverse in front of Juarez's fore head and through to the reverse side below the "P" in Pesos.

Joe Flores
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Stockton, CA 95204
Fax (209) 462-3157
E-mail pepef@msn.copm





PHOTO #1, GOLD PLATED





PHOTO #2, NEW FIND

NEW ASSOCIATION BOARD TO BE ELECTED

The four - year terms of the current Board of Directors will be up January 1, 2003. Anyone interested in serving on the Association's Board is welcomed to apply.

The current board consists of; Don Bryan, Bishop, Texas, Joc Flores, Stockton, CA, Sal Falcone, San Jose, CA, Richard Ponterio, San Diego, CA and Don Bailey, Hemet, CA.

The duties of the board are to govern the Association, and this is done through periodical meetings as necessary or through other communications. The board is also charged with promoting the Association. The board appoints the Executive Director and Editors of the Journal. Anyone having an interest in serving and have any questions feel free to contact the Association, or any of the current Directors.

WE WANT TO THANK THE CURRENT BOARD FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS.

NEWS RELEASE

(1538) CHARLES AND JOHANNA 8 REALES DISCOVERED



Four decades after Columbus landed in the New World, ore was being mined in central Mexico in sufficient quantities that King Charles I of Spain and his mother and joint ruler Johanna, found it necessary to establish a mint at what would soon be called Mexico City. The royal decree creating this new venture was dated May 11, 1535.

Because of the urgency of the situation, no time was taken to construct a new building for the mint and in the spring of 1536, the first mint of the New World was established within the massive house of Mexico's Spanish conqueror, Hernando Cortez (1485 – 1547). Workers at the mint immediately began the work of transporting native silver ore into curious bright cobs bearing intricate markings that included the royal Spanish emblems, the moneyer's "signature" and a mark indicating the mint in the heart of Mexico City.

By 1540, apparent problems had arisen and Cortez himself sailed back to Mexico to charge the first viceroy, Mendoza, with corruption. From that historic journey came the document that later proved the existence of the first dollar-sized coin ever produced in the Americas.

Charles I listened to Cortez' allegations and ordered an emissary, Francisco Tello de Sandoval, inspector for the Royal Council of the Indies, to travel to Mexico and inspect the mint and its operations. Sandoval began his investigation in May 1545, inspecting the facility and interviewing employees who had been at the mint during its initial operations. Finding nothing other then small variances from the expected behaviors and required standards (remarkable for such a crude colonial establishment), Sandoval's findings pleased the King. The inspector recorded his findings and exhaustive investigations in a document, which then languished for centuries in the Archives of the Indies in Seville, until it was rediscovered and transcribed into English by the great scholar Dr. Albert Pradeau in 1947.

Thanks in large part to his meticulous records and in-dept interviews, Sandoval's fascinating document unravels the mystery surrounding the minting of the New World's first large silver coin, most notably in the fact that the eight employees of the mint all

remembered seeing or actually making large 8-Reales coins in the spring of 1583. Long only rumored to have been made, and not seen since its issue, Sandoval's document proves the existence of the 8-Reales "dollar" —manufactured within the walls of Cortez' own residence, at the first mint in the Americas, not long after that mint was created.

Francisco Sandoval's detailed report illustrates the breadth of his investigation and a 1955 ANS monograph, "The Coinage of the First Mint of the Americas at Mexico City 1536 – 1572" by Robert I. Nesmith, Tells the story more simply. We relate the gist of the incident using both sources.

Within the Sandoval document is the testimony of those key mint employees who were present when the first dollar of the Americas was actually made. On May 27, 1545, Juan Guiterrez, the mints second assayer, declared "that also there had been made reales in eights and their making was stopped for they were very defective and were not circulated" (page 6, Sandoval document).

Other mint employees were interviewed – engravers, balancers, guards and general workers. Sandoval worked with a keen legal mind, corroborating stories and facts through exhaustive interviews and inspections that spanned several weeks.

The key witness in the 8-Reales mystery came next – the man who had made the coin, Francisco del Rincon, "tallador" or master diesinker and assayer for the mint during its first years. On June 5, 1545, Rincon testified that "there arrived a decree of the Majesty that there should be made money of four and eight reales...and for a certain time there were made reales of eights and their coining was stopped because of the much work and the cost involved" (page 32, Sandoval document). Rincon had been appointed by the Viceroy and worked at the mint from its very opening in the spring of 1538 (page 17, Nesmith).

Final proof of the existence of large 8-Reales "royals" coins came four days later, when the mint's "monadero y capataz," Alonso Ponce, testified on June 9 that "also for a certain time he knows that there were made at the into eight reales pieces, and this manufacture was stopped inasmuch as they were very hard to make...and they were not made very long...." (page 47, Sandoval document). Nesmith describes Ponce as "serving as foreman during May-July, 1545. He had been at the mint since it opened" (page 27).

Significantly, each of the key employees who had worked at the mint in its first years – Gutierrez, Rincon and Ponce – remembered the 8-Reales being struck. It seems that mere handfuls of 8-Reales were coined, as an experiment, for only a brief time in 1538. The experimental 8-Reales coin was simply too much of a burden on the minting technology of the time and thus was discontinued almost as soon as it was conceived.

The Sandoval document confirmed the existence of an 8-Reales coin that resembled the next largest silver coin, the 4-Reales, bearing the names of Spain's rulers, "Carolus et Johana". The royal decree of 1535 had established these coins as legal money and allowed that the coinage of "New Spain may be exported from it to our kingdoms of

Castile and Leon and for all our Indies, islands and land of the Atlantic Ocean, in order that it may be current and valid with in them for its true value"

In this way did the first coins of America pass into history. The Spanish dollar, or piece of eight (8-Reales), circulated widely in the America colonies, for it had "true value". As the Guide Book of United states Coins notes, "The first issue of Continental paper money May 10, 1775, offers further evidence that the dollar was to be the basic money unit, for it provided that the notes should be payable in "Spanish Milled Dollars or the value thereof in gold or silver", (page 8). The United states Congress adopted its concept of the standard monetary unit called the Dollar on July 6, 1785.

Too cumbersome to be easily made, yet decreed by the King of Spain to be minted almost as soon as the first Mexico City mint opened its doors, the earliest 8-Reales or "silver dollar" of the New World was created almost five hundred years ago, and lost to the numismatic world since then.

Now this fabled rarity has been re-discovered!

Ira & Larry Goldberg
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Beverly Hills, CA 90212
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BACK ISSUES OF THE MEXICAN NUMISMATIC JOURNALS ARE AVAILABLE

Past issues of the Mexican Numismatic Journals are currently available for the cost of \$10.00 per year. The issues available are:

1998	Vol. II	No. III and No. IV
1999	Vol. III	No. 1-No. IV
2000	Vol. IV	No. I - No. IV
2001	Vol. V	No. I - No. IV

A HOME-MADE GIFT

By John O. Hardman, C-103

Just before noon on June 1, 1911, a "most ceremonious affair" took place on the Mexican side of the Santa Fe Bridge – the bridge that connects El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico. Some 10,000 people gathered at both ends of the bridge to see the presentation of one of Madero's home-made cannon to the citizens of El Paso – a gift for their support of the revolution

The cannon escorted by 200 troops of Madero's cavalry, appeared on the scene. Leading the procession was General Jose de la Luz Blanco, Major Roque Gonzales, Garza, and Colonel Raoul Madero. The U. S. contingent was composed of El Paso Mayor C. E. Kelly, Captain Juan S. Hart, Aldermen Clayton, Hewitt, Blumenthal, McGee and other civil officials.

Major Garza, who spoke eloquently about the Mexican struggle for liberty, made the formal presentation. At the end of his speech, he presented the cannon to the city and citizens of El Paso.

Mayor Kelly accepted the cannon and then introduced Captain Hart, who responded for El Paso. Captain Hart, Speaking in Spanish, told of a new age for Mexico, the benefits of individual liberty, free speech, a free press, and fair courts. Hart's speech was greeted with a storm of applause, and then a band played the Star Spangled Banner. It should be noted that Francisco Madero, leader of the revolution, and his wife were in attendance but did not participate in the ceremony.

Following the presentation, a procession wended its way to the El Paso City Hall. Once the cannon reached the U. S. side of the border, a mounted troop of El Paso police led the way, clearing the streets. Four mules – Tom, Dick, Harry and Clarice – and several El Paso citizens "helped" by pulling a thin rope attached to the mules, drew the cannon. Riding on the cannon was its crew, Captain Louis Charpentier, Ed Kcely (or William Keely, depending on which account you read), Jack Wilder, George Gates, T. R. Heath and Cal Thorpe. Gates and Kcely helped make the home-made cannon in the repair shops of the Northwestern Railway in Pearson.

When the cannon reached city hall, courtesies were exchanged between the city officials and the Maderos, after which the Maderos returned to Mexico.

Eventually, the cannon was mounted in the San Jacinto Plaza with the Blue Whistler, the old muzzle loading cannon stolen by Madero sympathizers on St. Patrick's Day and used at Santa Rosalia and Ojinaga.

In September 1942, the El Paso HERALD-POST reported Madero's home-made cannon and the Blue Whistler had, again, gone to war – donated to one of Uncle Sam's scrap drives.

Two images of the presentation are shown, including the reverse of one of the cards with its informative message. The third image shows the gun crew at practice.



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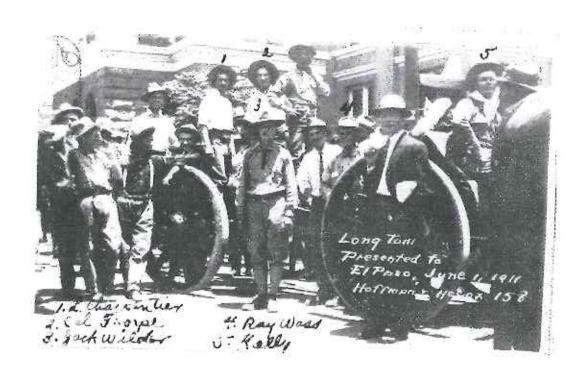
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Mexican Coins - Varietype

By Dave Busse, C-58

I first became aware of the numismatic aspects of Mexico in 1978. Like many others, I had been trying to collect US coins but was frustrated because my financial situation did not allow me to purchase rare or even high-grade pieces unless they were extremely common. Those beautiful Seated Liberty dollars or the Flowing Hair cents were, quite simply, beyond my means. A good friend, Doctor Martin Hall was a History Professor at the University of Texas @ Arlington and a recognized authority on Mexico. He taught me about its history, people, economy, resources and geography to the point that I had, what I like to think, was an above average appreciation of that North American country on our southern border. One day, while talking coins, he showed me some of his Colonial Mexico silver pieces. What was to become an obsession began then and there. Martin helped mc understand that truly beautiful, historically significant and even rare Mexican coins, when you could find them, were often quite affordable. In addition, unlike US coins where every collectible piece was categorized and had a price that was usually, if not religiously determined by a Grey Sheet, there were many Mexican coins that seemed to have no established value. The primary determinant seemed to be what the seller was willing to accept and buyer was willing to pay. Aside from a few collector or dealer specialists, there were simply no reliable sources for determining the availability or worth of a particular Mexican coin or series outside the 20th Century.1

I began reading everything I could find about Mexican coins, devouring the books of Pradeau (the reprint), Buttrey-Hubbard, and Utberg. In my spare time I prowled the coin shops both in Texas and other states (my real job involved extensive travel) and found that most US dealers including those who handled world coins didn't seem to be overly interested in either Mexican coins or books about them. For example, my first literary coup was counted in a Little Rock, Arkansas coin shop. I bought an autographed First Edition of Pradeau's Numismatic History of Mexico From the Pre-Colombian Epoch to 1823 and the Catalogo De Los Reales De A Ocho Españoles by Jose Dc Yriarte Oliva and Leopoldo Lopez-Chavez Sanchez (commonly referred to as an Yriarte) for \$40. From then on, I never went into a coin shop without asking if the owner had any books on Mexican coins that were for sale. I found a first edition of Robert I. Nesmith's Coinage of the First Mint of the Americas at Mexico City 1536-1572 in El Paso and I still use that one as my reference. In addition, I became a frequent participant at local (meaning the State of Texas) auctions, such as those held by the Texas Numismatic Association when it chose to dispose of duplicate items from its library. Once I bought a little known and (as I was to find out later) a quite rare work by Nesmith on Nuevo Reino cobs. However, that same day I managed to give it to a friend who shall remain nameless because he wanted it and used the argument that I didn't need it because I collected only Mexico.

For me, collecting by type was a decision made early on because I knew that my financial situation limited me from acquiring everything that came along. Actually it was a genuine stroke of luck, as most experienced Mexican coin collectors know, that even if you have the funds to allow you to purchase at will, that does not assure you that you'll ever be able

to own certain coins. Another reason for thinking type was I liked Mexican coins from every era. It seemed each had its own special allure that linked me to a specific time in the past. In addition, I was fascinated by high-grade examples. To this day I still wonder how a dos reales that is over four centuries old managed to remain in mint state for all those years. We collectors are forever grateful for those usually nameless individuals who, regardless of the reasons, managed to preserve those "priceless" pieces of history. Research and reality soon taught me that completing an entire series in uncirculated condition was largely a pipe dream. In fact assembling a complete series in any cra prior to the 20th Century was a time consuming and difficult endeavor. As any Mexican numismatist can attest to, collecting the Carlos y Jauna (C&J) or the Philip Π series by MA (Mintmark, Assayer) or any of the dated series from Philip III through the Republic Decimal period by DAM (Date, Assayer, Mintmark) is, at the very least, a daunting task. Moreover, in more than one instance, it's all but impossible. If one chooses to add varieties, the job - and you'd better believe its work - becomes even more formidable. A good friend of mine dedicated nearly twenty years to the task of assembling a collection of Republic ocho reales (8Rs) by DAM and varieties, a fair number of which are not listed in the Dunigan-Parker work RESPLANDORES. He came remarkably close and if you'd like to send a sympathy card in care of me, I'll see that he gets it.

As stated in the opening paragraph, when I first started collecting, my resources were such that I was forced to be selective because I was not able then, nor now, to buy a particular piece just because it was available and would fit into my collection. Also, I decided that because it was a hobby and not worth going into serious debt over there would be times that I would pass on some coins that would have been welcome additions. Therefore, even today my collection has large gaps that will probably (barring a LOTTO win) never be filled. As a result of not buying everything offered some sellers ceased to contact me about particular coins that had come onto the market. I was not always in their loops and that took away from my efforts to increase my knowledge. I found that to be unfortunate because a numismatist, and I consider myself to be one, doesn't have to possess a coin in order to appreciate it. The numismatist can be satisfied just to see it (good photographs or scans do nicely, and digital photographs enable us to view coins in ways that were never before possible) or at least know of its existence. Please don't think I am being too critical because I truly understand that business is business. It takes time and effort to find a rare and or desirable coin, and if there is little chance of a sale, pragmatism usually prevails. Out of a desire to know more, I became a small dealer, primarily via mail. For me it was mostly because I wanted to enlarge the number of people that I knew or dealt with who had an interest in Mexican numismatics. One great thing about Mexican Numismatics is that there are several collectors who are true experts, either on the broad spectrum of Mexican coins or in a particular area. Of those I've met, nearly all have been more than willing to pass on knowledge they have gained through hard work and dedication. One who stands head and shoulders above most of us is Clyde Hubbard. Aside from being a foremost authority on Mexican Numismatics, he is the quintessential gentleman and scholar. His unselfishness and genuine desire to help others learn more about Mexican Numismatics inspired me to commit to sharing any general or specific information that I might obtain - either through my own study or from others who are likeminded - about Mexican coins. He caused me to make it my primary

numismatic goal to increase the overall knowledge of all those associated with Mexican Numismatics. There is no substitute for knowledge, and I believe that the greater the number of astute collectors, the more likely the chance that Mexican coins will be bought and sold for their true worth.

Everyone understands that money is always necessary, but it's intriguing to know that having a large amount of money does not assure that a person (collector or dealer) who desires a certain coin can acquire it. Some coins, may not exist while others may never be offered for sale or they may not come on the market while an individual is in the collecting mode. In addition to having monetary resources, a collector of Mexican coins must also possess and be willing to expend time. With more than one series, if he or she doesn't expect to live for another three or four decades, then in all probability, at least some goals will have to be lowered. As an example of what I'm talking about let me relate an experience I had in the mid-1990s. I was at the shop of a friend and dealer when he went into another room for a few minutes. Upon returning he handed me a Luis I 8Rs, Mo 1724 D Redondo. After I put my eyes back into my head, I asked if he was at liberty to tell me where it had come from. He responded by saying it had been purchased in London a few weeks earlier, and prior to then it had been in a safety deposit box since 1947. Such anecdotes are by no means uncommon, and I'm sure every serious collector has a similar tale or two. I mention the story in order to emphasize that before one begins collecting it is a good idea to become as familiar with the coins he or she plans to collect as possible. Never were the words, "Buy the book before you buy the coin", more applicable than when one is collecting Mexican coins. Every series seems to have at least one coin - and sometimes several - that just never shows up and you must take that into consideration before deciding to concentrate on a particular denomination or series.

I usually tell others that I collect Mexican coins by type, but that statement nearly always requires a follow up explanation, for there is considerable debate as to what constitutes a Type coin in Mexican Numismatics. R. Scott Carlton tells us that "TYPE" has two separate definitions first it is "A classification of coins by their metal, denomination, nationality, and principle devices. Major symbolic devices such as a coat of arms, the effigy, and the presence or absence of key mottoes are all determining factors. A variety is a minor die variation within a given type." A secondary definition of type is "As an investment term, type coin refers to the least expensive dates and mintmarks within a type." The bold face type was done intentionally as the definition of a variety plays a big role, especially when collecting Mexican coins "by Type" because the term "Type" can be, and often is, interpreted in several ways.

For example, if one was to acquire one specimen of each denomination of the known C&J coins would that be considered a type collection? What about one of each denomination of both the Early Series and the Late Series? Or would one have to have one of one denomination, say the cuatro reales (4Rs) with each assayer's initial? And what decision process do you use to determine if a die variation is minor or significant? According to the above definition, a minor variation would make a specific coin a Variety, but a major variance would cause it to be a Type. What about die design differences such as the Three Bars or Three Dots. Are those minor or major variants? If

you consider them to be major, then you would have to acquire two separate 3Rs in order to have a Type Set of them. And you thought finding one of those three bit (the equivalent of $37\% \phi$) pieces was hard! Moreover, if you decide to go with a recognized authority like Nesmith, be aware that he lists five different tres reales, but doesn't refer to them as either Varieties or Types². As one way to demonstrate what can be meant by a Type Set, let's look at what appears to be a fairly simple series from Colonial Mexico, the Portrait 8Rs of Carlos III.

We chose it because we believe that the Portrait 8Rs of Carlos III would constitute a Type according to the above definition. Moreover, when collecting 16th, 17th, or 18th Century Mexico the numismatist has only to worry about one mint, Mexico City. Oops, did we forget Nuevo Guatemala? Though there is some debate, many consider Guatemala and Mexico together because prior to their independence from Spain they were both part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain3. However, for the purpose of this article, we will concentrate on Mexico City alone. Beginning in 1772, the Portrait design was introduced. Replacing the classic Pillar style, the mint began producing pieces that showed the bust of the current Spanish king on the obverse with the legend reading • DEI • GRATIA • 1772 • CAROLUS • III •. On the reverse there was a crowned Coat of Arms (COA) with a lion in the upper right and lower left quadrants and a castle in the lower right and upper left quadrants. In the center of the COA were three fluers di lis and at the bottom center a pomegranate. Two pillars with a ribbon entwined around each flanked the shield. On the left ribbon was the word PLUS and on the right ribbon was the word VLTRA. The legend read • HISPAN • ET IND • REX • M • 8R • F • M •. For the first year and part of the second, the mintmark and the assayers' initials F. M. (F for Francisco de Rivera and M for Manuel de Rivera) were upside down in relation to the rest of the legend. During 1773, the mint changed the mintmark and assayers' initials to the same orientation as the remainder of the legend. So we are faced with a decision, would this constitute a type, a variety or, as some claim, an error? One other consideration would be the changes in 1777 and 1783. The year 1777, shows two different sets of assayers' initials, F. M. (above) and then F. F. the second F standing for Francisco Arance Cobos. That continued until 1783, when part of the year the mint produced coins with the initials of F. F. Then for the remainder of the year and until the series ended in 1789, the initials were F. M. (F for Francisco Arance Cobos and the M for Mariano Rodriguez). Finally, there is the date 1789, Carlos died in 1788 and so 1789 would be a posthumous issue, is that a type or a variety? This short and by no means complete review of what should be a straightforward series helps us understand what decisions the collector must make in order to decide what constitutes a type as opposed to a variety when referring to a specific Mexican coin,



CARLOUS III 8Rs - 1777 Mo F. F.

Before we get too far into analyzing whether a coin is a type or a variety, the reader should be aware that I am intentionally leaving out cobs, Pillars, Carlos IIII, Fernando VII, and War of Independence. It is not because I dislike or lack an appreciation of those coins or series, rather it's that time and space limit my ability to adequately deal with them in an article of this size. Maybe they will be the basis for future articles. That being said let us proceed to another "short" series, usually referred to as Iturbide.



8R ITURBIDE 1822 Mo J. M. Cross on Crown Variety

The first thing one must do is to determine what constitutes *Iturbide* coinage of Mexico. As most folks who study Mexican history know, on January 5, 1822 the newly formed Mexico formalized its claim to the territory of *Capitana General de Guatemala* which had been a part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain. That huge land area encompassed the modern republics of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua as well as what is now the Mexican State of Chiapas. In all that territory, only the Province of Honduras produced provisional coins that are considered to be *Iturbide*. Presently we know of three issues, one from Comayagua and two from Tegucigalpa. All are silver, in the denomination of 2Rs and dated 1823. Needless to say, they are rare. The Province of Nueva Viscaya (present day States of Durango and Chihuahua) largely took up the northwestern part of the First Empire. There during *Iturbide's* reign the mint at Durango produced two copper issues. They were the *octavo* or eighth *real* (1/4R) struck in 1821, 1822 and 1823; and the *cuarto* (also referred to as *quarto*, *cuartilla*, *cuartillo*³) or quarter

real (1/4R) minted in 1822. The remainder of what is considered Iturbide coinage was struck in Mexico City during 1822 and 1823. The silver issues include a medio real (1/2R), an un real (1R), a dos reales (2Rs) and the 8Rs. Betts claims that none of the 8Rs are rare though he does not list all of the known types/varieties of either the 8Rs or the 8Es4. Buttrey-Hubbard (BH) lists ten different 8Rs that are referred to as varieties. Clyde Hubbard informed me that he has identified forty, that's right, forty separate varieties. One could argue that nine are technically types (as is done with the 8Es5) because of significant die design differences. In fact Krause Publications considers most of the 8Rs to be Types rather than varieties. The gold issues consisted of a medio onza (4Es) and two onzas (8Es). The most noticeable difference on the 8Es reverse is an eagle on a nopal cactus above a group of arms on Type I, while Type II has a smaller eagle within a border that resembles a coat of arms. The Type I Bust of the 8Es is similar to the one on Variety 1A of the 8Rs while the Bust on Type II is similar to Variety 4C and 5C of the 8Rs. This is an example of where the Type collector has to acquire what amounts to an entire series. If the different 8Rs are considered Types like the 8Es then collecting one of each type would produce a collection that would be missing only one 1/2R, one 2Rs and one 8Rs (4C) as those were all produced in both 1822 and 1823. All other gold and silver issues from Mexico City were struck in either 1822 or 1823, but not both years.

When trying to acquire Federal or State Coppers, the task of determining Type is usually a little simpler (it's a good idea to keep in mind that simple things are not always easy, especially when collecting Mexican coins). The problem, and it's beginning to sound like a mantra, is that there are several that are truly rare and in all probability unobtainable in high grade. For example, other than the one pictured in BH, have you ever seen an *octavo* (%R) 1829 M° A. in high grade, or how about an 1858 Durango *octavo* (Wreathless or KM-346 Type) in EF? Those are just two of many Mexican coins having the proviso of, when you find them you buy them, assuming you can afford them. You can worry about upgrading later. Again though, decisions have to be made as to what is a type versus what is a variety.



OCTAVO 1850 M^O

If the series is large it becomes even more complicated. Think about a chronologically long one that was produced by at least fourteen different mints, such as the Republic 8Rs. If one were to say "I collect Republic 8Rs by Type," he or she would probably have to explain (Sound familiar?) what that statement means. For example, does the collector consider that the Hookneck and the Upright Facing Eagles are separate types or are they

simply varieties? If one deems that a different style or design of the eagle is a type then the Republic 8Rs have many types from that determinate alone. If one studies a sufficient number examples he/she will find there are at least five different eagles on the 1845 8Rs from Guadalupe y Calvo. While other mints seldom show that many in a single year, over time nearly every Casa De Moneda exhibits several different eagle styles. I'm not sure that anyone has ever tried to assemble a set of Republic 8Rs by eagle design, but it definitely would be an interesting and challenging pursuit.



8R Hookneck 1824 MO J. M. (Hubbard-O'Harrow Variety MO-20, MR-20)

The same could be said for mintmarks, how about putting together a four coin set of 8Rs from the San Luis Potosi Mint consisting of the P¹, ¹P, the ¹ above the P, and the P alone. While probably not as difficult as collecting the two coin set consisting of the 1828 and 1829 8Es from the Estado De Mexico or Tlalpan Mint, it would not be something you could accomplish easily or quickly. How about different assayers or Liberty Caps? I could go on, but you get the point. So, before going out and buying coins it would be best to ask, "What am I trying to do?"

With the Republic 8Rs I have answered that question by saying I am trying to obtain at least one from each of the three mints that produced a Hookneck Eagle. In addition I am trying to acquire one of each mint that produced an Upright Facing Eagle. As another criteria, I am trying to acquire one of each kind of mintmark, e. g., the @, the O, the habove the O, and the Oh for Oaxaca. The final requirement is that each example is either mint state or in as high a grade as I can find. Needless to say, I have a few to go because I've only been at it for about twenty years. I'm still not sure that what I'm trying to do is really called, but for lack of a better term, and so that I don't get grief from friends who claim to be either a Type or a Variety specialist, I call it Varietype collecting. I have learned that trying to do the same with the 4Rs and the 2Rs is more difficult than with the 8Rs, especially when trying to acquire high-grade examples. Has anyone out there ever seen a Guadahape y Calvo cuatro reales in AU (I'm not sure there is an UNC specimen extant) or a mint state Hermosillo 2Rs?

The brief and ill-fated attempt to make Maximiliano Emperor of Mexico did result in a short series of coins that are none the less challenging. Does anyone reading this article have or know of a mint state 5¢ struck at Potosi? Surprisingly, the Maximiliano 20 pesos gold piece struck only in Mexico City in 1866, is easier to find in UNC than two of the silver un peso coins, the 1866 Guanajuato very, very difficult in locate in mint state -

and the 1866 Mexico City Small Letters Variety. There are some who believe the Small Letters Variety is a pattern, but more than one well respected Mexican numismatist believes that it was an early regular issue because a large percentage of those surviving (the mintage is unknown) are circulated. If they really were patterns it seems unlikely that they would have circulated much, if at all. The unpopularity of Maximiliano caused the Republican government to recall/confiscate all IMPERIO MEXICANO coins as soon as it had regained unquestioned control. Thus, few if any of the silver pesos circulated for more than a year or two. Why or how would the patterns have entered circulation, could it have been out of necessity? Many lost all they had in that unfortunate and turbulent time,



1866 MO Un Peso Small Letters Variety

The task of collecting by Varietype starts to become a little easier when one gets to the Decimal coinage of the Republic. That statement is not meant to imply that collecting any series of the Republic Decimals is easy. It simply means that there are fewer Varietypes. For example, the *Pesos de Juarista* or *Pesos de Balanza*⁷ (in the United States they are usually called *Balanzas* or Balance Scales) were produced between 1869 and 1873, and by **only** nine different mints. So compared to the time span that Republic 8Rs were struck and the number of mints that produced them obviously, there was less opportunity for varieties in the *Pesos de Balanza* series. The same could be said of the five Republic *Un Centavo* series, especially since there are two one-year types (one of those was produced at two different mints) and one two-year type series. Another significant reason is that Decimal coins (unlike the *real* coins which were struck using punched dies) were minted by using engraved hubs to produce the working dies so there was very little if any variation between the mints/coins except for the mintmark, assayer's initials and the dates.



50¢ 1869 M⁰ C

It cannot be overstated that when collecting Mexico just because a series is short does not mean it is easy to acquire. How about the Hookneck *un real* series, that consists of only one coin so it should be a piece of cake, right? Here's another eye opener, ask any Republic 10¢ collector, how long it took him or her to complete the five coin set (see BII, p. 139) of the Eagle/Wreath Type struck between 1863 and 1870? By the way, my research shows there is a C^A 1870, 0/9 though it could be that all the Chihuahuas of that year are a 0/9.



10¢ 1863 S. L. P.

This has been a brief journey into one area of the wonderful world that makes up Mexican Numismatics. It was my intent to generate enough interest in the question, what constitutes a Type versus a Variety, so that others would be motivated to offer their opinions. Thanks for your time. I apologize for the scan quality of the pictured coins, my expertise with the scanner does not extend to getting the color just right or eliminating the bright sports.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Even the modern coins had several items that adhered to no catalog price. For example, see if any serious collector or dealer specializing in Mexican coins will sell you a true Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) 1911 Short Ray Variety *peso* for anywhere near catalog

value, and if it is proof-like, one suspects that the price at which the owner would be willing to part with it would increase dramatically.

- ² Carlton, R. Scott, THE INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPÆIC DICTIONARY of NUMISMATICS, Krause Publications, Jola, WI, 1996, p.285.
- ³ Nesmith, Robert, I., THE COINAGE OF THE FIRST MINT OF THE AMERICAS AT MEXICO CITY 1536-1572, (Numismatics Notes and Monograms No. 131), The American Numismatic Society, New York (printed in Germany), 1955, pp. 66-68.
- ⁴ Gilboy, Frank F., THE MILLED COLUMINARIOS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA - Spanish American Pillar Coinage, 1732 to 1772, Prairie Wind Publishing, INC., Regina, Canada
- ⁵ Beals, Gary, Numismatic Terms of Spain and Spanish America, by the author, 1966, p. 20.
- ⁶ Betts, Benjamin, MEXICAN IMPERIAL COINAGE: The Medals and Coins of Augustine I (Iturbide), Maximilian, The French Invasion, And of The Republic During The French Intervention, by the author 1899 pp. 16-19.
- ⁷ Buttrey, T. V., & Hubbard, Clyde, A Guide Book of Mexican Coins 1822 To Date, Sixth Edition, Krause Publications, Iola, WI, 1992, p. 27.
- ⁸ Goodyear, Russell H., Republic of Mexico: Decimal Coinage 1868 1905, A Pocket-Size, Annotated Checklist with Pricing Information, Latin American Press, Virginia, MN, 1992, p. 79.

CHOPMARKED MEXICAN CAP AND RAY 8 REALES

By James Sherrell, R-194

Much has been written on the chopmarked Mexican cap and rays (1823 – 1897). These coins are probably the most common crowns to find with chopmarks. The Republic of Mexico prohibited the export of bullion, because of that fact, all silver was exported as 8 reales. Mr. Rose commented in his book, <u>CHOPMARKS</u> that collecting a full set of Chopmarked 8 reales would be a lifetime work. To my knowledge no one has ever collected a full set of 8 reales with, or without chops. Many varieties are unique, or only a handful of specimens exist.

This series was minted for over 75 years, with 14 different mints (many of these mints used multiple mintmarks in a single year) and many different assayers worked at the sane mint in different years and many times multiple assayers worked in the same year. Depending on how you count the series there are over 800 Date, Mintmark, and Assayer combinations! Throw in the overdates, errors, etc., and it gets really confusing!

Several Mintmarks and year combinations are known <u>only</u> with chops. Many more are common with chopmarks and are rare without chopmarks. See <u>Resplendores</u> by Dunnigan and Parker. They list and show many chopmarks. Chopmarks will either increase or decrease the value of a coin depending on the rarity of the host coin.

The Mexican collector shuns 8 reales with chopmarks, while the American collectors, for the most part are indifferent. I have been collecting Cap and Rays since 1997 and I have been interested in them from the beginning. I try to get an example that is not chopped, however I also have many doubles with interesting chops, and many coins in my collection are only chopped. I always try to check the auctions, price lists, local, national and regional coin shows to add to my collection and base of information.

Chopmarked portrait 8 reales of Colonial Mexico are also common, especially portraits of the 1790's and 1800's.

Early date (1820's through the 1850's) Republican Cap and Rays 8 reales with chopmarks are very scarce to rare. No doubt, the English/Chinese opium wars had a lot to do with this. However, this does not explain why they are not available with Philippine or other Asian chopmarks. I believe that the young Republic gathered and exported the colonial coins for two reasons. 1. The Chinese preferred the well-established Portraits. 2. The young Republic wanted to keep the Republica Mexicana coins to help establish credibility and give identity to the citizens of the new Republic.

I have assembled a list of the cap and ray 8 reales that I know with chopmarks. All of these I have either seen in person, or in print. Counter-stamped 8 reales are not listed as they are not chopmarks in the true sense. That is a subject of a book written be Clyde Hubbard.

This I am sure is only a partial list of chopmarked coins, and I am hoping that my fellow collectors will check their collections and let me know of any additions they can make to this list.

Since I have seen about 600 varieties with chopmarks, it was decided to list the coins that have not been encountered with chops. This list is over 200 coins, but hopefully with the help of our membership we should be able to narrow this list down considerably. There are many "holes" in this list that I am reasonably certain should exist with chopmarks, but I have not seen them. Just because a coin is not on this list does not make it rare. Please contact me directly and I will add your coin to the list.

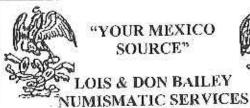
There is a club for collectors interested in chopmarks. They publish a quarterly newsletter. For further information contact Everett R. Jones, 1947 Gothon St., Chula Vista, CA 91913.

MEXICAN CAP 7 RAY 8 REALES WITHOUT CHOPMARKS 07 - 2002

- ALAMOS 79DL-85-87-88-89-90 & 91 It is easy to find this mint with chops from the 60"s and 70"s as Almost all production was exported.
- CATORCE This coin was only minted in 1863 and is rare and in demand. It known with chopmarks, but is rarer with chopmarks than without.
- CHIHUAHUA 31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-47-48-49-50-51-53-54-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-67-68JG-73MM-77JM-77GR-77AV-80MM-81 & 82.
- CULICAN 46-47-48-49-50-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-64-65-81-84-91-& 92,
- DURANGO 24-25-26-27-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-58-59-60-61-62-78-82-84- & 92JP.
- ESTADO DE MEXICO There are no known chopmarked coins from this short lived mint 1828, 1829 & 1830.
- GUADALAJARA 25-26-27-28-30-31-32-33-34-35-37-38-39-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-57-59-74IC-77IC-82FS-82TB-84AH & 90.
- GUADALUPE Y CALVO Coins from this low volume mint are very much in demand, as it minted coins only from 1844 through 1852, and only 1846, and 1848 are known with chopmarks.
- GUANAJUATO 24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-42-43-44-45-46-47-49-50-51-56-57-59-61-75-78M-83SB-86 7 88.
- HERMOSILLO 61-62-83-64-85-87-88 & 95. Most of this mint's coins from the 1860"s and 1870"s were exported to the Orient.
- MEXICO CITY 23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-40-41-42-43-45-46-48-49-50-51-54-58-59-63CH 7 90MH.
- OAXACA This mint produced coins from 1858 through 1893. Coins from this mint are rare with chopmarks. Only 89-90-91 and 92 are listed with chops.
- POTOSI 27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-49-50-52-55-56-58-60-61-(61 P no I with chop) 62-63RO-75-82- 7 85LC.
- ZACATECAS 25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-46-47-48-56MO-58-59VL-60-61-62-76JS-86FZ-87-(Znos) & 90.

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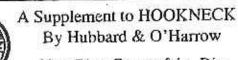
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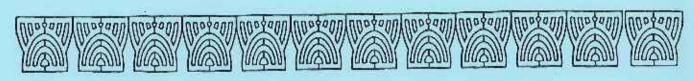


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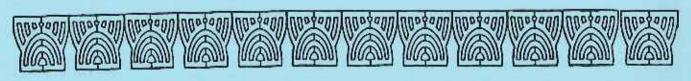
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