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U. S. MEXICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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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 participate in our efforts to promote Mexican numismatics around the world. If you have any questions please let us know.

IF YOU HAVE A RED DOT ON THE ADDRESS LABEL OF YOUR JOURNAL WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR DUES.

VII INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONVENTION, GUADALAJARA, MAY 14 – 17, 2003

The Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico invites the membership of the Association and all other interested collectors and dealers to participate in our next convention that will take place in the beautiful city of **GUADALAJARA**, from May 14 to 17, 2003 in the **CROWNE PLAZA** hotel, Av. Lopez Mateos sur 2500, esq. Mariano Otero. C.P. 45050, Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico.

The tentative program is as follows:

MAY 14, Wednesday	10:00 Hrs.	Registration and installation
MAY 15, Thursday	08:00	Breakfast buffet, "Kiosco" place
	10:00 – 20:00	Opening ceremony and bourse
	16:00 – 19:00	Auction "Glan Salon 3 yy 4
MAY 16, Friday	10:00 – 20:00	Bourse
	21:00	Mexican Dinner
MAY 17, Saturday	10:00 – 17:00	Bourse

The convention rate for the Crown Plaza is \$88.00 USD + 17% tax, single or double. Bourse table rates are \$400.00 USD for a wall table and \$350.00 USD for an interior table. For table or hotel reservations and additional information please contact "Monedas Angel" at (33) 3610 – 1355, e-mail angelfregos@hotmail.com, or contact Lic. Alma Carrillo at (33) 3121 – 6394 / (33) 3121 – 7078, e-mail turiserh@hotmail.com.

U.S. MEXICAM NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/1/2002 – 12/31/2002

Cash in Bank, 01/01/2002		\$3,664.60
<u>Income:</u>		
Dues	\$3,055.00	
Advertising	\$1,650.00	
Other	<u>\$ 105.00</u>	\$4,810.00
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Journal/postage	\$4,613.22	
Other postage	\$ 145.20	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 171.45</u>	<u>\$4,929.87</u>
Cash in Bank, 12/31/2002		\$3,544.73

THE REVOLUTION CORNER

By Joe Flores, C-2

GUERRERO**Dos Peso**

By Joe Flores

There seems to be no end to what keeps turning up in either new coins or old known dies struck on off metals. This includes all of my articles are on the Mexican Revolution coinage.

I am very grateful to have the people send me, or allow me to examine or even in some cases have the chance to purchase some new rare coins.

Which brings us to this article of a Dos Peso from the state of Guerrero. This is not a new set of dies, or a different die combination. The dies of this coins are very common, listed in "Guthrie - Bothamley", better known as the G.B. green book as GB#212, obverse "2" and reverse "B". Remarkably, these same dies were used on a copper planchet as shown in the photos below. This is the first time that this coin has ever been recorded in this metal.

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1972 One Centavo Overdate

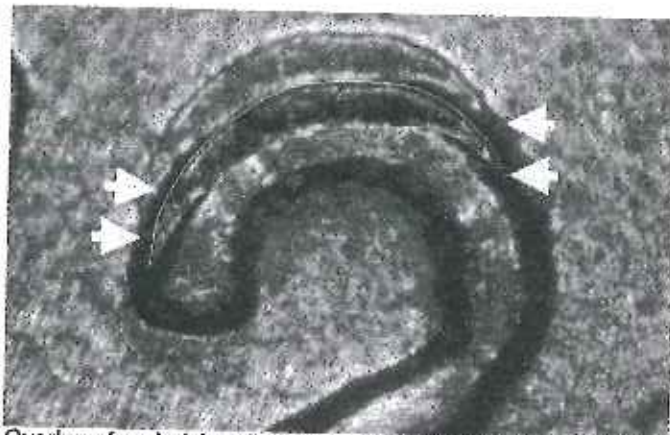
By Thomas Jasek C-33

The small brass 1972-dated Centavo (KM418) can be found in two varieties, the normal date and an overdate or recut date. Over time, this variety has been listed as both a 2/0 (overdate) and a 2/2 (recut date). Currently, catalogs typically list this variety as the recut date, that is, a 2/2.

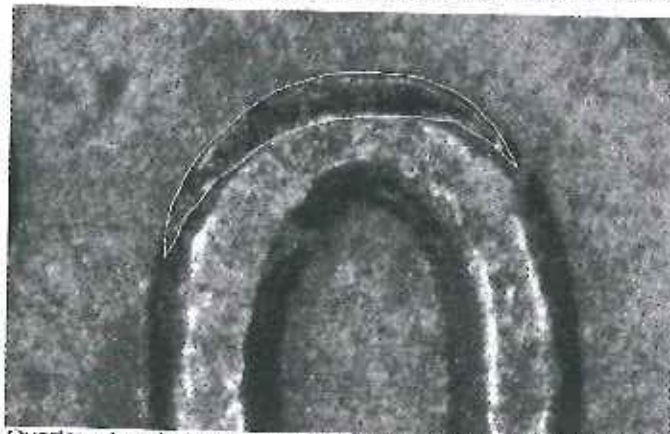
A pictorial study was undertaken to establish if this variety is an overdate or a recut date. The 1972 variety and a normal date 1970 Centavo were photographed via a microscope at the same magnification. The curvature of the underlying digit was then examined and compared, by overlaying, to a 0 from the 1970-dated Centavo and the 2 of the 1972-dated Centavo. The photomicrographs are presented below.



1972 2/0
Centavo



Overlay of underlying digit curvature on the 2 in the 1972 date



Overlay of underlying digit curvature on the 0 in the 1970 date

Using Photoshop, the exposed part of the underlying digit was carefully selected. A thin, white border was added over the selection edge. The selection was then copied and pasted over the two digits, the 2 of the original coin and the 0 of a 1970-dated Centavo.

Based on the fit of overlays, the curvature of the underlying digit does not match the curvature of the 2 in the 1972 date. However, there is a very close match of the curvature

of the underlying digit with that of the 0 in the 1970 date. Therefore, the author believes that the 1972 Centavo variety is truly an overdate, and specifically a 2/0 overdate.

The author is familiar with two other 1972 2/0 coins, and, in both cases, these have this same underlying digit curvature. While it is acknowledged that other specimens of this variety may display a differently shaped underlying digit or that there is a yet un-reported 1972 variety that has a 2 with a different curvature than the coin examined, it is believed that this evidence is conclusive in establishing that the 1972 variety is actually an overdate. Perhaps as members examine their collections for this variety, new specimens will show that different varieties, and specifically, the 2/2 variety, do exist as reported in the literature. However, unless these other possibilities are established, the 1972 variety should now be considered an actual overdate.

The author is very interested in any comments or the reports of other specimens of 1972 2/0 coins, especially if are different from the variety discussed in this article. The author can be contacted via email at: silverfox@grandecom.net.

ASSOCIATION MEMBER CANDIDATE FOR AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The American Numismatic Association will soon elect a new set of officers to lead them. The board elected to list all candidates with a ** notation as to which were members of the Association or has been helpful to the Association. These candidates for office are:

President: ** Patricia A. Finner & Gary E. Lewis
vice-president: William H. Horton & Kay Edgerton Lenker

Board of Directors: ** M. Remy Bourne, Michael Fey, Arthur Fitts, Allen Herbert, Don Kagin, Robert Korver, Walter Ostromecki, Will Rossman, Tony Tumonis, and ** John Wilson, currently President.

These are the individuals that have indicated they were running as of March 27, 2003. The deadline for filing is March 31, 2003.

M Remy Bourne is member number R-392, and a suggestion to Present John Wilson, and facilitated by Patricia A. Finner, ANA Regional Coordinator Chairperson, a special ANA Region was established to include Mexico, South and Central America as well as the Caribbean. We appreciate the efforts of the ANA to concentrate on our neighbors to our south.

COMMENTS TO THE CUARTILLAS OF GUANAJUATO ARTICLE**By Clyde Hubbard, C- 127**

In his September 2002 Journal article about copper Cuartillas of Guanajuato 1857, Claudio Verrey, C-12 expresses the belief that the cancellation slashes are official. My opinion is that they are unofficial. All mints of Mexico maintained a quality control, which involved separation of defective strikes. In spite of this a few sub-standard pieces found their way into circulation. Normally, the bad pieces were sorted out and returned to the melting pot. Defacing represents unnecessary effort if coins are going to be melted. Why waste labor and time with an extra process?

"Casa de Cambio" (Exchange Houses) such as the former Casa Baron on Calle Venustiano Carranza #50 in Mexico City had stone counters where coins were received. Suspect coins were bounced on the stone to test the "ring". Almost all of the exchange involved silver coinage. In years past, the owners of exchange houses removed counterfeit pieces and defaced them with a machete to prevent further circulation. I have seen many silver coins of this category. Defaced coppers are unusual.

Shown are two examples of the 1857 copper Cuartillas that were struck off-center, a good enough reason to remove them from circulation. Today, any abnormally struck coins are snapped up by error collectors.

In my many years of exposure to Mexican coins I have seen only one gold coin of the Republic of Mexico that found its way into circulation in spite of a defective strike. The coin is an 8 Escudo of the Hermosillo mint 1863 .FM. illustrated here.

During a visit to the Mexico City Mint at Calle Apartado 13 in the late 1950's I observed a most unusual practice of testing newly minted coins. Each of four men seated on chairs in front of bins would grab a handful of 50 Centavos bronze Cuauhtemoc pieces and toss them one at a time against a slanted metal surface to test for a proper "ring". Any coin with a discordant tone was caught in midair and tossed into the reject bin. The reason for this: the Mexican public was accustomed to "sounding" coins to verify authenticity. The 50-Centavos to which I refer were struck in the years 1955-1957 and 1959.

Clyde Hubbard



EXAMPLE # 1

Obverse
Reverse
1857 Guanajuato Copper "Cuartilla" (1/4Real) with slash mark on off center strike.



EXAMPLE #2

Obverse
Reverse
1857 Guanajuato Copper "Cuartilla" (1/4Real) with slash mark to deface off center strike.

**EXAMPLE #3**

Obverse

Reverse

1863 .FM. Hermosillo 8 Escudo off center strike.

~~~~~

**NEW MAXIMILIAN FANTASY SURFACES**

The above Maximilian/Great Britain fantasy piece was sent in by a collector asking for information on what it is. This is reported to be 10.0 mm and .5 mm thick with a serrated edge and has a "gold" appearance. One side has the reverse design found on crowns and sovereigns of Great Britain of the 1800s with a bust I have never seen of Maximilian. Please note that "Emperdor" is shown as "Emperadon". How long will it be before these turn up on Ebay as 1801 Maximilian Pesos? BEWARE.



**Libertad Varieties**

By Thomas Jasek C-33

In the September 2002 issue of the Journal (Volume VI, No. III), Mr. Jack Vanderzyl presented a variety of information on Libertads. I would like to address some of the information presented and to expand further on the varieties that exist in the Libertads issued from 1982 to date.

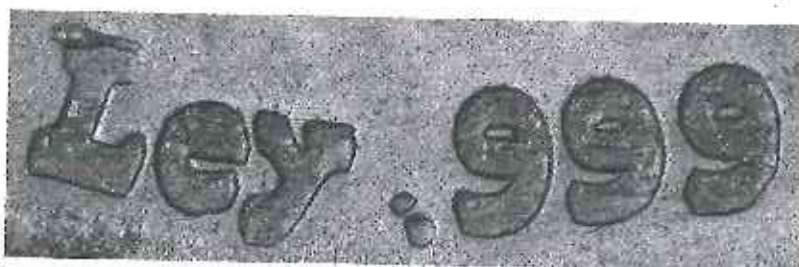
To date, the 1987 double die variety is probably the most recognized minting variety in the Libertad series (not referring to the actual design changes made in 1991). Mr. Vanderzyl examined a coin he owned and stated that he did not see the double die (referred to as DD) on his specific coin. He noted that he observed a double (two) decimal points, and that the term DD probably originally meant "Double Decimal Point".

I would like to present the following pictorial information to verify that the designation "DD" does indeed describe a double die variety in the 1987 mintage. As a matter of fact, Ken Potter of *World Coin News* (January, 2002 issue) reported and showed that there are actually two versions of double dies for this date. To date, I have not been able to locate a specimen of the second variety that Potter described. As a matter of fact, in reviewing Potter's pictures, I have a hard time discerning a difference between the two varieties. It appears that one must have two very early stage strikes of these varieties to most effectively establish the difference. (Minting varieties are often described in stages of the die life – that is, early in the life of a die, all imperfections or differences are seen easily, but later in the die life, these differences disappear, due to die wear.) The stage of the strike may be reason the Mr. Vanderzyl was not able to distinguish the double die on his specific coin. The area where the doubling is visible may have become worn or flatten on the die, so by the time that Mr. Vanderzyl's specific coin was struck, the doubling was no longer discernible. Only the doubled decimal points were visible, since there is almost full separation between them. The point is that, yes, a Libertad described as a 1987 DD or Double Die should have doubling on the reverse, visible most easily on the "1987 MEXICO Ley .999". In the later stages of the die, perhaps only the doubled decimal points are visible, although I have not seen a Libertad from a die that late in die life that the doubling was not visible.

The pictures below show the doubling on the 1987 Libertad in the date and legend area only. Again, this is only one of the varieties that have been described for this year.







In addition to the 1987 double die, there are two other double die varieties. These occurred in 1982 (the first year) and in 1988.

The 1982 double die is most easily visible on the upper, left side of the coin, specifically on the "1 onza". The doubling on the coin pictured is not very pronounced, but the "1 onza" is wider than would normally be expected. Doubling on the legend is not as evident, but again the legend characters are wider than expected.



The 1988 double die is very pronounced and similar to the 1987. The pictures below illustrated the doubling on "1988 MEXICO Ley .999". As with the 1987 variety, the doubled decimal points are almost completely separated.



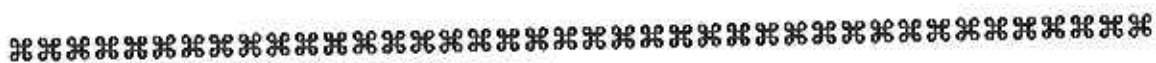
The final discussion point by Mr. Vanderzyl focused on the orientation of the edge legends on the Libertads. This particular element has been discussed by several of the variety collectors with whom I associate. As Mr. Vanderzyl points out, there is a 50-50 chance of which way the legend will be oriented on the finished coin. This is because the edge legend is applied during the upsetting process step, before striking. Since there is no control over which way the planchet ends up in the collar, the orientation is strictly



statistically, and must result a 50-50 distribution of with the legend being correctly oriented or with an inverted orientation. While these represent different "varieties", collecting these or not collecting these is a personal preference. I don't collect Libertad varieties on the basis of the edge legend orientation, but a fellow variety collector has collected one of each orientation. Again, it's all a personal choice and one of those things in the coin collecting area that gives each collector the freedom and pleasure to collect what he or she prefers and, more importantly, enjoys.

As far as Mr. Vanderzyl observed that the edge lettering on the 1987 Proof coins (the two he examined) had the same orientation. Unless the planchets are hand placed into the collar with a specific legend orientation, these too, should have an random distribution of both orientations. With just two coins examined, it is statistically possible to have the same orientation for both. I do not know whether the Mexican Mint handled the Libertad Proofs in any special way. For instance, the US Mint Proof Gold One Ounce coins are handled individually, with each planchet being placed by hand into the press for striking. Under such circumstances, the edge orientation could be controlled.

I hope that presenting the pictures of these three varieties has added to the knowledge of the members who collect these varieties. Personally, I would like to hear about additional Libertad varieties and specifically, the 1988 double die. These and any other questions or comments can be set to me at: [silverfox@grandecom.net](mailto:silverfox@grandecom.net).



**PRE-COLUMBIAN COINAGE PROGRAM****Part One**

By Don Bailey, C-1

At the American Numismatic Association's Convention in Baltimore on July 28, 1993 The Banco de Mexico held a press conference to announce the beginning of a new commemorative coinage program. This new program would be known as "The Pre-Columbian Coin program".

This event was to coincide with the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christopher Columbus discovery of the Americas in 1492. This series of commemorative coins will honor six Pre-Columbian civilizations: the Aztec, Central Veracruz, Mayan, Olmec, Teotihuacan, and the Toltec cultures.

The first series released in 1992 was to honor the Aztecs. This culture originated in the northern part of Mexico at Aztlan, what is now known as Arizona and Sonora. This Nahuatl speaking tribe referred to them selves as the Mexica or Teochca. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century after a century of nomadic wandering settled on small islands in Lake Texcoco. In 1325 they created the city known as Tenochtitlan, which is now Mexico City.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Aztecs domain was only exceeded in size by the Incas in Peru. This culture reflected a highly specialized society with expanded trading, an imperial administration and an agricultural economy.

This Aztec Empire ceased to exist when Cuauhtemoc died. He ruled the Aztecs in 1521 during the siege of Tenochtitlan and led the fight against Herman Cortes and his Spanish conquistadors. Surrendering after weeks of street fighting, Cuauhtemoc was tortured and put in prison. Later Cortes hung him on his march to Honduras.

These coin sets are all structured in the same fashion, with a five oz silver coin, a three-piece set of 1/4, 1/2 and 1 oz with the same design. There are also three 1 oz coins depicting various historical aspects of the cultures discussed here. The Aztec collection had several changes from the original issues, due to the coinage reform of 1992.

**THE AZTEC COLLECTION:*****Guerrero Aguila (Eagle Warrior):***

The three-piece set was first issued in 1992 in proof to honor the Eagle Warriors, (Guerrero Aguila). The eagle knights were the Aztec army elite. The helmet shown was part of their costume to show devotion to Huitzilopochtli, the war/sun god and special guardian of Tenochtitlan. He became the hero-warrior.





Their attire symbolized the power and ferocity of the Huitzilopochtli rite. These coins were originally issued in 1992 in proof only. Later in 1992, the Eagle Warriors were issued in BU.

After these items were issued, the mint discovered that the denominations in pesos were illegal due to the coinage reform. They issued these coins in BU and proof with the 1993 date and denominations of N\$1, N\$2 and N\$5.

The three one ounce coins honored the following Aztec gods:

***Brasero Efigie (Brazier Effigy):***

This represents the god Tlaloc, the god of rain and creation. The tears that flow down his cheeks fertilized and regenerated the crops according to Aztec beliefs. He is one of the most important Aztec deities.

***Hueheteotl (God of Fire):***

The cult of fire was among the oldest in Mesoamerica, also known as the protector of the earth, The old, old deity, and the old God of fire. This sculpture represents the association between the Gods of fire, and the Gods of water during the Aztec period. They governed the center of the universe and maintained the balance of the cosmos.

***Xochipilli (God of Flowers):***

The god of flowers was tattooed over his body with floral designs. They held intricate rites to Xochipilli when gardens were dedicated. The Aztecs fought what is known as "Guerras Floridas", which was a covenant between neighboring rival communities which was only a means of obtaining victims to sacrifice and offer them to God Xochipilli, and symbolizing the renovation of society and nature.

These items were originally issued dated 1992 in proof only. As with the Guerrero Aguila, they discovered that the denominations in pesos were illegal due to the coinage reform so they issued these in BU and proof with the 1993 date and a denomination of N\$5.

***Piedra de Tizoc, (The Tizoc Stone):***

This five-ounce coin represents a Huge monolith. It was discovered in the Templo Mayor, which celebrated the victories of Tizoc, (Pierna Enferma), was the Aztec Emperor in 1482 – 1487. This also, symbolizes the ritual passing of the throne in 1487 from Tizoc to his brother, Ahuitzotl, (Perro de Agua).

This issue experienced to same problem with the denominations and the coinage reform. The 1992 \$10,000 in proof has been very elusive to the collectors. The specimens that I have

seen to this date are from sets that were put together and sold by a promotion program with the three piece Guerrero Aguila set and the 1992 Jaguar de los Soles.

There is a 1992 N\$A10 known in proof, but no mintage figures are available, and only a few are known.

These sets are housed in a laser cut Aztec Calendar design on an oak case. In the years I have been handling this series I have seen only a few cased sets. The 1992 \$10,000 in BU is readily available.

Each of these collections has a three – piece gold set that honor an aspect of that particular culture.

***Jaguar – Piedra de Los Soles (Jaguar Stone of the suns):***

The original stone sculpture has four faces that represent the four ages or suns previous to the fifth sun. The first sun or age is represented by a Jaguar and the number "4", which symbolizes the earth sun or night sun while the Jaguar represents the fertility of the earth. This piece shows the Jaguar with jaws open and the prints characteristic of the Jaguar. Only three of the numerals can be appreciated as one of the corners has been damaged.

**SPECIFICATIONS, AZTEC COLLECTION:**

***Guerrero Aguila:***

|           |       |             |       |       |         |         |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| ¼ Oz 1992 | \$25  | .999 silver | 27mm. | BU    | Mintage | 50,000  |
| ¼ Oz 1992 | \$25  | .999 silver | 27mm. | Proof | Mintage | 3,000   |
| ¼ Oz 1993 | N\$1  | .999 silver | 27mm. | BU    | Mintage | 1,500   |
| ¼ Oz 1993 | N\$1  | .999 silver | 27mm. | Proof | Mintage | 900     |
| ½ Oz 1992 | \$50  | .999 silver | 33mm  | BU    | Mintage | 50,000  |
| ½ Oz 1992 | \$50  | .999 silver | 33mm. | Proof | Mintage | 3,000   |
| ½ Oz 1993 | N\$2  | .999 silver | 33mm. | BU    | Mintage | 1,500   |
| ½ Oz 1993 | N\$2  | .999 silver | 33mm. | Proof | Mintage | 800     |
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$100 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 205,000 |
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$100 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 4,000   |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 2,000   |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 1,000   |

***Brasero Effigie:***

|           |       |             |       |       |         |       |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$100 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 4,000 |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 2,000 |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 500   |



***Huchuteotl:***

|           |       |             |       |       |         |       |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$100 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 4,000 |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 5,000 |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 800   |

***Xochipilli:***

|           |       |             |       |       |         |       |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$100 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 4,000 |
| 1 Oz 1993 | \$100 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 2,000 |
| 1 Oz 1993 | N\$5  | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 800   |

***Piedra de Tizoc:***

|           |          |             |       |       |         |        |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| 5 Oz 1992 | \$10,000 | .999 silver | 65mm. | BU    | Mintage | 51,900 |
| 5 Oz 1992 | \$10,000 | .999 silver | 65mm. | Proof | Mintage | 3,300  |
| 5 Oz 1992 | N\$10    | .999 silver | 65mm. | Proof | Mintage | N/A    |
| 5 Oz 1993 | N\$10    | .999 silver | 65mm. | BU    | Mintage | 1,000  |
| 5 Oz 1993 | N\$10    | .999 silver | 65mm. | Proof | Mintage | 1,000  |

***Jaguar – Piedra de Los Soles:***

|           |         |           |         |       |         |        |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|---------|--------|
| ¼ Oz 1992 | \$250   | .999 gold | 23mm.   | BU    | Mintage | 10,000 |
| ¼ Oz 1992 | \$250   | .999 gold | 23mm.   | Proof | Mintage | 2,000  |
| ½ Oz 1992 | \$500   | .999 gold | 29mm.   | BU    | Mintage | 10,000 |
| ½ Oz 1992 | \$500   | .999 gold | 29mm.   | Proof | Mintage | 2,000  |
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$1,000 | .999 gold | 34.5mm. | BU    | Mintage | 17,850 |
| 1 Oz 1992 | \$1,000 | .999 gold | 34.5mm. | Proof | Mintage | 2,000  |

**CENTRAL VERACRUZ COLLECTION:**

The Totonac Indians built a very complex civilization in the northern part of Mexico, in the year 1000 B.C.E.

The Totanacs were deeply influenced by Teotihuacan. The political dimension El Tajin was a city of at least 2,6000 acres. It was the capital of a centralized tribute state. At its apogee it controlled a broad area, including much of



present-day north central Veracruz and adjoining portions of the state of Puebla. Additionally, El Tajin was a religious, artistic, architectural and engineering center of first magnitude in ancient Mexico. It flourished with a broad impact on surrounding coastal and highland regions. In terms of ball-game ritualism, they excelled. They went beyond the northern frontiers of Mesoamerica.

The Veracruz Classic period is noted among other things for the creation of a sculptured complex, Yugoo-Iacha-Palma, (Yoke- Hatchet-Palm). These sculptures are associated with the Juego de Pelota – Prehispanic, the ritual ball game played by the Mesoamerican Indians. They are included some of the most outstanding stone sculptures of Totonac art.

***Baqjorrelieve del Tajin ( Bas-Relief of El Tajin):***

The three-piece set depicts the thirteen courts for the ritual ball-game which is found in the central section of El Tajin, indicating the game's importance at that site. The vertical walls of the South Ball Court exhibit a bas-relief, with scenes of the ceremonial game in the double-outline linear style, which includes interwoven scrolls and bands.

The three one ounce coins honored the following Central Veracruz symbols:

***Palma con Cocodrilo, (Palm with Crocodile):***

The crocodile was set in the landscape of the gulf coast, where the Totonac civilization was developed. This group gave it a main importance. The crocodile is related with the earth and the water, and stands among other animals due to its amphibian nature. In this "Palma," the Totonac artist could make good use of the space he had to extend the twisted tail in the top of the "Palma."

***Carita Sonriente: (Smiling face):***

These small smiling faces are, undoubtedly, one of the most original and representative products of the art of the Central Veracruz prehispanic culture. The smiling face figurines were placed in tombs as offerings, as they were said to be endowed with magical powers, enabling them to be able to dance and sing in the life to come to the ones that passed away.

***Anciano con Braseró, (Old Man with Brazier):***

These sculptures that come from the Cerro de las Mesas in the state of Veracruz are made with clay, and sometimes in full size. The relations between the Totonac culture with Teotihuacan are quite clear when we analyze this great sculpture.

***Piramide del Tajin, (The Pyramid of the Niches):***

This five-ounce represents the Pyramid of the Niches. The buildings of El Tajin reveal a freer spirit than those of Teotihuacan or Monte Alban. They adapt to the topography by



means of structures, clustered around plazas. The forms vary in height and ornamentation, producing an elegant and dynamic visual effect.

The impression is further enhanced by contrasts of light and shadow created by the niches and jutting cornices embellishing the tiers of the pyramids. The "Piramide del Tajin" has a total of 365 niches, that number verifies their use for calendar and ritual purposes.

#### ***Hacha Ceremonial, (Ceremonial Hatchet):***

The three- piece gold has the representation of the Ceremonial Hatchet, a human profile with a fish helmet, certifying the importance of the ocean in the Totonac culture, with the ceremonial hatchet. This undoubtedly is the best example of the implements related with the Juego de Pelota, not only because of its symbolism, but also because of its crafting.

#### **SPECIFICATIONS, CENTRAL VERACRUZ COLLECTION:**

##### ***Bajorrelieve de el Tajin:***

|      |      |      |             |        |       |         |         |
|------|------|------|-------------|--------|-------|---------|---------|
| ¼ Oz | 1993 | N\$1 | .999 silver | 27 mm. | BU    | Mintage | 100,000 |
| ¼ Oz | 1993 | N\$1 | .999 silver | 27mm.  | Proof | Mintage | 3,000   |
| ½ Oz | 1993 | N\$2 | .999 silver | 33mm.  | BU    | Mintage | 100,000 |
| ½ Oz | 1993 | N\$2 | .999 silver | 33mm.  | Proof | Mintage | 3,000   |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm.  | BU    | Mintage | 100,000 |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm.  | Proof | Mintage | 3,000   |

##### ***Palma con Cocodrilo:***

|      |      |      |             |       |       |         |       |
|------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 4,500 |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 2,650 |

##### ***Carita Sonriente:***

|      |      |      |             |       |       |         |       |
|------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 4,500 |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 3,300 |

##### ***Anciano con Braseiro:***

|      |      |      |             |       |       |         |       |
|------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 1,500 |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 2,650 |

##### ***Piramide del Tajin:***

|      |      |       |             |       |       |         |        |
|------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| 5 Oz | 1993 | N\$10 | .999 silver | 65mm. | BU    | Mintage | 50,000 |
| 5 Oz | 1993 | N\$10 | .999 silver | 65mm. | Proof | Mintage | 3,100  |

***Hacha Ceremonial:***

|      |      |       |           |         |       |         |        |
|------|------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|---------|--------|
| ¼ Oz | 1993 | \$25  | .999 gold | 23mm.   | BU    | Mintage | 15,500 |
| ¼ Oz | 1993 | \$25  | .999 gold | 23mm.   | Proof | Mintage | 500    |
| ½ Oz | 1993 | \$50  | .999 gold | 29mm.   | BU    | Mintage | 15,500 |
| ½ Oz | 1993 | \$50  | .999 gold | 29mm.   | Proof | Mintage | 500    |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | \$100 | .999 gold | 34.5mm. | BU    | Mintage | 7,150  |
| 1 Oz | 1993 | \$100 | .999 gold | 34.5mm. | Proof | Mintage | 500    |

**MAYAN COLLECTION:**

The third collection in this series is to honor the Mayan culture. The inspiring civilizations in Central America dates from 320AD, and consisted of the areas of Yucatan, Guatemala and the South East of Mexico. It was initially centered in the Peten region with the Tikal and Uaxactun agglomerations. The cities, which served as the religious centers, included Bonampak, Chichen Itza, and Copan. Palenque, and Uxmal to name a few.



The temples were built on huge pyramids that had stepped sides leading to the ornate stone temple located at the top. The interiors had intricate mural paintings and Mayan hieroglyphics. The Toltec warriors around the 11th and 12th century subdued the Mayans. This change created the Maya-Tolteca civilization.

***Chaac Mool:***

The three-piece silver set depicts a characteristic sculpture of Chichen Itza, the Chaac Mool which shows a human being half-sitting and half-lying on his back. He is holding a disk or plate between his hands over his stomach. His face turned sharply away from the line of his body. The position was associated with Mayan sacrificial methods.

The three other one-ounce coins depicted the following Mayan sculptures:

***Dintel 26 (Lintel 26):***

This item depicts a sculpture discovered in the ruins of Yaxchilan representing a ritual scene. It shows a woman giving a Jaguar head or mask to a dignitary or high priest. This sculpture dates around 726 AD.



***Lapida Tumba de Palenque (Gravestone of a Palenque Tomb):***

These features a fragment of the slab bas-relief found in the funeral chamber of the Temple of Palenque Inscriptions. The detailed design of the sarcophagus shows an earth monster, human bearing signs of the sacrificial rite and a tree with a profile of a god crowned with a bird.

***Mascaron del Dios Chaac (Mask of the God Chaac):***

This depicts the figurehead of the Mayan rain god Chaac, found on the façade of the Temple of Kabah in the Yucatan peninsula. The Mayan people made this their most persistent decorative element throughout their evolution period.

***Piramide del Castillo (Pyramid of the Castle):***

The five ounce silver coin depicts the stepped Piramide del Castillo, dedicated to the Maya God Kukulcan, the deified personality of a mythical king. He restored the city of Chichen Itza. Kukulcan. He was the Mayan version of Quetzalcoatl, was believed connected with the creation of the universe, and was related to the four seasons of the year.

There are two varieties of this coin; one is dated 1994 like the rest of the series and with the legend Piramide del Castillo, and one with the 1993 date and the legend Piramide del Castillo Chicken-itza. Thus far only two of the 1993 issue has shown up and both were in proof. Possibility a pattern?

***Personaje de Jaina (Personage of Jaina):***

The three-piece gold coins depict the clay figure of Personaje de Jaina, a civil dignitary sitting on a throne. The figure has a cranium deformation and a beard. The small island of Jaina was used by the Mayans of Yucatan as a necropolis during the III and IV centuries. Thousands of terra-cotta figures have been excavated from this area. These normally are very expressive and reflect an excellent image of the Mayan's golden period.

**SPECIFICATIONS, MAYAN COLLECTION:*****Chaac Mool:***

|      |      |      |             |        |       |         |        |
|------|------|------|-------------|--------|-------|---------|--------|
| ¼ Oz | 1994 | N\$1 | .999 silver | 27 mm. | BU    | Mintage | 30,000 |
| ¼ Oz | 1994 | N\$1 | .999 silver | 27mm.  | Proof | Mintage | 2,500  |
| ½ Oz | 1994 | N\$2 | .999 silver | 33mm.  | BU    | Mintage | 30,000 |
| ½ Oz | 1994 | N\$2 | .999 silver | 33mm.  | Proof | Mintage | 2,500  |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm.  | BU    | Mintage | 50,000 |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm.  | Proof | Mintage | 3,000  |

**Dintel 26:**

|      |      |      |             |       |       |         |       |
|------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 4,500 |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 2,600 |

**Lapida Tumba de Palenque:**

|      |      |      |             |       |       |         |       |
|------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 4,500 |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 2,500 |

**Mascaron del Dios Chaac:**

|      |      |      |             |       |       |         |       |
|------|------|------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | BU    | Mintage | 4,500 |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | N\$5 | .999 silver | 40mm. | Proof | Mintage | 2,500 |

**Piramide del Castillo Chicken-itza:**

|      |      |       |             |       |       |         |     |
|------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-----|
| 5 Oz | 1993 | N\$10 | .999 silver | 65mm. | Proof | Mintage | N/A |
|------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-----|

**Piramide del Castillo:**

|      |      |       |             |       |       |         |        |
|------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| 5 Oz | 1994 | N\$10 | .999 silver | 65mm. | BU    | Mintage | 20,000 |
| 5 Oz | 1994 | N\$10 | .999 silver | 65mm. | Proof | Mintage | 2,100  |

**Personaje de Jaina:**

|      |      |       |           |         |       |         |       |
|------|------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| ¼ Oz | 1994 | \$25  | .999 gold | 23mm.   | BU    | Mintage | 2,000 |
| ¼ Oz | 1994 | \$25  | .999 gold | 23mm.   | Proof | Mintage | 500   |
| ½ Oz | 1994 | \$50  | .999 gold | 29mm.   | BU    | Mintage | 1,000 |
| ½ Oz | 1994 | \$50  | .999 gold | 29mm.   | Proof | Mintage | 500   |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | \$100 | .999 gold | 34.5mm. | BU    | Mintage | 1,000 |
| 1 Oz | 1994 | \$100 | .999 gold | 34.5mm. | Proof | Mintage | 500   |

This concludes the first part of the Pre-columbian coinage program. Part two covering the Olmec, Teotihuacan and the Toleca Collections will be published in the June 2003 Journal.

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"A MINI - HOARD OF LARGE CENTAVOS

By Russell H. Goodyear, R-168

Last year on Ebay, I noticed a California dealer offering a lot of 100 centavos of the 1868-1897 type. I was successful in my bid, and eventually won four lots of 100. I was not a successful bidder on one lot. Also, one lot disappeared in the mail, even though each lot that reached was packed very carefully and included an invoice packed inside the container. The dealer never would tell me the source of these centavos, so their origin remains a mystery. However, I did end up with 305 centavos (several of the boxes contained a few extra coins). As far as I know, this is an unusual group of coins. In my thirty years of serious collecting of these coins, I have never seen such a large group offered.

Over the years, I have learned that one cannot always trust mintage figures to give the true indication of how scarce an item is. Mintage records often are inaccurate, especially in Mexico outside of the Mexico City mint. One learns through experience by what appears in the market and how often it appears. Ebay certainly has changed the coin market. It is interesting to see how nice, well-struck coins cause fierce competitive bidding, and coins end up realizing far above catalog values. I recently saw an 1814 Oaxaca sud (KM240) bring well over \$100. The coin cataloged \$35.00.

I went through the lot and took notes on how many specimens there were for each date and mint mark. I found coins in grades ranging from fair to very fine. The average condition was good to very good (all devices and lettering clear). Surprisingly, there were very few corroded coins, and that fact leads me to suspect that the source of the hoard was somewhere where the climate was fairly dry. For example, when I lived in the tropical climate of the Dominican Republic, most Dominican copper coins I encountered had heavy corrosion.

The most common centavos of course were those from the Mexico City mint. Out of 300 coins, the most common date was 1889 Mo with 73 coins found. 1890 Mo followed with 42 coins, 1891 Mo with 37 coins, and 1888 Mo with 28 coins. Thus better than half of these centavos (160) dated from four years in sequence, 1888 to 1891. The real surprise was the fact that I only found one 1894 Mo centavo in the entire group. Other Mo coins were: seven 1897, seven 1896, four 1895, nine 1892, fifteen 1887, nineteen 1886, three 1878, one 1876, and two 1875.

Another surprise was finding so many Guadalajara mint coins in this group. There were seven 1890 Ga's, two 1889's, two 1881's, two 1878's, three 1876's, two 1875's, and two 1873's. This is normally a scarce mint for one centavos. Maybe the original source of this hoard was somewhere near Guadalajara. That might explain the high number of centavos from the Ga mint.

There were only two centavos from the Culiacan mint, 1876's of course, a very common date for centavos. There was one 1881 coin from the Hermosillo mint. There were no coins from the Durango, Guanajuato, and Oaxaca mints. There were four coins dated



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