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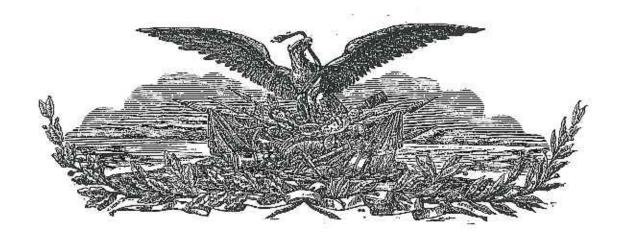
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### VIVA LA REVOLUĆION

By

Joe Flores C2

After 10 plus years I have solved a part of one of my many questions on a project that I have had on the back burner. This is about a very rare 5 centavos coin and medal combination. In 1992 I had the opportunity to purchase an extremely rare 5 centavos E.del Mor. Coin, better known as \*G.B.270. This 26mm coin came from the Amon Carter collection as in photo # 1. This coin is so rare that it seldom is offered.

In 1994 I was offered an unusual medal. I seldom buy any medals, but this brass 22mm medal was struck with the obverse (eagle side) of a Mexican Revolution eagle. At the time that's all I knew. I had no idea what state the eagle represented. The reverse had a faint image of a lady of justice as in photo # 2. After some research I was happy to find that the eagle of this medal is of a very rare coin. \*G.B. 270.

In the year 2000 I was offered another medal, same as the one I bought in 1992. This one was all struck up in B.U. condition on a smaller 22.4mm copper planchet.

With this well struck medal I could continue on my research. I had seen this Freedom Lady of Justice before. After some looking over a few books on medals I located one in Frank Grove's *Medals of Mexico*, Vol. II, as in Photo # 3.

The Lady of Justice was struck on **50mm** brass planchet in 1896. Listed in Grove as # E 128 or E 141 as in photo # 4.

My questions are, why after 19 years did they use only a part of the design to make the dies for this medal. Also why did they use the obverse die of such a rare coin. I would like to see some documentation on who had them made.

I have studied the eagle on all these coins and medals and they all appear with the same tool marks except on the obverse of the medal, which appears to have a few new tool marks.

I would be extremely grateful if someone could answer any of my questions.

Joe Flores P.O.Bx.448 Stockton, Ca, 95204





Obverse

Reverse

Photo #1





Reverse

Obverse

Photo #2







Reverse







Reverse

Photo #4

### The Coinage Programs of Mexico By Don Bailey, C-1

In recent years Mexico has embarked on some very ambitious coinage programs, including the gold and silver Libertads. The gold started in 1981 as the "Gold Coins of Mexico". The gold Libertad was issued intermittently throughout the years, except for the most current years. The early gold coins were issued in .900 Fine gold, and in current years in .999 gold. The silver coins were first issued in 1982, and has continued with some modifications in scope and design from time to time. This has become an interesting series, with some very low mintages. The silver issues are .999 silver. In 2002 Mexico issued a Kilo coin, which has been very successful. The 2003 through 2005 Kilo issues have been limited to 500 pieces. This complete "Libertad series" has "Legal Tender Status" by law.







In 1992 Mexico started a new program known as the Pre-Columbian Series, that were first issued for the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the new world. The six series of commemorative coins are dedicated to six ancient cultures; Aztec, Mayan, Central Veracruz, Olmec, Teotihuacan and Toltec that existed in Mexico prior to Columbus's arrival. This series, after a slow start in collector interest, has come in to its own and is widely collected. There are many varieties,and design changes with some very low mintages. Each culture has basically a three- piece set of 1/4, 1/2 and one ounce in gold and silver, and three different one- ounce coins. The gold and silver are both .999. By decree of April 5, 2004 design changes were authorized on three coins. These being the BU and proofs of the Brasero Efigic of the Azteca Collection, Anciano Con Brasero of the Veracruz Collection, and the Hombre Jaguar of the Olmcca Collection, and these are known as TY II's. difference between TY I and TY II is that on TY I the date and mint mark are on the left and right of the main image, and in TY II the date and mint mark are on the left together.

In 1985 and 1986 Mexico issued a large series of coins to commemorate the 1986 World Cup, with 31 different coins in BU and proof silver and gold. There are silver issues in .720 and .925 silver, and issues of .900 and .999 in gold.

At various times Mexico has issued commemorative coins to honor various events that were not part of an ongoing program. In 1985 they commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution with a 200 peso .925 silver proof. In 1988 they commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nationalization of the Oil Industry by issuing two .999 silver coins in 50 pesos and 100 pesos in uncirculated, and three .900 gold coins, include 500 pesos and 1000 pesos in proof and an uncirculated 500 pesos.

In 1991 a 100 peso .925 silver proof as one of a series of coins issued along with various other countries, to honor the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Save the Children Fund. In 1999 a 5 peso coin honoring the History of Navigation was issued in .925 silver proof. In 1992 the Vaquita Marina Whale was issued in a 100 Peso .999 silver proof to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of United Nations Environmental Program.

Mexico issued two coins for the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). In 1987 the 100 peso Monarch Butterfly was issued in .720 silver proof and in 1997 and 1998 the Lobo was issued in .999 silver proof.

In 1999 two coins were issued to commemorate UNICEF including a 5 peso .999 silver proof and a 20 peso .999 gold proof. In 2000 and 2001 Mexico issued a series of ten .999 silver one ounce uncirculated coins of 40mm to honor the Endangered Species in Mexico featuring ten different endangered species.

To honor the millennium Mexico issued four coins in .999 silver proof. All are double dated with 1999/2000. The ten peso is 48mm, two-ounces, while the other three five peso coins are 40mm, one-ounce. For the first time the designs for the three five peso coins were selected from designs submitted from artists outside the Casa de Moneda.

In 2003 Mexico joined the United States and Canada is issuing a state series. This two part series was issued to commemorate the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Union of the States of the Mexican Republic into a Federation. The first series of this commemorative have the state coat of arms from each of the 31 different states, plus the Federal District. They were issued in a silver centered 100 pesos in BU, silver proof in 10 pesos and gold/silver proof in 100 pesos, and were issued in reverse



alphabetical order, with three coins being issued in 2003, fifteen issued in 2004 and 13 issued in 2005. These have proven very popular, both in the United States as well as in Mexico. The BU's had a mintage of only 250,000 for each state. These were distributed by one-half of the mintage going to the state of issue, and the remaining 125,000 being dispersed throughout the country, thus were not available to many banks throughout Mexico.



The second series that just started and will be issued in 2006 and 2007, but will not have a common theme such as the coats of arms, as the previous series Instead they will have a design by the separate states and will include such subjects as architecture, flora, fauna, and regional costumes to name a few.

This series, will be the same 100 peso bimetallic issue with a sterling silver center and a bronze-aluminum ring for circulating issues. The 10 peso .999 silver proof and the 100 pesos will have a proof-like finish with a .999 gold center and a .999 silver outer ring.

This second series will be issued in an alphabetical order starting with the state of Aguascalientes. Mintage figures for this new series are not available at this time. The BU's of Aguascalients, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Colima, Chihuahua and Districto Federal are currently available.

In addition to the states programs, the Libertads, the Centenario Family of gold issues and regular circulating issues, the Casa de Moneda de Mexico was able to keep up with these various programs and issue seven new commemorative coins. This is a credit to their productivity and management to be able to handle so many varying projects at one time.

The country of Mexico, by decree dated June 21, 2005 authorized a new commemorative 20-peso coin, officially known as "El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote De La Mancha" (Don Quixote) that commemorates the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first publication of "Don Quixtoe", written by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. The coin design is based on an engraving titled "Calavera Quijotesca" by José Guadahupe Posada. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra was born in Alcalá de Henares, Spain in 1547 into a family of minor nobility. While in Andalusia in 1580 he began his literary career. It is said that Cervantes wrote "Don Quixtoe" while in prison at Argamasilla. Up to 1605 when the first part of "Don Quixtoe" appeared, he had a financial hard time. Part II was published in 1615. This has often been referred to as the first modern novel. It was originally conceived as a comic satire against the chivalric romances. There have been several interpretations since it was published. Some have veiled it as an attack on the Catholic Church, or Spanish policies of the time, or symbolizing the duality of the Spanish character. Posada used the traditional Day of the Dead, as his method of expression, using skeletons in shows,

staged in the barrios, as well as other social level locations. He would have the skeletons on bicycles and dressed in the finest clothing. This matter of expression against the ruling class brought him much grief, and several visits to the local jails. Posada died as a pauper, buried in a sixth class grave in the Doleros Cemetery. Seven years after he passed away his remains were thrown out as no one claimed them. The design of this commemorative coin shows his fixation on skeletons.

The Don Quixote commemorative was issued as a circulating BU 100 peso bimetallic with a .925 silver center with a diameter of 16.552, and an outer ring of aluminum bronze with an overall diameter of 39 mm. The bimetallic comes in a proof finish as well. Also authorized was a 20 peso, 2 ounce .999 silver proof of 48mm presented in an attractive wooden case. As of March 1, 2006 the mintage is reported as 3,000. The 100 pesos bi-metallic also come in a proof version. Which are available now.



By decree of June 21, 2005 the sixth coin in the Hispanic-American Series was authorized. This commemorative coin with the theme "Architecture and Monuments" was preceded by the previous issues of "Columnaria in 1991 and 1992; "Tortuga Golfina in 1994; Jarrabe Tapatio" in 1997 and 1998; "El Paso de la Muerte" in 2000; and "Galeón de Acapulco" in 2003.

The reverse of the sixth coin features the "Palacio de Bellas Artes" (Palace of Fine Arts). The construction of this "art-nouveau" style structure was started in 1904 but after the exterior was completed the interior work was halted for several years and was not finished until 1934.

The architect of this outstanding structure was Adamo Boari. The four facades are made of Carrara marble and the sculptures are the work of Bistolifi, Boni, Giorenzo, Maroti and Querol. Tiffany Studios of New York made the original theatre curtain in glass mosaic. Architect Federico Mariscal did the finishing of the building. The Palacio de Bellas Artes was originally planned as a national theater, but is in reality a National Museum of Modern Art and a National Theatre of Fine Arts.

The obverse of this coin features the national coat of arms of the ten other Hispanic-American countries that are participating in the series, surrounding the Mexican national coat of arms

By decree dated June 13, 2005 a ten peso 40mm. proof coin of .999 silver was authorized to be struck to commemorate the 33th "Festival Internacional Cervantino".

This important event took place in Guanjuato, Mexico, October 5 – 23, 2005 to pay homage to the writer Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. This multi faceted cultural festival covered artistic forms, such as theatre, dance,

music, and other formats, also included the works of special guests from Japan and China, with a special session honoring the 400 years of Don Quijote de La Mancha.

This 2005 "Bellas Artes" coin is 40mm in .925 silver and struck in proof only, as all others in this ongoing series, and has a milled edge. This coin has the denomination of 5 pesos. The obverse of this coin has the national coat of arms as found on most current coins of Mexico.



The reported mintage as of March 1, 2006 is 8,000. Most of the mintage of this coin went to the Spanish Mint for inclusion into sets, but a few have shown up on the Mexican market.

A new series entitled the "Mexican Anniversaries" was established with the issuance of three coins to honor events of Mexican national importance.

The first in this new series the "80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Creation of the Banco de Mexico", was authorized by decree of June 22, 2005, and has been issued in BU of 39mm., with a .925 silver center and an aluminum bronze outer ring. The obverse is the Mexican Coat of Arms. The reverse of these coins features the 1925 100-peso note of the Banco de Mexico, BKM2673. This note produced by the American Bank Note Company is a very rare bank note. The Banco de Mexico was established on August 28, 1925 and is the central bank of Mexico, and the only issuing bank note institution in Mexico. The constitution of 1917 created this concept and established a single note issuing establishment. This was predicated on the fact that the level of metallic reserves be sufficient to achieve this, but due to conditions within Mexico, this was not possible until 1925.

The proof issues are 48mm., 2-ounce proof .999 silver, and have a denomination of 20 pesos. The mintage as of March 1 2006 is 3,000. The BU's are currently available at \$25.00. Mintages on the BU are not available at this time. The silver proofs are \$75.00 and will be available soon.

The second issue of this series commemorates the 470<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Casa de Moneda de Mexico", which was established by a royal decree dated May 11, 1535 issued by the Spanish Queen Juana de Castilla. This, the oldest continuous operating mint in North America, was issuing coins two hundred and fifty seven years before the United States. The coinage of the Mexico mint has circulated around the world, and up to 1857 was legal tender in the United States.

The obverse has the National Coat of Arms, as on the other issues in this series. The reverse of this coin has an antique coining press, with the dates 1535, 2005. The denomination is 100 Pesos. The silver issues come in a 40mm., 1 ounce .999 silver proof, with the denomination of 10 pesos.

This commemorative is issued in a BU 39mm., bimetallic, with a center of .925 silver and an outer ring of aluminum-bronze. Mintages on the BU's are not available yet.

The third commemorative coin in this Mexican Anniversaries Series commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the "Reforma A La Ley Monetaria de 1905" (Reform of the 1905 Monetary Law).

This commemorative is issued in a BU 39mm., bimetallic, with the center being .925 silver with an outer ring of aluminum-bronze. The obverse has the National Coat of Arms, as on the other issues in this series. Mintages of this BU issue are not available at this time. The BU's are currently available.

The reverse has a radiate liberty cap, with "Liberty" and the dates "1905 and 2005". This style of Liberty Cap can be found on most silver coinage from 1905 through 1945 on coins of ten centavos through the one peso of 1920 to 1945. Variations also appear on other coins in this time span.

The silver issues come in 33mm., 1/2 ounce .999 silver proof, with the denomination of 5 pesos. The silver proofs with a mintage as of March 1, 2006 of 1,500.

Two commemorative coins will be issued by the Banco de Mexico for the participation in the FIFA World Cup in Germany in 2006.



The silver issue will be 40mm, 1 ounce, .999 silver, a denomination of 5 pesos, with a proof finish. The mintage as of March 1, 2006 is 40,000. The Reverse features a "Jugador de Pelota" (soccer player) from the Mayan culture of "Chichén Itza", Yucatán. The player is in ritual clothing from the classic period. Also in the reverse design is a stone ring, which was used in the Mayan period as a goal marker. This stone ring has two undulating feather serpents, with a ball below. The mintage of the silver issue at March 1, 2006 is 40,000.

The gold issue will be 23mm, ½ ounce, .999 gold, a denomination of 25 pcsos with a proof finish. The mintage of the gold as of March 1, 2006 is 8,000. The reverse features a "Jugador de Pelota" (soccer player)



kneeling on his knee. The player is in ritual clothing of the Mayan Culture of "Toniná", Chiapas, from the classic period. Also in the reverse design is a stone ring, which was used in the Mayan period as a goal marker. The stone ring has two undulating feather scrpents, with a ball below.

Both the silver and gold proof designs have the Mexican National Coat of Arms for the obverse design.

On February 11, 2005 a coin was authorized by decree to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNAM (The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico).

This coin was to be 40mm, in .999 silver with a proof finish. The reverse honored the university that was established in 1929. This coin was never struck and images of what was to be are not available.

In conclusion, these various coinage programs shows the artistic and production skills of the artists and professionals that the Casa de Moneda de Mexico employ.



"80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banco de Mexico"



"100 Aniversary 1905 Reform "



"470<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Casa de Moneda de Mexico"



"Palacio de Bellas Artes"



"Galeón de Acapulco"



"Jarabe Tapatio"



"Tortuga Golfina"



"El Paso de la Muerte"

### TRAVELING TO MEXICO

If you are contemplating going to Mexico City for the September Numismatic Convention, or anytime soon, please contact the Association prior to departure for up to date information on the convention and news on traveling to Mexico with plans of taking coins in or out of Mexico.

### ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

In revealing a collection of past issues of "Plus Ultra", The International Journal of Mexican Numismatics, from the former "The Aztec Numismatic Society" I ran across many wonderful and informative articles by the earlier numismatists, whom most have left us, but we can revisit their articles. Most did not have illustrations, but I will add them where I can. Any comments are appreciated.

### ORIGIN OF THE EAGLE ON MEXICAN COINS

By Dr. A. F. Pradeau Reprinted from "PLUS ULTRA, June 1973

It is derived from an Aztec legend. The native tradition has it that upon leaving their home at Aztlan, the year 1064 A.D., they were to continue migrating guided by a bird. The chirping of which, teeweeteewee, (that in their language meant "Let's go") was taken as a message from their gods directing the tribe to seek a new home (Brancroft's Native Races, vol. V, page 37).

After numerous adventures and wanderings, nearly three hundred years later the tribe halted on the border of a great lake where they beheld, perched upon a cactus growing out from the crevice of a rock that was washed by the waves, a royal eagle of extraordinary size and beauty, devouring a serpent being held in its talons and his broad wings opened toward the rising sun (Prescott's *Mexico*, vol. I, page 37.

As this was in accord with the oracles of their priests, the superstitious natives acclaimed with joy this auspicious omen and selected the site as their permanent home, the year 1325. Everyone set industriously to work filling in the site of Tenochtitlan, the name given to the place (op.cit. *Native Races*, vol. V, page 345). Said name according to Bancroft's *History of Mexico*, vol. 1, pp, 12-13, consisted of three parts: <u>Tenuch</u>, the name of their leader at the time of the founding; <u>Nochtli</u>, signifying a cactus growing on a stone, and Tetl, indicative of locality in which the first two letters (<u>te</u>) stood for divinity or superiority. It is now the city of Mexico.

This symbol was retained by the Insurgents during the War of Independence (1810 – 1821) on some of the coins, principally on the issues of the Supreme National Council of 1813; somewhat modified in the Iturbide's issues of 1822 and 1823, at which time the Mexico City Mint was visited by the proprietor of the London Museum and recorded his impression:

"The establishment occupies one part of the palace of the Viceroys. The silver is sent from the mines in bars, about two feet long and to the standard quality, and then melted into narrow pieces, from which they are drawn by a succession of wooden machinery, into long thin stripes of the thickness and breadth of a dollar. They are then taken by another set of men, who, by means of a screw press, cut them into round pieces, of the

size of the coin; these are taken to the opposite side of the room, to persons who weight and regulate them, by filing off the over plus weight; they are then milled at the edges, and sent below to be whitened by boiling in alum-water and thence carried to the stamping room where they are coined by fly presses, worked by eight men each; these machines, twenty in number, are said to be capable of coining upwards of 100,000 dollars in ten hours.

"The operations seemed to me to be in general performed in an awkward manner; the machinery occupies a great space, and on occasions much noise. At present about 200 workmen are employed, but when the mines were in full operations 400 were engaged and eighty thousand dollars per diem were coined here, independently or what was done by the other mints.

They were still striking bad impressions of the expelled emperor, and I was sorry to observe such ill executed work on a coin....They are now sinking new dies for the republican government, but the artists here are totally incompetent to the task of executing them in a style worthy of the country/ I had consulted with Pistrucci, at our mint, and obtained his terms for executing the dies for Mexico, but the haste in which the new government wanted the dies finished prevented the possibility of a communication with Europe: the reverse, the Mexican eagle, seated on the nopal, is copied from a fine specimen of the Falco Chrysaetos, which I killed in Scotland, and is well etched by Howett, in my catalogue of the late London Museum," (Six Months Residence and Travels in Mexico", by W. Bullock, London, 1824, pp.199-200).

Mr. Bullock's assertion that the eagle was copied from the Howett's etching has been denied by prominent Mexican historians and numismatists, the most outstanding being Don Manuel Romero de Terreros, and Don Roberto Castro. The writer very decidedly favors the opinion of the latter, as numerous Aztec ideographs of centuries priority represent the legend of the foundation of what is now Mexico City, with an eagle similar in appearance and position to the one used on the coinage.

Crlota Maria Bustamante, a prominent historian and political figure, proposed a design for a truly independent Mexico coin that was to have on the obverse an eagle devouring a serpent; the eagle to appear crowned – not with a European type of crown – but with the copilli emblem used by the Aztec rulers, with a marginal legend IMPERIO MEXICANO RESTITUIDO (restored Mexican Empire); the reverse was to carry between palm branches the value and in the exergue MEXICO. Año 1822 (20.), the year of striking, the second of independence. (La Avispa de Chilpanzingo, No. 15, pages 219 – 222). The Iturbide regime prevented this truly symbolic coin from being struck.

With some variations the eagle symbol has appeared on the coinage of the republic until the present (1973) adopted by congressional <u>acta (decree)</u> of August 1, 1823 and mortified by presidential proclamation of February 5, 1934.

### **Durango Two Reales of 1824**

by David O'Harrow C-49

Two reales profile eagle coins were struck at the Mexico City and Durango mints in 1824. Coins struck at the Mexico City mint consistently contain the standard "0" over "M" mint mark but it has long been known that a very scarce Durango variety exists with a "D" mint mark instead of the standard "D" with superscript "0."

In the book "Hookneck: El Aguila de Perfil," we presented Durango coins from two different dies with the "D" only mint mark. Both coins were struck with the same eagle side die. We labeled these Type 1 and 2. We now know that another eagle side die was combined with the Type 1 cap side die. This was probably the original die combination. The eagle side die probably failed early-on since that die combination seems to be rare. In addition to the specimen illustrated here, this correspondent has observed only one other.





Type 1. Note that there is a dot preceding the 2R and the eagle side is the same as Type 2.





Type 2. Note that there is no dot preceding the 2R and the eagle side die is the same as Type 1.





New Eagle Side Die. Note that the portion of the snake below the eagle's beak is nearly vertical, there are no stems on the laurel berries and the cap side die is the same as Type 1.

### LARGE GOLD COLLECTION STOLEN IN MEXICO CITY

A large gold coin collection was stolen July 10, 2006 from a collector in Mexico City. A list of the missing coins, are as best can be listed from the information provided. Anyone having any information n anything to due with this collection should contact Paul A. Brombal, (805) 687-3641, (805) 452-1382 or at <a href="mailto:pbrombal@silcom.com">pbrombal@silcom.com</a>. AN AWARD IS BEING OFFERED.

### Spanish Colonial:

One Half Escudos:	<b>Two Escudos:</b>	Two Escudos Con't.:
1813	1733	1796
1817	1734/3	1797
1821	1735	1798
	1739	1791
One Escudos:	1742	1801
	1747	1803
1707	1749	
1737	1753	Four Escudos:
1740	1760	C. Marie Mar
1742	1767	1734
1750	1768	1736
1767	1770	1738
1788	1780	1739
1789	1791	1739/8

Four Escudos Con't:		Eight Escudos Con't:	
1746		1784	
1749		1789	
1751			
1753		Eight Escudos Republic	
1753			
1755		Mo 6 p;eces	
1761		1848 GC	
1763		Ca 3 pieces	
1770		Cn 2 pieces	
1774		Do 7 pieces	
1783		Zs 3 oicces	
1789		Go 7 pieces	
1798		Oa 1846	
1801		OE 1110	
1803		Decimal Republic:	
1806/4	24	Predict republic.	
1816		One Peso:	
1818		One reso.	
1819		1888 12 pcs.	
8 Escudos		1905 Vn	
o Escudos		1903 VII	
1734/3	VF	Two and one half:Pesos:	
Pesos:F			
1736	$\mathbf{AU}$	14 pcs. Mo, Go & Zs	
1739	AU		
1741	XF	Five Pesos:	
1742	VF		
1743	VF+	8 pcs.	
1743	AU		
1745	ΛU	Ten Pesos:	
1746	XF		
1747 F VI	VF+	4 pcs.	
1749	XF		
1752	VF	Twenty Pesos:	
1755	XF	-	
1758/7	VF	1 Cn, 2 Go,& 3 Mo	
1759	XF		
1761	*		
1765			
1767			
1777/6		E-0%	
1777			
1778			
1779			
1110			

### The Durango Mint Pattern 8 Reales of 1840

By: Kent Ponterio



The Republic of Mexico produced "cap & ray" 8 Reales at fourteen different mints from 1823-1897. The mint located in Mexico City served as the primary mint for the central government. A regulation was in place that the remaining thirteen mints were required to obtain specific minting equipment such as dies and matrices directly from the Mexico City mint. For this reason, stylistically the coins struck by the various mints were intended to be virtually identical with the exception of mint marks and assayer's letters, however this was not always the case and at times they tended to vary greatly.

For numerous reasons several of the branch mints acquired dies and or hubs from sources other than the Mexico City mint. European firms such as the Soho mint in Birmingham England, among others were able to supply the Mexican branch mints with desperately needed items such as coining dies at a significantly cheaper cost and often with a quicker turn around rate than that of the Mexico City mint.

Although the origin of manufacture for certain die styles is known, for several it is not. Dies manufactured from sources other than the Mexico City mint were considered contraband and therefore illegal. For this reason it is unlikely any of the Mexican branch mints kept actual mint records that point to the origin of their manufacture.

The Durango Mint Pattern 8 Reales of 1840 has been subject to several theories as to where it may have originated. Examining the characteristics of this coin can however help point us in a better direction.

- The coin has a specific gravity of 8.83, which makes it nickel plated copper rather than base metal silver or German silver as previously thought. Normally found with varying degrees of flat strike most likely due to the amount of pressure needed when striking hard metals such as nickel.
- The coin is struck with a steam press rather than with a screw press and bears reeded edge rather than a milled edge.

The letters "O.M.C." in place of the assayer's initials could possibly represent "Oeschger Mesdach & Co." also known as "Eschger, Ghesquiere & Co.". This firm had offices in France, as well as other countries in Europe and produced coins for various countries. Forrer cites "Flans et pieces de monnaies de nickel, de cuirvre et de bronze fabriques par MM. Oeschger, Meedach et Cie" in his "Biographical Dictionary of

Mcdallists". The metal, style and method of which this pattern was produced along with the placement of "O.M.C." in the legend would suggest that this is the firm responsible for its manufacture.

### **Bibliography**

- "Resplandores" Cap and Ray 8 Reales of The Republic of Mexico 1823-1897.
   Mike Dunigan and J.B. Parker.
- · "The Soho Mint & the Industrialization of Money". Richard Doty.
- "A Guide Book Of Mexican Coins 1822 to Date". T.V. Buttrey & Clyde Hubbard.
- "The Macmillan Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatics". Richard G. Doty.
- · "Biographical Dictionary of Medallists" L. Forrer.

### 

The Ground Rules: Each active member can place a free ad of up to four lines total of text in the Journal. Suggested topics include Items for sale, Want to Buy, Trade, and Information. Contacts listed in the Journal can be only PO Boxes or Email addresses. In today's modern world, this is only prudent. Correspondents can exchange other information **ON THEIR OWN**. These listings are allotted up to two pages in the Journal. Oldest listings will cycle off first, up to the two-page limit, or as deemed appropriate by the coordinator.

Ads, Listings, and error corrections can be submitted direct to the coordinator, David Hughes, PO Box 596, Davis, CA, 95616, or <a href="mailto:david\_hughes@dot.ca.gov">dot.ca.gov</a> for collection, editing and submittal to the Journal.

### 

Trade: Collector is interested in 20<sup>th</sup> century Mexican coins. Have U.S. 20<sup>th</sup> century coins, lower grades, for trade. Jim Schneiderman jim@evans-mfg.com

### 

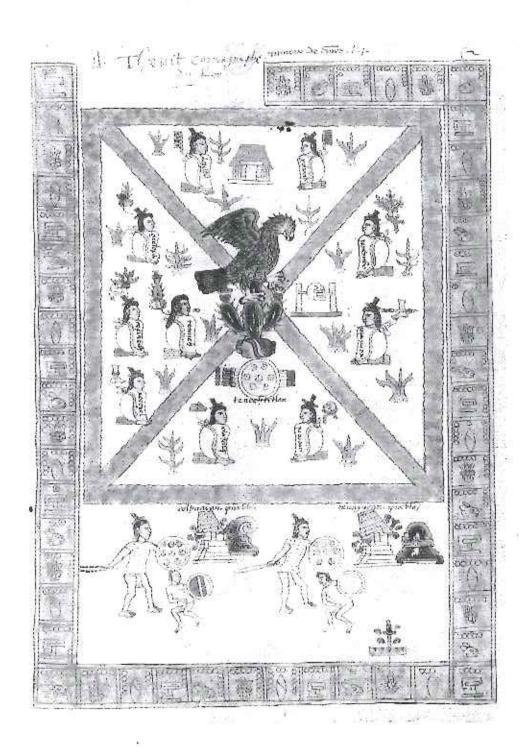
Want to Buy: Circulating counterfeit Mexican coinage before 1840. Also, Gem Uncirculated Pillar Dollars of all dates 1732-1773. David Wnuck dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com

### 

Information: I am collecting information on the Sevilla-Villa medal as described by Joe Flores in the Revolutionary Corner. I am especially interested in any examples that have engraving on the blank (reverse) side, as well as a census of known pieces. This is for a future article in the Journal. David Hughes, PO Box 596, Davis, CA, 95616, or david hughes@dot.ca.gov

### THE CODEX MENDOZA

By Patricia Rieff Anawalt & Francis F. Berdan Printed in the Scientific American, June, 1992



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