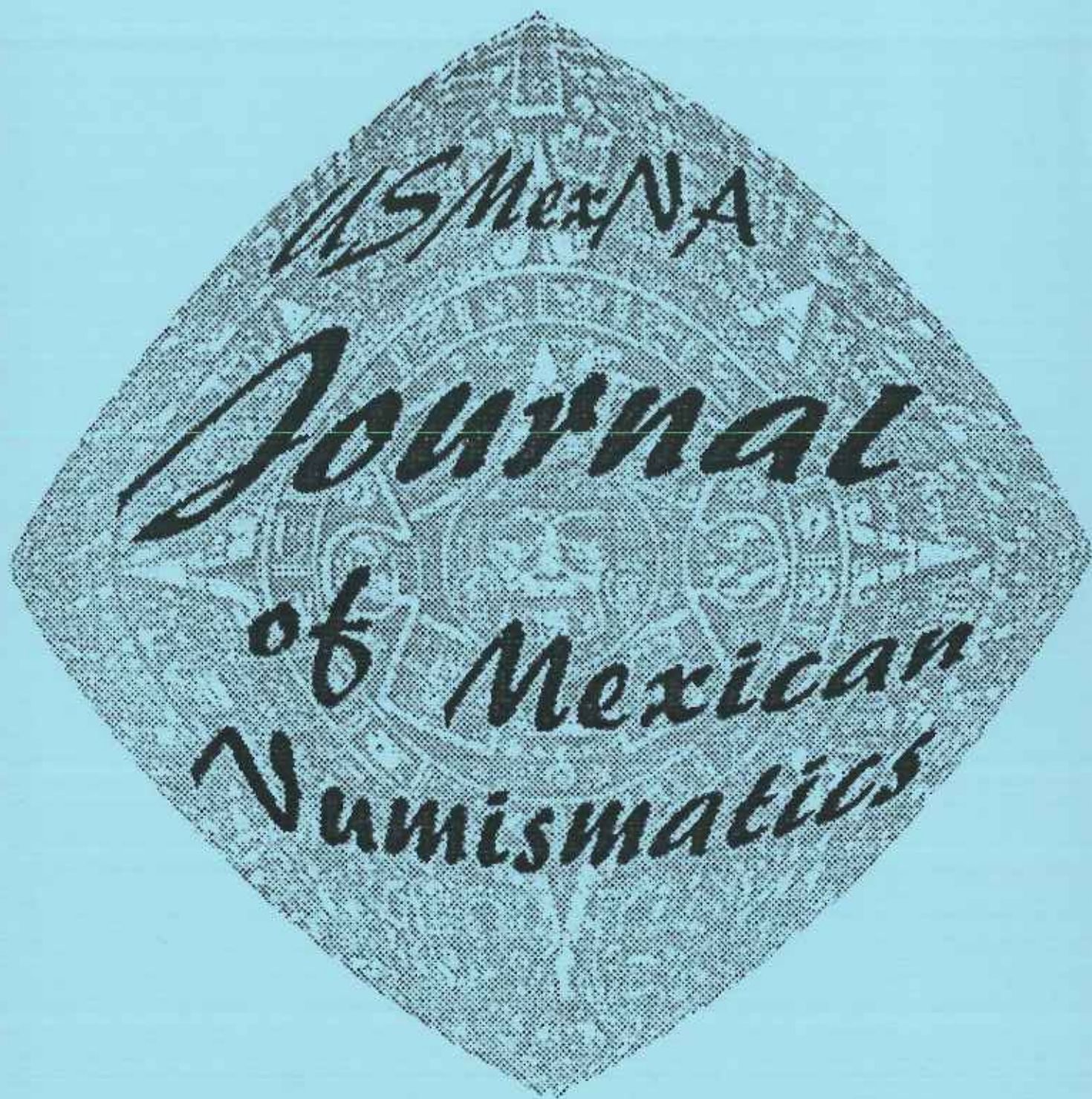


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2002 50th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION MEDAL STRUCK AT THE MEXICO MINT IN SILVER WITH A MINTAGE OF 52

THE THREE NORTH AMERICAN MINT DIRECTORS MEET AT MEXICO CITY CONVENTION

The three Directors of the Casa de Moneda de Mexico, the Royal Canadian Mint, and The United States Mint held a news conference preceding the opening of the 50th Anniversary International Numismatic Convention in Mexico City. This is the first time the three North American mints have female heads and the first time that they met publicly. The opening statements by all three directors addressed the need of cooperation between these mints, and the need to expand the collector base within all three countries. The press conference was well attended by collectors and the public, with several local television and news print organizations covering the event.

Alberto Hidalgo, President of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico, thanked all those in attendance for coming and spoke of the convention being significant in that it is the Sociedad's fiftieth Anniversary. The actual anniversary is September 11th but, out of respect for the United States, the Sociedad did not want to hold the convention on that date.

The Casa de Moneda de Mexico Director, Dr. Georgina Kessel, welcomed everyone to this event and discussed closer relations between the three mints in the future, and the need to increase efforts to bring new collectors into the numismatic hobby.

United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsan Fore in her presentation thanked Dr. Kessel for having her here in Mexico, and spoke along the same lines as Dr. Kessel on the need to reach out to new collectors as has been done with the U. S. quarter program.

The Royal Canadian Mint President Danielle Wetherup emphasized the need for a close relationship between the mints and increasing the efforts towards new collectors in all three countries.

Preceding the news conference, an Inauguration breakfast was held that was well attended. Following the press conference, the official opening was held with the three Mint Directors taking part. Then the directors toured the bourse floor, visiting with the large crowd of collectors and dealers in attendance.

This special event was the largest numismatic convention the Sociedad has hosted. There were fifty tables and twenty stands of displays by banks, mint suppliers, fine antiques and even a wine display with wine tasting. Collectors from the United States attended in numbers that have not been seen for many years. The previous conventions had been held at the Del Prado Hotel; this event was moved to "El Centro de Negocios de la Comercio de la Ciudad de Mexico," the Convention Center of Mexico City, to allow more room.

The Sociedad was founded in September 1952 with fifty one charter members. The only charter member still active is the renowned Mexican numismatic expert, Clyde Hubbard, who was in attendance.

Prior to the opening on Thursday, there was a trip to the Casa de Moneda de Mexico facility in San Luis Potosi, and a trip to the Banco de Mexico's bill factory. On Wednesday, there was a trip to the Apartado Mint Museum, to see the restoration efforts that have converted the old mint into a wonderful museum.

The first ever youth educational forum drew thirty- five young numismatists, who were given coins and other mementos. American Numismatic Association President John Wilson addressed the youths and presented them with other mementos.

There was an educational forum on Saturday with Alex Cortina presenting a talk, and the first "Mexican Numismatic Roundtable" was held with representatives from the sponsors, the Sociedad and the United States Mexican Numismatic Association. A Mexican coin board project was discussed and approved. Other methods were discussed to bring new and younger collectors into the Mexican field. Discussions such as this will be held at other conventions within the United States.

There were several exhibits of coins, decorations and other numismatic subjects for public viewing. Much of the material in these exhibits had not been seen publicly for a long time.

The Casa de Moneda de Mexico hosted a reception at the Apartado Mint for the mint directors and a small group of officials. Invited from the United States were ANA President John Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Joe Flores, Jerry Morgan, Summer Douglas and Don Bailey. Following a special tour of the mint and museum, the sixty invitees enjoyed a very delicious meal in the center of the smelting area of the old mint. Your editor was very impressed.

Two auctions were held during the convention, the first by Alberto Hidalgo on Thursday, and the second with two sessions on Saturday by Duane Douglas. Prices were strong and active floor and mail bidding was reported.

A dinner dance was held on Friday evening, with much pomp and several speeches by the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico's President Alberto Hidalgo. All of the previous Presidents were in attendance. All praised not only the longevity of the Sociedad but also the close relationship between the Sociedad and United States dealers and collectors. Some of these relationships span over 35 years.

ANA President John Wilson presented the Sociedad a membership in the ANA and spoke of a closer relationship between the two organizations. There were door prizes, good food and music. As always, everyone had a good time.

The bourse floor activity was spotty at times, but most dealers reported that they did very well. The thrill of the search made your editor's heart race while he was on the bourse floor. Most attendees rated the convention a huge success.

The Casa de Moneda de Mexico had the "Ballerina" coining press in the lobby and special medals were struck on the press and sold by the Sociedad to the public. These medals were in brass, 20mm diameter. One hundred pieces were struck in silver. There was also a large Convention medal struck by the mint commemorating the 50th anniversary, of which four pieces were struck in gold and 152 in silver.

We commend the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico for its efforts that brought this event to its happy result. Congratulations and thanks to President Alberto Hidalgo for all of his hard work.

SIGHTS FROM THE CONVENTION

(Photos by Joe Flores)



Left to Right; U. S. Director Henerietta Holsan Fore, Mexico Director Georgina Kessel, Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico President Alberto Hidalgo, and Royal Canadian Mint President Danielle Wetherup at the press conference.

DIGNITARIES ADDRESS THE PRESS CONFERENCE



**Casa de Moneda de Mexico
Director Dra. Georgina Kessel**



**U.S. Mint Director Henerieta
Holsan Fore**



**Royal Canadian Mint
President Danielle Wethrup**



**Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico
President Alberto Hidalgo**



A real standout in any group; Clyde Hubbard, the only remaining charter member of the Sociedad still active in numismatics at the press conference



The three North American Mint Directors officially open the 50th Anniversary International Numismatic Convention

**Mr & Mrs Rogelio Charteris
Reyes representing President
Alberto Hidalgo at the mint's
reception.**

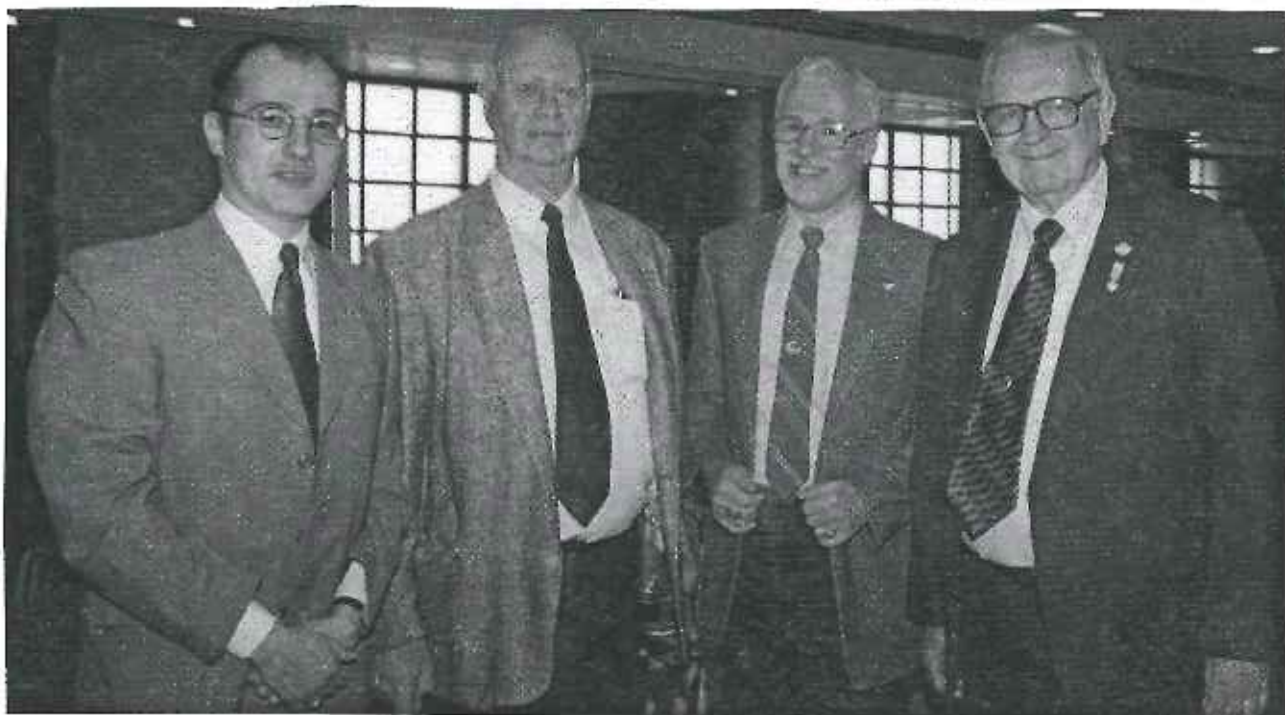


**Awaiting the official
Opening of the convention**





Ignacio A. Pineda Gonzalez of the Banco de Mexico with the three Mint Directors during the reception



Lt. to Rt. Dr. Luis M. Gomez Wulschner, Duane Douglas, Winborne Springs, and Don Bailey

THE REVOLUTION CORNER

By Joe Flores, C-2

OAXACA 2 PESO

I am happy to report to the members a great new find on a rare copper coin, the first one I have ever seen or handled.

The green book, *Mexican Revolutionary Coinage*, by Hugh S. Guthrie and Merrill Bothamley, better known as the "G.B." book, notes the striking of a Oaxaca 2 peso on a copper planchet as number G.B. 358. Neil Utberg also mentions this coin as Oax. 21. Howland Wood catalogs this same coin as number 153. Sr. Carlos Gaytan mentions this coin. None of the authors note whether this copper specimen coin is any different from its counterpart, the silver coin known as G.B. 357. They all agree they have not seen or handled this copper coin. So I will assume the copper dies are identical to the silver coins as in **photo #1**.

This report is about a copper planchet coin struck with a different obverse (bust side). This same obverse die was used in the striking of the large 31 mm 20 Centavos series. It is a very common and well-known die, shown in *La Ventana* book by Woodworth and Flores as Oax. 56, or G.B. 334.

This reverse die was used in the striking of both coins in this article, and it is the same one that was used to strike Oax. 113 in *La Ventana* or G.B. 357 and with the same corded edge. See **photo #2**.

We invite readers' comments on this coin or other Revolution Corner items. They may be sent care of this *Journal* or to:

Joe Flores
P. O. Box 4484
Stockton, CA 95204-4604
Fax (209) 462-3157

Photos page 10

Footnote:

After a review of my article on the Chihuahua Parral Peso, GB80, that appeared in the June *Journal*, a clarification is necessary. This will be forthcoming soon. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.



PHOTO #1



PHOTO #2

NEW MEMBERSHIP LISTING TO BE PUBLISHED

A new membership listing is being prepared. If you were not listed in the last issue, or there have been changes from that information, **PLEASE** let me know. I can incorporate only those changes you send me.

For newer members, this is an annual listing that shows **ONLY** names, telephone or e-mail addresses, and collecting interest. We do not publish addresses for security reasons. Please sign your listing request.

GUANAJUATO CUARTILAS OFFICIALLY "VOID"

By Claudio Verrey C-112



Some twenty years ago I bought a Guanajuato 1857 fourth real with a cut in the middle because it was struck in copper, and I needed one in this metal for my collection.

Ten years later, I bought another one with the same characteristics but this time I noticed that both coins had flan problems. Perhaps, I thought, that was the explanation of the slash, and it was made at the mint with the purpose of demonetizing them. Finally a year ago I purchased a third one, like the others. Now I can state that the cut was official

I am confident that all these coins were set apart with the idea of melting them to make new flans but, fortunately for us collectors, an error was made and they escaped the mint.

Claudio Verrey
Apartado Postal 1-864
Queretaro, Mexico, CP. 76001
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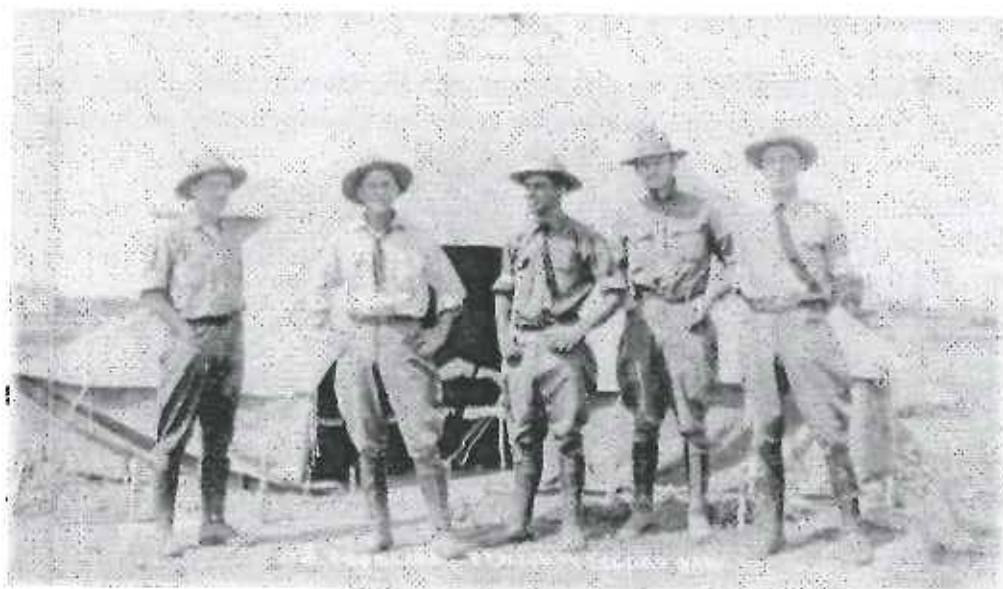
1998	Vol. II	No. III and No. IV
1999	Vol. III	No. I – No. IV
2000	Vol. IV	No. I – No. IV
2001	Vol. V	No. I – No. IV

WAR CORRESPONDENTS – COLUMBUS N. M.

By John O. Hardman C-103

American war correspondents have been covering the country's military actions since the American Revolution. They have never failed to go wherever necessary to bring home the news from the front. The Mexican revolution and the Columbus raid were no exceptions. Reporters and photographers arrived at the border to cover the events. Immediately after Pancho Villa's attack at Columbus, New Mexico, newsmen arrived at the little town. One of the correspondents was Webb Miller. Miller describes his time on the border in his autobiography, *I FOUND NO PEACE*, published by Simon and Schuster, Inc., NY in 1936. One sentence particularly interested me. "Sumner Blossom, Samuel t. Moore, Jack Harding, Phil McLaughlin, and I borrowed a small tent from the military authorities, and set it up on the bare desert." I always get a thrill when I can connect a story to one of my postcards. One

Such card in my collection is captioned "War Correspondents Columbus N. M., and shows Miller, McLaughlin, Harding, Moore, and a T. E. Hedland in front of the tent. Miller reported for the United Press; McLaughlin, the AP; Harding, the INS; Moore, the Springfield Union; and Hedland, the Boston Post.



OBVERSE AND REVERSE IN ANTIQUITY AND IN MEXICO

By T. V. Buttrey

I have suggested (*Journal of Mexican Numismatics* 5, 4 December 2001 7 – 9) that we really ought to pay attention to, and think about, the meaning of obverse and reverse in the Mexican Republic coinage. There is a similar obverse/reverse problem in the colonial coinage of Mexico. I approach it through some examples from antiquity.

Every coin is a document. Whatever its function as money it bears obverse and reverse types and legends intended to inform and to impress. The two faces of a coin have historically been presented as obverse/major and reverse/minor – and sometimes as sequential. Their order matters: the earliest coins, the 7th century BC electrum of Asia Minor had no proper reverse at all, just the indentation of a punch. It is interesting to find this hierarchy universally, in coins which are completely unrelated and of the most diverse periods and areas. Part of the point is that the two faces of the coin give the designer the opportunity to address two different subjects. A subject might be so extensive as to require both faces of the coin to express it – for example, the Roman imperial names and titles which begin on the one face and flow onto the other.

How do we distinguish the two faces of the Roman imperial coins? Most commonly they bear an imperial portrait and the portrait, for the Romans as for us (though not for everyone), is found on the most important face of the coin, the obverse. That face also normally bears the imperial names and accumulated titles, sometimes so full as to require that they be continued on to the other face of the coin – the reverse – if necessary.

Two portraits, and two legends, on opposite faces of the coin, raise a nice question. When Antony strikes *denarii* portraying Caesar and himself, each with appropriate titles, on the two faces of the coin, we have no difficulty in attributing the coin to Antony – Caesar was dead – and defining the obverse as the face bearing his own portrait. But that only has to do with the practical problem of production; on the *political* level the usual distinction between obverse and reverse is overridden, in the alleged equivalence of the assassinated Dictator, still hero to numberless Romans, with Antony who is trying to take over Caesar's position of power in a politically hostile world.

Or another pleasing example, the well-known *denarii* and tetradrachms of Antony and Cleopatra. Or should we say "of Cleopatra and Antony"? Since the denarius denomination is Roman, and the legends Latin, these coins are universally taken to be Antony's and are included in the corpus of Roman Republican coinage. But each face of the coin is independent of the other: the one portrays Antony, and announces Cleopatra and announces her power as Queen of Kings. Which is properly the obverse?

Their tetradrachms, in contrast, are an Eastern denomination, and the legends are in Greek: Cleopatra's announce her as the Queen of a newly reestablished Seleucid kingdom in Syria (thanks to Antony though it doesn't say so), while Antony's name and titles announce his Roman-based power of *triumvir* and conquering general. We conventionally exclude the coin from the Roman Republican corpus, but still read it as an Eastern

issue of Anthony rather than of Cleopatra, which may be wrong. The uncertainty arises because here again the conventional obverse/major and reverse/minor distinction is evaded, and that must have been deliberately intended.

All of this is great fun, because it challenges our preconceptions and makes us think more deeply about the coins and the circumstances of their creation. It is also a challenge to get things right. It is a fundamental error in the definition of the Mexican Republican coinage to take the eagle type as the reverse--I mean, to label it as such, contrary to its specific definition in Mexican law, where the position of the eagle was so defined, and still is, for a purpose. If one wants to exhibit and illustrate ones collection backwards, that is ones own choice. But we do not have the right to impose contrary definitions just out of personal preference.

As to the obverse/reverse problem in the colonial coinage of Mexico, it does not arise with the portrait coinage, which began in gold in 1732 and in silver in 1772. No one denies that the imperial portrait and legend mark the obverse. The earlier coinage and the silver Pillar issues of 1732-1772 bore no portrait, but the imperial legend was there, on the obverse. However, most recently, in the *Journal of Mexican Numismatics* (6.1 March-2002 15), Michael Ontko has reversed the faces of the Pillar dollar, causing the king's name to fall on the reverse. It has to be the other way around and all the catalogues and studies of Spanish imperial coinage published in Spain make that clear.

This raises an interesting question: what is it in our eye or our mind that finds an obverse in what is actually the reverse of the Pillar dollar? Are we attracted by the detail, e.g. is it because the USA coinage regularly bears the date on the obverse, and we are accustomed to that? Or it is that the reverse is so much more interesting, that the layout of the pillars and worlds strikes the eye as more pleasing and therefore more important? Why is it that we translate that interest into a definition of the coins themselves, rather than taking them as they were originally defined by their creators?

So, too, Kent Ponterio's article in the same issue of the *Journal*, "The Coinage of Mexico struck during the Reigns of Charles and Johanna," a most interesting and useful survey of their silver coinage. Again, the coins are all illustrated backwards. There is no doubt about it: the imperial name and titles, spread over the two faces of the coin, read properly CAROLVS ET IOHAN [N] A REG[E] S / HISPARIARVM ET INDIARVM, "Charles and Johanna rulers / of the Spains and the other Indies". That sequence cannot be read the other way around: there is plenty of documentary evidence to show that the word order implied in the illustrations of the article is improper.

There is more to this than just getting a legend in the right order. If anyone were to publish today a catalogue of US coins in which the face of the quarter dollar bearing the head of Washington were described as the reverse, we would think the author not just sloppy but irresponsible. But we have the same responsibility: to get things fundamentally right, rather than to rearrange the world to suit our prejudices.

It's not just a question of an abstract exactitude of definition: it has to do with how we view, and understand, the coin. By inverting the order of the faces we ignore what its producers thought was the most important information, while giving undue prominence to the less important (e.g. the mark of value on the coins of Charles and Johanna). By not attending to the correct reading of the coins we impoverish our own understanding of what they were intended to mean.

T. V. Buttrey

**A LOS DEFENSORES DE LA REPUBLICA, 21 – 22 De ABRIL 1914
VERACRUZ, with 21 ABRIL 1914 Bar.**



Previously unreported decoration from the United States incursion into Mexico in 1914.
Appears to be in silver.

RIM LETTERING ON EARLY LIBERTADS, 1982-1989

By Jack Vanderzyl

First of all I am not a trained, certified Numismatist, if there is such a thing. I might barely qualify as a part-time coin collector and am definitely not a Tom Clancy.

Being new to the Libertad series (having acquired my first one in April 2002), I was minutely examining two 1987's in an effort to determine what constituted the DD/Double die features. I had purchased one of them as a DD, with the seller claiming that there was some doubling on the date and other places. Now, he either had a different type of vision or the coin had corrected itself because, under high magnification, it was not detectable. I subsequently learned that the best (maybe the only) way to make this distinction was that the DD had a double decimal point in front of the 999. It so happened that the one purchased had the double decimal point. I informed the seller of this feature and he was elated, having never noticed it. I'm leaning to the belief that DD originally meant Double Decimal Point and was somehow perverted to Double Die.



Normal strike, 1 decimal point



D/D strike, double decimal point

I have digressed mightily from the title of this article so, for those of you still with me; we'll get back to it. While making the aforementioned examination, I had the two coins, both being DD's, on edge. I was casually looking at the rim lettering and wondering what to look at next, when it hit me. On one of them I could read the rim lettering normally (left to right), and on the other it was upside down and backward. Inquisitive as I am, this really got my interest so I launched into an investigation and found that all of the 1982-1989 Libertads share this feature.

What was truly astounding, of all the people I mentioned this to (some having dealt with Libertads for years) only about 1 in 7 was aware of this difference. On reflection, it's not too surprising since I had to be told of the DD on the 1987 before I noticed it.

Needless to say, there are two schools of thought. One might say that it's a minor difference done in the minting process and unimportant. However, the purist feels that if they're not the same they are different (inarguable logic) and in order to have a complete collection/set, minor though it may be, one must have one of each. I place myself in the purist camp, but the reader can make his own choice.

While I have you totally enthralled and on the edge of your chair, let me add a couple other discoveries and comments. For my records and to others I've mentioned this to, we classify them as Obverse Rim Lettering (ORL), and Reverse Rim Lettering (RRL), with ORL meaning: with coin on edge, Obverse (Eagle side) facing you, Rim Lettering can be read normally (Lt. to Rt.). RRL = opposite, or with Reverse, (Winged Liberty) facing you, Rim Lettering can be read normally. I don't know if this is the best nomenclature, but it's working so far.



Top: RRL, Bottom: ORL

I have a batch of UN Peso "Jose Morelos y Pavon" 1957 – 1967 series that exhibit this same difference in Rim Lettering. I have a strong hunch that all Mexican coin series with Rim Lettering will exhibit this feature that statistically it should be 50 – 50, which reports seem to confirm. Someone else will have to report on the proof coins minted during this period. I have only 2, 1986 and 2-1987, all of which are RRL.

It was also noted (with my limited inventory) that years 1982, 1983 and 1989 did not have a Decimal point in front of the 999, and the other years, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1988 did, and of course they 1987s have both, one and two decimal points.

Enjoy your Libertad collection.

Jack Vanderzyl, Fort Worth, Texas

XX



**50th Anniversary
convention favor.**



Jorge Mejia Hicto, R-230, in front of the Ballerina Press on which these were struck during the convention with the master of the Apartado mint's equipment, who has been at that mint as long as anyone can remember.

WHO WAS BRENNAN?

By

John O. Hardman, C-103

A postcard in my collection entitled "Americans with Insurrectos" shows fifteen rebels commanded by Red Lopez at the battle of Agua Prieta in early 1911.

The caption at the top of the card states, "They do not use machine guns around Brennan, so they can be noticed." The words "This is Brennan" appear above, and an arrow points to, one of the *insurrectos*. The meaning of the caption is confusing and open for interpretation.

The question "Who Was Brennan" was partially answered in an article that appeared in the May 16, 1911, issue of the El Paso *Herald*. J. Brennan was an Irish-American soldier of fortune who had served during the Boxer Rebellion in China and as a non-commissioned officer in the United State army in the Spanish-American War. Prior to joining the rebels at Agua Prieta, he traveled for an "Atlanta house." I assume that this indicates that he was a sales representative.

After the rebels captured and they lost Agua Prieta, Brennan arrived in El Paso and waited two weeks for another fight. When nothing happened, he resumed his civilian occupation and left on a business trip. Shortly thereafter, the *Maderistas* attacked and captured Juarez.

Brennan returned to El Paso, sorry that he didn't wait a little longer. It was his desire to form an Irish legion to fight with the rebels, but as foreigners didn't fare very well in Madcro's army, the unit was never formed.

Brennan was described as a nattily dressed Irish gentleman who no one would guess was a "blood-thirsty filibuster.



THIS IS BRENNAN!

~~~~~

**UNUSAL COUNTERSTAMPED 1864 ONE CENTAVO**



This unusual counter stamped Maximilian 1864 One Centavo was sent in by one of our members.



## AN UNUSUAL 1824 DURANGO COUNTERSTAMPED EIGHT REALES

By David O'Harrow C-49



This unusual coin is from uncataloged dies on both sides. There are no dots in the legend on this side. Note that the eagle's tail nearly touches a laurel berry on the second tier from the top. The eagle's head seems slightly smaller than normal. Also note that the lower waves appear to have been applied to the die after the acorns and laurel berries leaving space around them. Other coins show these items punched into the waves. The edge is correct for Durango.

The individual ray characteristics fit neither the Medium Libertad nor the Small Libertad designs. Remnants of the d and the L of Libertad are visible under the counterstamp. The size of the lower loop of the d suggests that it could be a Medium Libertad. This coin might then be from one of the first set of dies prepared at Durango in 1824.



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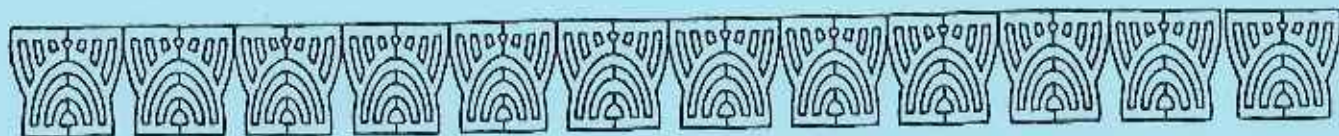
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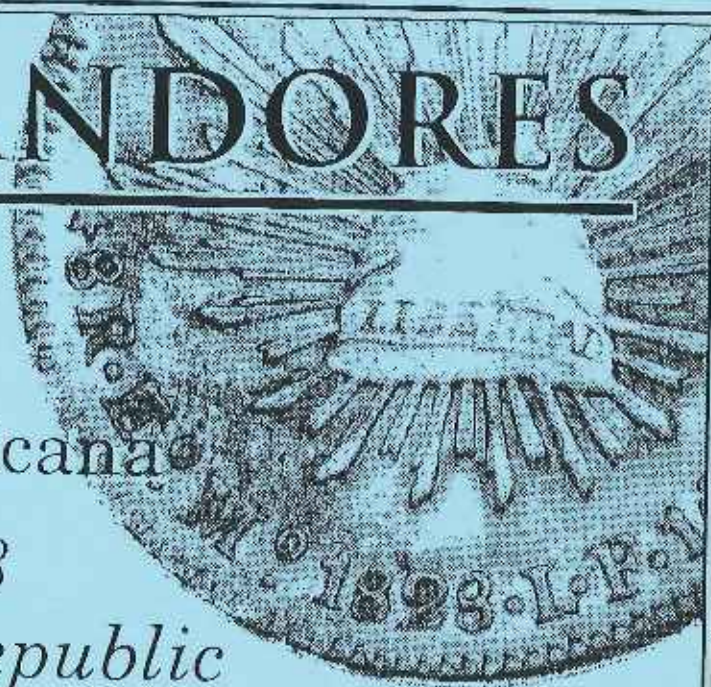




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