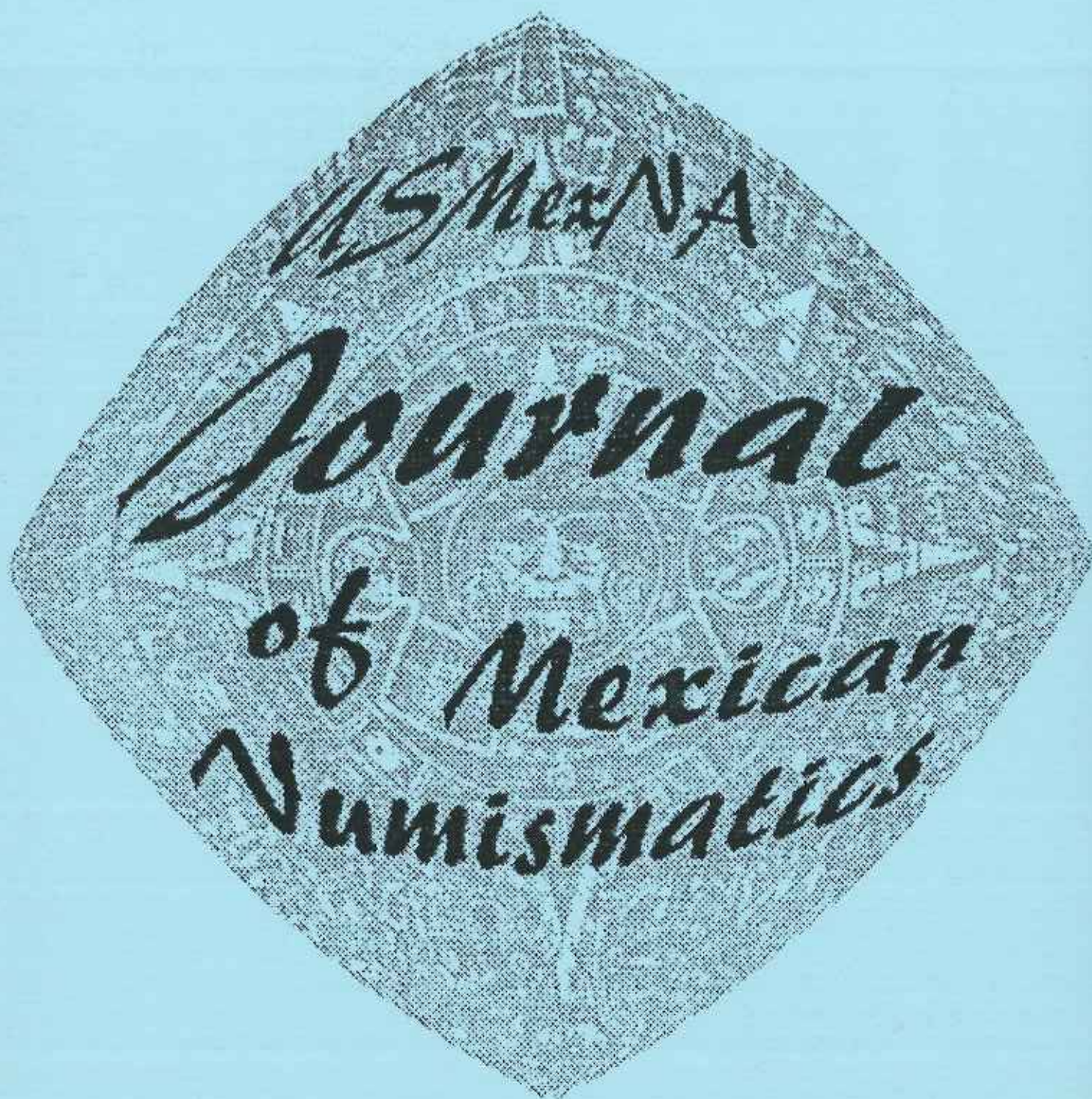


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USMexNA OFFICIALS

Executive Director and Editor Don Bailey, C-1
 250" So. Lyon Av. #139, Hemet, CA 92543
 251(951) 652-7875, Fax (951) 929-1300, Cell (801) 550-1358
donbailey_98@yahoo.com

DIRECTORS:

Sal Falcione, C-3
 1230 Lincoln Ave.
 San Jose, CA 95125
 (408) 292-2221, Fax (408) 227-8291

Joe Flores, C-2
 P. O. Box 4484
 Stockton, CA 94204
 (209) 462-0759, fax (209) 462-3157
 E-mail pcpef@msn.com

1. Richard Ponterio, C-108

1818 Robinson Ave.
 San Diego, CA 92103
 (519) 299-0400, Fax (519) 299-6952
 E-mail coins@ponterio.com

Stephen G. Searle, R-176

P. O. Box 68
 Berkeley Hts. NJ 07922-0068
 E-mail: ssearle@yahoo.com

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Web Site: www.GrasshopperNet.com/USMexNA Web Master Verne R. Walrafen, C-4

2005 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Association dues are now due and payable. The annual dues for all classes of membership are set at the annual fee of \$15.00.

The Board of Directors want to thank all of our members for the past support, and hope that they will continue to support USMexNA in the future.

VIVA LA REVOLUCION

By Joe Flores, C-2

By now almost every one involved in Mexican Revolution coinage knows about my good friend Verne R. Walrafen's outstanding revolution coin collection that was sold at auction, in November 2004 by Richard Long.

Verne's collection had a very large amount of extremely rare coins, Some unique and many G.B. plate coins (Gurthrie & Bothamely), 1976, or sometimes known as the green book.

I was fortunate to obtain a few of his coins. One silver peso coin in particular. I have been looking for this coin for many years with no luck. I use to pester Verne for this coin for over thirty plus years with no results. The only photo seen is in the G.B. book, which was furnished by Terry Stoddard. It happens to be the same coin as in the below photos. This is one of two known specimens. It is the finest known coin of the two. The second coin is in a collection in Mexico City and belongs to a good friend that just passed away.

In the book of Leslie and Stevens, (*Coinage of Zapata*), 1968 the rarity indicates only an R2, when in fact this is one of the rarest coins of their entire book. I was told that Erma Stevens was very conservative in her rarity gage.

This coin is a Guerrero silver peso, known by Leslie and Stevens as Gro-9b, or as G.B. 198. coin was in Erma Steven's collection, and sold to Verne in 1971.

I must thank Verne for allowing such a rarity to reach its way into my collection. **Munchas Gracias Verne.**

In the next issue I will be reporting on some other rare coins from this same fabulous collection.

Any pro or cons are always welcome.



OBV.



REV.

Joe Flores
P. O. Box 4484
Stockton, CA 95204
E-mail pepcf@msn.com



Mexican Numismatics at the 2004 ANA Summer Seminar

By Ralf W. Böppe, R-188

Under the lengthy title "Coins for the Mexican War for Independence 1810-1822 and the Revolution 1910-1917", a great opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of two important areas of Mexican numismatics was offered at the 2004 Summer Seminar of the American Numismatic Association. The course was held by Richard Long, well-known dealer and author in the field, and with Joe Flores as co-instructor, combined with the expertise of Verne Walrafen, who was among the attendants, the class turned out to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

The roster of experts could thus hardly have been better, and yet the surroundings added an important extra, with the very coins in discussion being on exhibit at the ANA museum!



"Tres Caballeros" on their way to the classroom: Joe Flores, Verne Walrafen and Richard Long (from left to right)

During the first part of the seminar, the coins and countermarks issued by various factions during the War for Independence were discussed. Each different type was briefly presented, while Richard Long passed around photographs of most of the coins in discussion and shared his information about their rarity and quality of strike.

It became very apparent to the audience that this field of Mexican numismatics is in dire needs for a specialized catalog. What is available to collectors today is clearly outdated or incomplete. The lack of adequate literature results in the War for Independence era being quite inaccessible and difficult for the beginning collector.

As could be expected, the Mexican Revolution turned out to be the centerpiece of the class. It is more popular with collectors, and more widely covered through catalogs, articles, and, most of all, through literature from outside of numismatics. Using the standard reference, the Guthrie/Bothamley work, and going from one GB number to the next, the group discussed the coins, their availability, the quality in which it comes, new discoveries, forgeries, and little tidbits of information. The ups and downs of the leaders of the Revolution and their armies came to live as the coins they issued and the circumstances under which they were produced were discussed.

What left most attendants astonished – and in some instances this was even true for the experts –, was the discovery of just how rare some of the coins of the Mexican Revolution are. Phrases like ‘three known’, ‘probably five known’, or ‘no more than ten exist’ floated around in the classroom. Even in the more common series, distinctive varieties exist whose availability ranges from common to unique. This may provide opportunities to the knowledgeable collector who may be able to obtain an ‘only known’ off-metal strike of a common variety for a few hundred dollars. On the other side, the “king” of the series, the 60 pesos Oaxaca gold coin, is frequently setting record prices at auction appearances – while it is by far not the rarest MexRev coin!



2004 ANA Summer Seminar Class on Mexican Numismatics: (standing, from left to right): Chuck Mattson, Richard Long, Verne Walrafen, Ralf W. Böppe, Günter Frenzel, James Howard; (sitting): Dan Gosling, Marina Salcedo Fernández, Joe Flores, Sebastian Frommhold; not in picture: Andy Lustig

A most entertaining and highly educational week ended with a tour of the “¡Viva la Revolución!” exhibition at the ANA museum, hosted by Joe Flores himself, the man who contributed most of the pieces at display from his own collection. As a participant put it: it is like being guided through the Picasso museum by the artist himself!

**RESPONSE TO DR. WULSCHNER'S ARTICLE, "PRE-
REVOLUTIONARY VOUCHERS OF THE MINING COMPANY "LA
REPUBLICA". VOL IX. NO. III**

Dear Mr Bailey

I was very interested in Dr. Wulschner's article (*Pre-revolutionary Vouchers of the Mining Company "La Republica". A Numismatic Discovery*, in Vol IX, No III) as it raised a number of important issues.

To start with one small quibble, though. It is naïve to think that the República mine did not know they were breaking the law as the 1905 decree was only the latest in a long line of decrees outlawing the payment of wages in scrip. For instance, it had been prohibited by the 1857 Constitution, in the 1870s when Angel Trias was governor of Chihuahua and in November 1889 by President Porfirio Díaz. However, it was a law 'more honoured in the breach than the observance' and during the first decade of the twentieth century Silvestre Terrazas' newspaper *El Correo de Chihuahua* constantly campaigned against the practice of company stores.

One issue is the morality of possessing official documents, which are common enough (though in this respect Dr. Wulschner is beyond reproach). When I was researching in local archives I came across several examples of complaints from local prefects and administrators to central government about payment in scrip and these letters occasionally had examples of the offending scrip attached, as in the case of the República document. I must confess that it was a struggle to leave them as I found them, knowing that sooner or later someone else might 'liberate' them.

I study the paper currency of Chihuahua and Sonora and I used to wonder why it was that for these early mining issues, except for the occasional specimens or remainders, we only have single examples. It might be that there are unlisted examples in collections but in over twenty years of monitoring auctions and sales I have never come across an issued duplicate. Although these might have been assembled by a contemporaneous collector I realised several years ago that a more likely explanation was that these single examples had been lifted at a later date from official reports. Señor Wulschner reaches a similar conclusion when he asks 'Could [the notes] of this document be the only one preserved?'

In the case of Chihuahua most notes surfaced in the Garcia auction in 1974 and it would be interesting to know if Garcia acquired them over a period of time or as a job lot. I think I could even put a name to the person who assembled the Chihuahuan notes but whoever it was ultimately did us a favour as the Chihuahua state archives were destroyed in a fire in May 1964.

Another issue raised is the need to disseminate knowledge. It is possible that many collectors believe that they have a unique uncatalogued piece when there are in fact several examples. In this spirit I will admit that I have the following

- (1) A 128 x 68 mm uniface purple remainder for four reales *payable en moneda corriente* issued by the Santa Eduwiges mine (lot 587 in the Long auction 41 of 22 August 1984), one of a series listed below

- (2) a 159 x 75 mm 25c note of the Tienda de Pago en Palmarejo, dated 6 October 1884 and signed by Jesús G. Almada. It is payable in copper coins or silver pesos at an 8% discount *á eleccion de la casa*.

I also know of

- (3) two notes, for 25c and 50c, of the Hacienda de San Miguel In Batopilas. These have the printed date of 20 June 1885, and were payable 'in silver coin or in a bill of exchange according to convenience and at the issuer's choosing' (*en moneda de plata ó en libranza según lo convenido á elección del que subscribe*) (information from Richard G. Doty, National Museum of American History).

I would be interested to hear details and receive scans (and even purchase) other Chihuahua and Sonora pieces. My email address is simon.prendergast@lineone.net.

As well as waiting for notes to appear one can also be an 'armchair detective'. In 1984 a large group of \$1, \$5 and \$10 notes (sadly only one \$10) of La Fundicion de Fierro y Bronce came on the market. However, we already knew of this issue from a letter from Francisco Villa to his *Jefe de Armas* in Parral dated 27 October 1914 and reproduced in the *Mexican Revolution Reporter*, 17, May 1950. In this letter Villa mentions that a friend has over \$1,000 in these notes and asks the *Jefe* to arrange for them to be encashed.

Indeed we had some inkling of the La República notes because in his 1908 report on local administration the *Jefe Politico* of Ocampo, José Maria Rentería, reported that various mining and mercantile companies had issued scrip (*vales, bilimbiques y boletos*) in place of using legal tender and that he had imposed some fines to halt the practice (Almada, *Apuntes Historicos del cantón Rayon*, Mexico, 1943).

Other literary references for paper currency in Chihuahua alone include

- (1) Guillermo Hagelsieb of Presidio del Norte (now Ojinaga) issued 10-centavos card tokens, which are known dated 1869 and 1870 (Richard D. Worthington, *Catalogue of the Trade Tokens of Chihuahua*, El Paso, 1990)
- (2) In 1874 thirty-six employees of the business house of Herrera, González, Salazar y Compañía in Cusihiuriachic unsuccessfully tried to stop the company illegally paying in wooden tokens that were only redeemable at the company store (*Semanario Oficial*, 30 June 1875)
- (3) the Negociacion de Santa Eduwiges issued scrip in five denominations (half real, one real, two reales, four reales and one peso) payable in cash (*en efectivo*) in Jesus Maria (the earlier name for Ocampo) and Chihuahua and accepted by nine stores (*casas comerciales*) in Jesus Maria, though the local government declared that they were not officially sanctioned. (Francisco Almada, *Apuntes Históricos de la Región de Chinipas*, Chihuahua, 1937)
- (4) the Palmarejo and Mexican Gold Field Limited issued scrip (Francisco Almada, *Resumen de Historia del Estado de Chihuahua*, Mexico, 1955)
- (5) Almada mentions the Cusi Mexicana Mining Company as one of the companies that issued *vales* (Francisco Almada, *op. cit.*)
- (6) The Greene Gold Silver Company issued scrip (Francisco Almada, *op. cit.*)
- (7) in 1905 a company was fined 500 pesos for using scrip and *El Correo de Chihuahua* warned other companies to give up the practice. Some firms, it said, issued tickets (*boletos*) because of a shortage of fractional currency whilst others were not content with that but also imposed a charge of 10 to 15 per cent to cash their scrip (*El Correo de Chihuahua*, 2 December 1905)
- (8) In 1906 three hundred miners in Santa Eulalia petitioned the state government to stop their companies giving them chits (*vales*) to be used in specified stores because of the high prices that these stores charged. By September, as a result, they no longer had to buy their goods at the *tiendas de raya* and their lifestyle improved as a consequence (*El Correo de Chihuahua*, 10 September 1906, p2)
- (9) In May 1911 Governor Abraham González ordered railroad contractor J. B. Chandler, of Kilometre

- (9) In May 1911 Governor Abraham González ordered railroad contractor J. B. Chandler, of Kilometre 88, Ferrocarril Noroeste de México, to stop paying his employees with cardboard tokens (*cheques de carton*) and henceforth to pay them in cash (*Periódico Oficial del Gobierno Provisional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos*, Num. 2, Ciudad Juárez, 25 May 1911)
- (10) On 14 June 1911 the employees of the Compañía de Madera petitioned Governor González over the system of chits (*boletos or tiquetes*) usable only in the *tienda de raya* or butcher's shop, the high prices, poor quality and lack of goods. Payment had originally been made on a daily basis but had changed to monthly because of the disruption to railway traffic. Now that the trains had resumed, the company had not reverted to the earlier practice because of the benefits of the new system. Within a few days the company and its employees resolved their differences: the management began paying wages in cash, daily instead of weekly, in the workshops and weekly instead of monthly in the sawmills, and reduced prices in the company store to match those in the capital (*El Correo de Chihuahua*, 20 June 1911; 24 June 1911; 26 June 1911; 15 July 1911)
- (11) In July 1911 the miners at Naica went on strike against the system of tickets (*boletos*) and deductions for non-existent medical facilities. The strike was settled through the intervention of Governor González (*El Correo de Chihuahua*, 24 June 1911; 16 July 1911)
- (12) In October 1911 it was reported that Luis Terrazas was paying the workers on his hacienda at Villa Ahumada fifty centavos a day, not in cash but in *vales* (*El Correo de Chihuahua*, 10 October 1911).
- (13) On 5 April 1912 the Orozquistas attacked the town of Parral but the American-owned and managed Parral and Durango Railroad suffered no damage and the workers stayed on the job, even after the shortage of banknotes compelled the company to institute payment in chits (US State Department record group 59, file 812.00/3706)
- (14) Finally, we know that La Mina 'El Caballo' issued notes because on 22 February 1914, someone tried to pass a cancelled note in Ciudad Juárez. On interrogation he claimed that a friend had a wad of such notes (extract of official correspondence of *Presidente Municipal Interino*, 1472, in Almada collection).

I have a similar set of references for Sonora.

Simon Prendergast, R-269



UNDERSTANDING THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE COLONIAL COPPER COINAGE 1814-1821

By Ben Nibert, R-303

The attractive three denomination copper series of 1814-21 produced by the Spanish colonial government in Mexico was undoubtedly well understood by contemporaries. However it now presents problems to modern numismatists in understanding their place in the monetary system due to the forgotten intricacies of the archaic Spanish pecuniary policy. Early numismatists incorrectly assumed the values represented on the coins were in standard reals. This was shown to be incorrect by A. F. Pradeau as early as 1938 although this assumption still somewhat persists to this day. While the terms, *tlaco* and *pilon*, which have been used of late for the description of these coins, are not technically incorrect, they are not however, accurately illustrative of legal values. The series should be known for the denominations as intended by the government, not colloquial terms. Tlacos and pilones were something else.

The term *tlaco* comes from the Nahuatl language word *tlachco*, meaning half or least quantity. The *tlaco* became the value of half a quartilla or one eighth real, while the term *pilon* came to mean half a *tlaco* or one sixteenth real. In later times, *tlaco* became a generic term for small value coins. The use of this term survived well into the time of centavos.

Tlacos were tokens (or coins) of necessity created as far back as the mid sixteenth century due to a lack of change under the value of the smallest silver coin, the half real. Originally created by merchants, these tokens could be given to a customer if small change was required after a coin of larger value was tendered for a purchase. These tokens could only be "spent" at the store of issue; they had little or no value elsewhere and of course, no official backing. Soon many types of merchants were issuing tokens, as were farms, haciendas, mines and businesses that paid them to their workers with the expectation that they would be spent at the company store. Municipalities soon issued tokens, which became locally accepted small change; this practice to be later imitated by some state governments.

Next we need to have an understanding of the basics of the Spanish and colonial monetary systems. Two distinct types of gold and silver money existed in Spain and its colonies. In peninsular Spain, *provincial* coinage was used which was lighter and baser than *national* coinage, which circulated in both Spain and the Indies. One reason for provincial coinage was to discourage the export of deliberately, less valuable money. A subsidiary coinage, provincial was not intended to circulate in the colonies. National coinage fundamentally had full silver and gold value and was relatively stable and universally accepted. National is what we as collectors of Mexican numismatics mostly deal.

To complicate matters, a third monetary system also existed, which was called *vellon*. It provided small change in copper in addition to serving as money of account. By the second half of the eighteenth century, business was transacted and records were kept in

terms of vellon as were all mint records. The official monetary relationships in the second half of the eighteenth century were that the national silver real was fixed at 85 vellon maravedis while the provincial real was 68 vellon maravedis. The vellon one real was equal to 34 maravedis. Gold had a more flexible relationship.

Now let us consider Mexican history. Vellon had not circulated in Mexico, except briefly for the failed maravedis issue of 1542. Small change under one half real was frequently made with cocoa beans which were commonly used until at least the middle of the eighteenth century. In a memorial presented to the Crown in December 1766, Augustin de Corona y Paredes described the tlaco tokens, which were being issued by the merchants of Mexico City, which in his opinion caused hardship for the poor. In October 1767, Charles III ordered a stop to the use of tlacos and instructed the Viceroy to consult the merchant guild at Mexico City on the desirability of coining vellon in New Spain. This, the guild rejected; it was against their economic interest to eliminate tokens. So in December 1769, the Crown decided against vellon coinage. The prohibition of the use of tlacos was not enforced nor was a substitute found for the small change problem. Finally in August of 1789, Viceroy Revillagigedo denounced the token system and urged the Crown to coin copper vellon for use as soon as possible. Still, the Crown refused to introduce vellon but did introduce a silver quartilla, which was a new denomination, authorized by royal decree. These quartillas proved to be of inconvenient size as well as being struck in inadequate quantities. In 1814 Viceroy Calleja again ordered the removal of the token tlaco and pilones from circulation to be replaced with official coins.

The new coinage has its beginning with the decree of March 28, 1814 in which the Spanish, Superior Council of Finance mandated that vellon copper be minted in Mexico. On June 4, 1814 Viceroy Calleja ordered the circulation and use of vellon copper. This brings us to August 23, 1814 when Calleja announced that vellon copper coins of one half, one and two quartos (2, 4 & 8 maravedis) had already been minted and were ready for circulation. These were some of the same denominations circulating in Spain. In the vellon system we find the derivatives:

2 maravedis equals one ochavo or $\frac{1}{8}$, the denomination on the smallest coin,

4 maravedis equals two ochavos, equals one quarto or $\frac{1}{4}$, the denomination on the middle size coin,

8 maravedis equals four ochavos, equals two quartos or $\frac{1}{2}$, the denomination on the largest coin.

Equivalents of their values were spelled out as follows: $\frac{1}{8}$ equivalent to a pilon or sixteenth real; $\frac{1}{4}$ equivalent to a tlaco or eighth real; or $\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent to a quarto or quarter real. However, the Viceroy's decree specified that the new coins be called by their values; the use of colloquial terms was forbidden. The new coins were to replace tokens and remove them from circulation not to perpetuate their use.

The relationship of this coinage was to be in terms of national currency in which the new copper was to be an extension of the lowest value silver coin, namely the half real. Vellon was valued in relation to national coinage which in practice at this time was one real de plata equals two reals de vellon. It is interesting to note the placement of values on both the Spanish and Mexican vellon coins are essentially the same but the Mexican

product utilizes maravedis derivatives. Neither have any indication of the value system (maravedi, real, etc).

CONCLUSIONS

1. The denominations of the coins are in vellon, i.e., maravedis or their derivatives. These values must be converted to national in order to find the actual value.
2. In discussing their denominations, the values on the coins should be used with the term vellon, indicating they represent a different accounting system, i.e. $\frac{2}{3}$ vellon or 2 quartos vellon; $\frac{1}{4}$ vellon or 1 quarto vellon; $\frac{1}{8}$ vellon or 1 octavo vellon. The use of colloquial terms as values was not intended and is confusing to the numismatist.
3. The colonial and Spanish vellon value systems were the same and should be spoken of in the same way.
4. The equivalents, tlaco, pilon, etc, are useful from a historic point of view but $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and $\frac{1}{16}$ are more accurate in describing actual value in relation to the existing silver coinage.

The above is a very short and incomplete description of the colonial monetary system. A study of the following bibliography will reveal more completely how the system worked, why it came about and some of the documents relating to this interesting coinage.

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The Insignia and Medals of the Aztec Club of 1847

By MAJOR EDGAR ERSKINE HUME, U. S. Army,

Formerly Secretary of the Aztec Club of 1847.

The second oldest military society in the United States is the Aztec Club of 1847. Its name indicates its age. On October 13, 1847, as soon as the United States Army was quietly established in the City of Mexico, during our war with that country, a meeting of officers was called with a view to forming a club and opening a clubhouse for the entertainment of its members and their guests while in the city. The original home of the Club was the handsome residence of Señor Boca Negra, who had formerly been Mexican Minister to the United States. This, the Club's records show, "was located in one of the streets leading out of the Calle Plateros, and not far from the headquarters of General Winfield Scott, Commander-in-Chief." After some difficulty, due to the names of streets having often been changed, two members of the Club living in Mexico, Mr. Edmund Kirby-Smith and Major Otto Holstein, were able to fix the site in 1931. It is now at the corner of the Avenues Cinco de Mayo and Isabel la Católica, the building being still in excellent preservation, though no longer in the most desirable residential section of the Mexican capital.

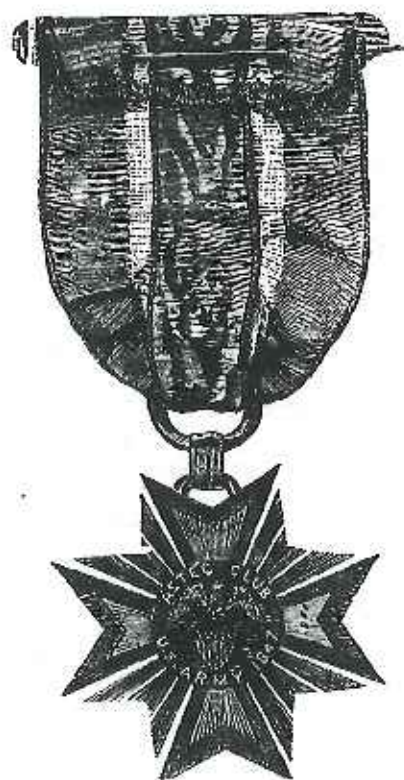
The Club flourished as long as the Army of Occupation was in Mexico, under the presidency of Major-General John A. Quitman, its commander. When the Army returned to the United States it was proposed to continue the Club, "desiring to preserve some lasting memorial of the pleasure and advantages derived from this institution that may serve for all time as an additional bond of friendship and brotherhood among its members." The officers were continued in office for a period of five years so that a permanent organization might be effected at home. At the time of the withdrawal of the Army from Mexico the Club consisted of 160 members and two honorary members (Major-General Winfield Scott and Brigade Chaplain John McCarty).

In 1852 a new election of officers took place and a permanent organization was effected. Soon thereafter "a commemoration badge was designed for transmission to living members and to the families of those deceased." It was decided in 1871 to admit to membership officers who had served in any part of Mexico during the war. In 1882 it was decided that officers who had been killed in battle or died of wounds in Mexico before the formation of the Club might, upon application of a son or nearest blood relative, be admitted to the roll of membership, to be represented by such son or nearest blood relative, after his nomination and election by the Club. In 1887 it was decided that any deceased officer who had served in Mexico during the war might in the same way be admitted to the roll. The revised constitution of 1888 fixed the name of the Club as The Aztec Club of 1847, to be continued in perpetuity, the basis of membership being personal service in some part of Mexico as an officer during the war with that country. Officers of the Navy and Marine Corps who served in Mexican waters are also eligible. Officers who had so served were known as Primary Members. Their eldest sons or nearest blood relatives, who it may be remarked were eligible even during the lifetime of the Primary Members, were known as Representative Members. Each Representative Member was given the right to nominate his son or other blood relative, who, upon reaching the age of twenty-one, might be admitted to the Club as an Associate Member. On the death of a Representative Member his Associate Member automatically becomes a Representative Member and in turn has the right to name his Associate. Thus the Club has continued its existence. The last Primary Member was Brigadier-General Horatio Gates Gibson, U. S. A., who died

Reprinted from *The Numismatist*, Baltimore, September, 1934, Vol. XLVII, pages 548-552.

on April 18, 1924, being the last surviving officer of the Mexican War and the oldest living West Point graduate at the time of his death. He had served in Mexico as a Second Lieutenant.

It will be observed that the principle of hereditary membership is essentially that which had been established by the Society of the Cincinnati sixty-four years earlier. The only difference is that both a Representative and an Associate member may be on the Club's rolls at the same time, and the Representative Member has the right to select his successor from among his blood kin, though the Club reserves the right to reject any individual not personally acceptable. It is not to be wondered at that the Aztec Club followed the precedents of the Society of the Cincinnati. When the Club was formed some of the original members of the Cincinnati were still living and their Society was well known to the officers instituting the Aztec Club. Indeed, not a few of the founders of the Club were sons or grandsons of original members of the Cincinnati. For example, Major-General Zachary Taylor was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Taylor, Captain Robert E. Lee was the son of Colonel Henry Lee ("Light Horse Harry"), and Captain Henry Heth was a grandson of another Captain Henry Heth, all three original members of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia.



Obverse.



Reverse.

Insignia of Aztec Club of 1847.

The badge selected by the Club after its return from Mexico consists of a Maltese Cross in gold, measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, between the arms of which are three rays of gold extending from the center toward the margin. The border of the cross is, on the obverse, enameled in blue, and in the center there is a disc $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, enameled in red and bearing a shield of the arms of the United States, surmounted by an eagle with outspread wings. Above is the inscription: *Aztec Club* and, below, the words: *U. S. Army, 1847*. The reverse of the cross is enameled in white, except the margin which is of gold. The central disc is enameled in green and bears the Mexican Eagle with a serpent in its beak and its talons grasping

branches of cactus. Above are the words: **City of Mexico**, and below, **Army of Occupation**. The cross is suspended from a striking ribbon consisting of a central stripe of green $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in width, bordered by bands of white each $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in width and the whole edged with bands of blue $\frac{5}{16}$ inch in width. The drawings of the insignia are printed from the original woodcuts belonging to the Aztec Club, kindly loaned for publication here.

At the time the badge was established the Club likewise adopted a metal button to be worn in civilian clothing as a means of recognition. This is a gold disc $\frac{7}{16}$ inch in diameter, enameled in three equal parts, red, green and white, the colors being separated by wavy lines. The button is inscribed **Aztec Club 1847**, the three words falling on the red, green and white sections respectively.

In 1893 the Club adopted a silk rosette of red, white and green, for optional wear by the members. It will be observed that the colors of the rosette were taken from those of the metal button rather than from the ribbon from which the cross is suspended. This somewhat anomalous condition was changed by vote of the Club in 1923, and a rosette of the colors of the Club's ribbon, blue, white, green was adopted. The metal button is still authorized.

At the meeting on October 13, 1892, Colonel DeLancy Floyd-Jones, one of the Primary Members, presented the Club with a beautiful replica in silver of a Mexican teocalli, or temple of worship. The replica is of one of the truncated pyramids, about the base of which are cacti and other Mexican plants. It measures about two feet across each side of the base and is about eighteen inches high. It was made by Tiffany & Company of New York. On one side of the base is the inscription, **Aztec Club of 1847**, and on the opposite side, **Presented by Colonel De Lancy Floyd-Jones, United States Army**. This splendid keepsake is placed, with appropriate ceremonies, before the presiding officer at each meeting of the Aztec Club, and during the intervals between meetings is on display in the National Museum in Washington.

In 1897 the Club celebrated the fiftieth anniversary with the largest meeting that had been held since leaving Mexico. It was held at Sherry's, in New York City, and eleven Primary Members, who had seen service in Mexico, were among those present. To commemorate the occasion the Club presented to each member a medal which had been struck by Tiffany & Company of New York. The medal was suspended from the official ribbon of the Club and had a bar pin so that it could be worn, though apparently it was not intended that this should be done. The ribbon differs slightly from the approved pattern in that the blue stripes are light instead of dark.

The medal is of dull bronze measuring $1 \frac{7}{16}$ inches in diameter and $\frac{5}{32}$ inch in thickness. The obverse bears the arms of the Club, namely, quarterly, first, the eagle of the United States with thirteen stars in two semi-circles above; second, the emblems of the Corps of Engineers, the Adjutant General's Department and the Artillery Corps in pale (respectively, a turreted castle, the shield of the United States, and a field gun and ammunition); third, crossed rifle, carbine, sword and sabre; fourth, the Mexican Eagle perched on a branch of cactus leaves, and holding a serpent in its beak, for crest an Aztec teocalli, above which is a sun in splendor with rays extending about the same. Below the shield are crossed branches of oak leaves (left) and palm leaves (right). The legend is: * **Aztec Club. Mexico . October A. D. 1847 * Societas Belli.**

The reverse depicts the silver teocalli presented to the Club by Col. Floyd-Jones as above related. Above are the words: **October . 13 . 1847**, and below: **October . 13 . 1897**. Below this is the maker's name: **Tiffany & Co.**

One of the medals was struck for each member of the Club, his name being engraved on the rim. The Club instructed that the dies for the medal be destroyed, and in the following May this was done.

When the Aztec Club was founded there existed in the United States only one other military society composed of officers who had served in a foreign war, and the membership requirement for which was such service or descent from such officers—the Society of the Cincinnati. The roll of the Club's members contains many of the most illustrious names which have adorned



Medal for Fiftieth Anniversary of Aztec Club of 1847.

our military history. Everyone knows that the Mexican War served as a training ground for the officers of both sides in the terrible war to follow fourteen years later in 1861. The leading figures in that struggle had won their spurs in Mexico, and among them we find, as members of the Aztec Club of 1847, the following Union officers:

General U. S. Grant, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 General William T. Sherman, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Admiral David G. Farragut, who served in Mexican waters as a Commander.
 Admiral David D. Porter, who served in Mexican waters as a Lieutenant.
 Major-General Joseph Hooker, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Major-General George G. Meade, who served in Mexico as a Second Lieutenant.
 Major-General John F. Reynolds, who served in Mexico as a First Lieutenant.
 Major-General Winfield S. Hancock, who served in Mexico as a Second Lieutenant.
 Major-General George B. McClellan, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Major-General John A. Logan, who served in Mexico as a Second Lieutenant.
 Major-General FitzJohn Porter, who served in Mexico as a First Lieutenant.
 Major-General Philip Kearny, who served in Mexico as a Captain.

Among the prominent Confederate officers who were members of the Club may be mentioned:

General Robert E. Lee, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 General P. Gustave T. Beauregard, who served in Mexico as a First Lieutenant.
 General Joseph E. Johnstone, who served in Mexico as a Lieutenant-Colonel.
 General E. Kirby-Smith, who served in Mexico as a Second Lieutenant.
 Lieutenant-General Simon Bolivar Buckner, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Lieutenant-Colonel James Longstreet, who served in Mexico as a First Lieutenant.
 Lieutenant-General Richard S. Ewell, who served in Mexico as a First Lieutenant.
 Lieutenant-General William J. Hardee, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Lieutenant-General John C. Pemberton, who served in Mexico as a First Lieutenant.
 Major-General George E. Pickett, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Major-General John B. Magruder, who served in Mexico as a Captain.
 Major-General Henry Heth, who served in Mexico as a Captain.

The ranks held in Mexico, above given, do not include brevets for bravery which were given to nearly all of these officers. Three members have been Presidents of the United States, Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce and Ulysses S. Grant, and one, Jefferson Davis, of the Confederate States, all officers of the Mexican War, and many other positions, civil as well as military, have been held by members of the Aztec Club. A member, Major Theodore O'Hara, later to serve as a Confederate Colonel, was the author of the greatest martial poem America has produced, "The Bivouac of the Dead," which he read at the burial in his native Frankfort, Kentucky, of the officers and men who had fallen in Mexico. Who can forget the stirring lines:

The muffled drum sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards with solemn round
The Bivouac of the Dead.

The Club, though not large, has numbered on its rolls an extraordinarily large number of senior military and naval officers, including six Generals, two Admirals, five Lieutenant-Generals, one Vice-Admiral, seventy Major-Generals, twelve Rear-Admirals, seventy-nine Brigadier-Generals and four Commodores.



Medal for Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

In 1922, to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Club, a bronze commemorative medal was struck. It is similar in finish and size to the fiftieth anniversary medal, but is not suspended from a ribbon. The obverse is of the same design as the former medal. The reverse bears two rattlesnakes with their heads entwined, and in the middle of the medal, the dates: October 13, 1847, October 13, 1922, and, below, branches of cactus. The medal was struck by A. Bacqueville of Paris, and distributed upon subscription to members of the Club. The dies have been preserved by the Club.

There are some 233 members in the Club today. The present officers are: President, Mr. Severo Mallet-Prevost of New York (who, it is interesting to note, is descended from an officer of the Mexican Army as well as from an officer of the United States Army in the Mexican War); Vice-President, Col. J. F. Reynolds Landis, U. S. A., of Washington; Treasurer, Mr. Leonard L. Nicholson of Washington; Secretary, Mr. Conway B. Hunt of Washington. The Club, which has no branches, meets on alternate years in Washington and in New York City.

**USMEXNA FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1/1/2004 – 12/31/2004**

Cash in Bank, 01/01/2004	\$3,674.26
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INCOME:

Dues	\$3,545.00	
Advertising	2,325.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>103.00</u>	\$5,973.00

Expenses:

Journal/postage	\$4,117.10	
Other postage	154.76	
ANA book pledge	<u>500.00</u>	\$4,771.86

Cash in Bank, 12/31/2004	\$4,875.40
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ARTICLES WANTED FOR THIS JOURNAL

The Association is looking for articles on Mexican numismatic or related subjects for future publication. If you have an idea for an article please submit it to the Journal. If there is anyway that we can be of assistance we will help you in putting it into print.

The readers would like to read of that idea you have had in your head, but never put it on to paper. If the grammar isn't always perfect, don't worry, mine, as most of you know that mine at times could use some help. We try to correct errors, but sometimes we miss a few things. The important part is to disburse the information that you have accumulated.

As was previously announced early this year, a USMEXNA Literary Award, sponsored by Lois & Don Bailey will be awarded to an article from the 2004 issues of the Journal. This will be judged by outside judges from the numismatic journalist field. The winner will be announced in the March issue, and presented at the winner's convenience. Officers and editorial staff are not eligible for this award.

In order for the Journal to continue to disburse information we need your input. We look forward to your articles. They can be typed or in a "words" format, with photos or in JPG format. Any questions let us know.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OFFERS COLLECTOR'S INSURANCE

In recent correspondence received from the American Numismatic Association they informed the Association that the Hugh Wood Inc. was appointed by the ANA to provide the ANA membership with a new and improved insurance policy tailored to the specific needs of collectors.

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THE FRENCH INTERVENTION



Not dated. Edo. de Michoacán, Intervención Francesa.

Obverse, an ornate enamelled decoration consisting of two crossed National flags. Above the flags and below a green-enamelled laurel wreath is the National Eagle.

MICHOCAN AL PATRIOTISMO Y LA CONSTANCIA

The 16 mm. wide ribbon is bright red.

- D-199 90 x 55 mm. Enamelled gold.
 D-199a 90 x 55 mm. Enamelled silver.
 D-199b 90 x 55 mm. Enamelled bronze.

These decorations were authorized by a decree dated April 20, 1868.



Not dated. Edo. de Oaxaca, Intervención Francesa.

Obverse, within a closed laurel wreath, in five lines.

DEFENDIO LA INDEPENDENCIA NACIONAL OAXACA

Reverse, within a closed laurel wreath, in six lines.

VENCiendo AL ENEMIGO
 ESTRANERO Y AL TRAIOR A SU PATRIA

* He defended the National Independence, Oaxaca, conquering the foreign enemy and the betrayers of his country.

The suspension device is an eagle to the front, facing to the right.

- D-201 30 mm. Gold. Lavin collection.
 D-201a 30 mm. Silver. Dr. William Pirtle,
 D-201b 30 mm. Bronze, 15.50 grams. Grove.

These decorations were created by a decree dated January 11, 1868 and awarded for action at Juchitán September 5, 1866, Miahuatlán October 3, 1866 and at La Carbonera on October 18, 1866.



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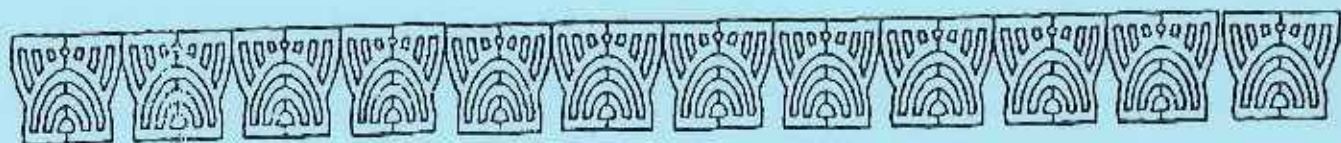
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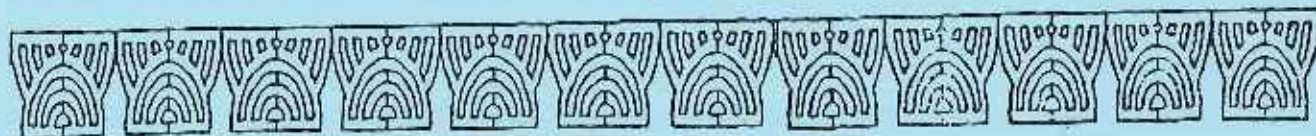
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