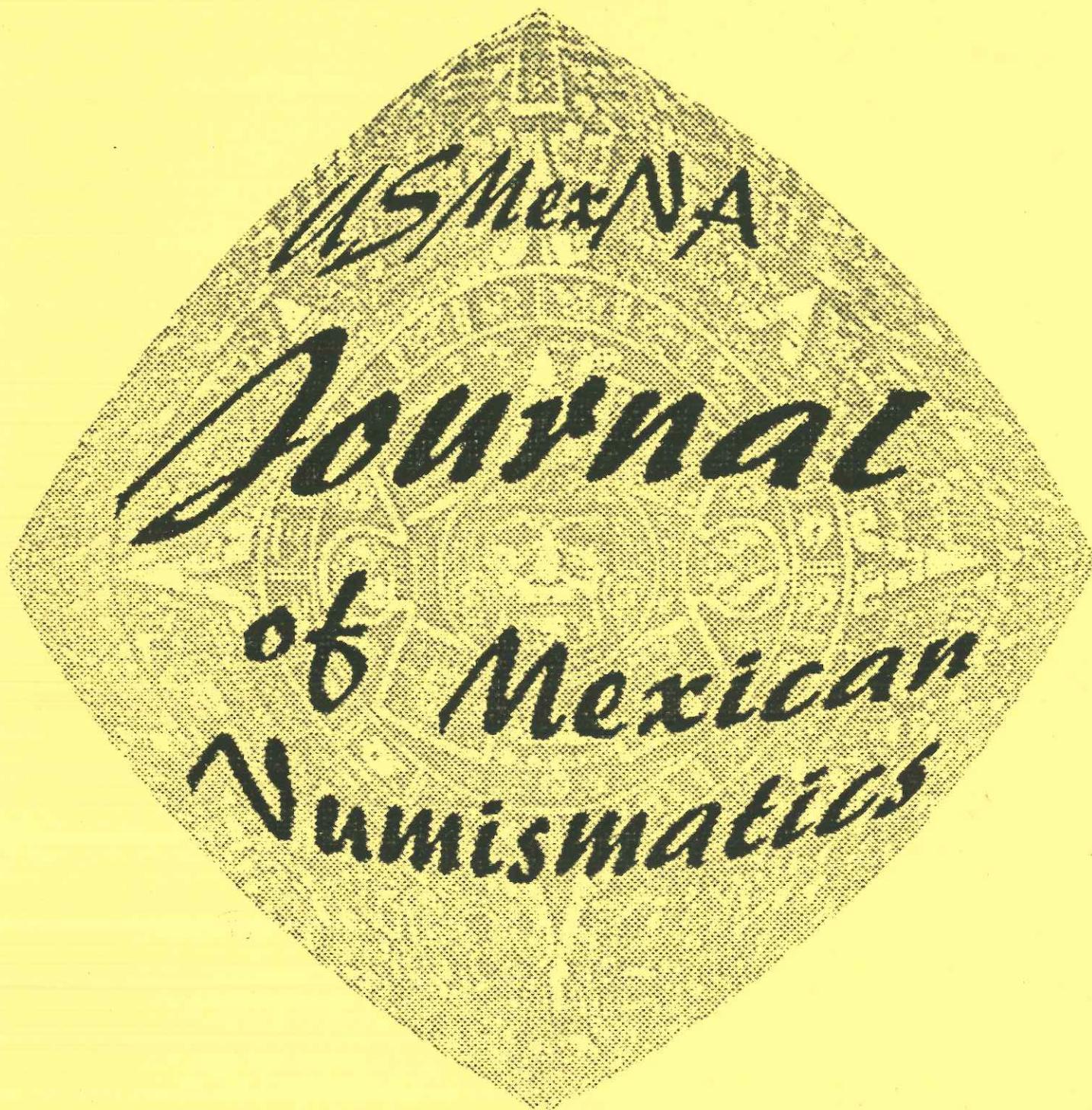


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**USMexNA OFFICIALS**

**Executive Director and Editor Don Bailey, C-1**  
250 So. Lyon Av. #139, Hemet, CA 92543  
(951) 652-7875, Fax (951) 929-1300, Cell (801) 550-1358  
donbailey\_98@yahoo.com

**DIRECTORS:**

**Sal Falcone, C3**  
1230 Lincoln Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95125  
(408) 292-2221, Fax (408) 227-8291

**Joe Flores, C2**  
P. O. Box 4484  
Stockton, CA 94204  
(209) 462-0759, fax (209) 462-3157  
E-mail pepef44@sbcglobal.net  
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**Richard Ponterio, C108**  
1818 Robinson Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 299-0400, Fax (619) 299-6952  
E-mail coins@ponterio.com

**Stephen G. Searle, R176**  
P. O. Box 68  
Berkeley Hts. NJ 07922-0068  
E-mail: ssearle@yahoo.com

**JOURNAL OF MEXICAN NUMISMATIC STAFF:**

Don Bailey, C1, Editor  
Norma Dollries, R446  
Cory Frampton R366  
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XX



**VIVA LA REVOLUTION**

By  
**JOE FLORES, C-2**

**OAXACA 3 CENTAVOS, RETANGULAR**

These rectangular 3 centavos copper plain edge coins are from the Mexican Revolution of 1910 -1917. This era generated many rare coins of very low mintage. Needless to say many were struck on all types of metal and shapes. This coin is one of very low mintage and extremely rare. It is well known that very few collections possess this coin. Better known in the book *La Ventana* by Woodworth and Flores 1988, page 4 as Oaxaca # 2 or in the book, *Mexican Revolution Coinage* by Hugh S.Guthrie and Merrill Bothamley, 1976, page 70 as G.B. # 291. Both books are out of print.

This particular coin has been the model used by the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico to strike some medals in 1987 honoring the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917. Also it was used in the main photo on their poster for the same event. Of the two medals the silver ones are scarce as only 100 pieces struck are very scarce, the laton issues are easy to obtain.

Getting back to the coin it is very easy to recognize. Coin Oax.2 and Oax.3 share the same obverse die. The word ★ PROVISI ★ appears on the rare coin and the word ★ PROVISO ★ appears on the most common of the two. In both cases "Provisi" appears on the top line of both coins. This is the plate coin in *La Ventana*, OAX 2 and the G.B. book plate coin G.B. 291, as well is the plate coin for **VIVA LA REVOLUCION** by Bailey and Flores 2004, page 96.

If what I read is true these rectangular copper coins were not accepted by the forces. Coins having four corners were very hard to carry as they would cut thru the cloth then thru the flesh. The past owners of this coin are very impressive, ex Utberg, Bothamley, and from a very well known collection of Mexico City, Mexico.

I also would like to mention that I have many coins with ★ PROVISI ★ struck on all type of metals as silver, lead, brass, copper, gold plated. All are well struck counterfeits so beware. I also must mention that there is more than one type of counterfeit dies. Many people have asked me why would anyone counterfeit coins, especially minor coins? Counterfeiting has been around since the Aztec Indians.

\*LA VENTANA

\*\* MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARY COINAGE

Joe Flores, C-2

P. O. Box 4484

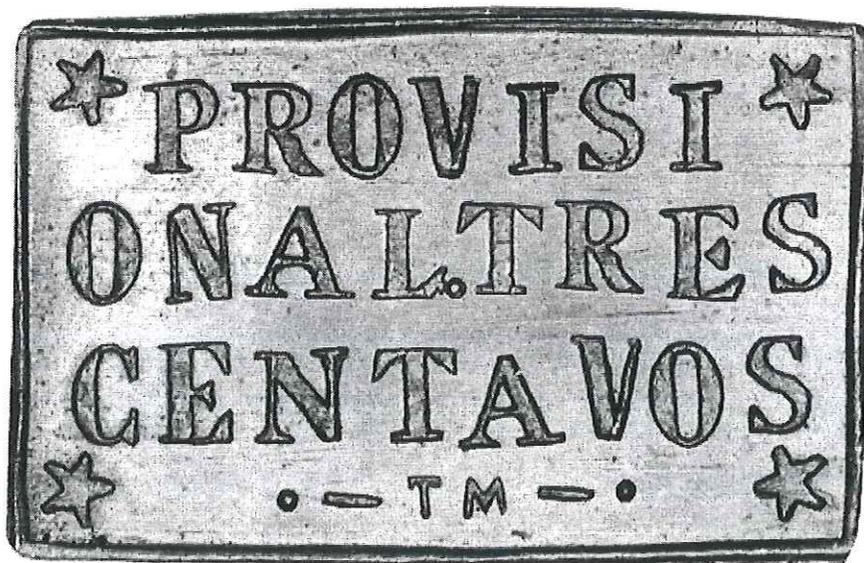
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Obverse for OAX. #2 & #3

(Actual size 14mm X 23mm)



★ PROVISI ★

Reverse - OAX. #2 or G.B.-291



Reverse - #3 or G.B.-290



Laton Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico Un Centavo medal



Silver Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico Tres Centavos medal

## Early Die Lineage of the First Oaxaca Mint

By

Kent Ponterio, R- 376

The early 8 Reales of the first Oaxaca mint reflect a wide variety of interesting die styles that are drastically different from one another in quality of workmanship and artistic expression. Within the span of a few years, styles range from quite detailed and well executed to what could be described as the poorest quality in the entire Cap & Ray series. It is evident from the coins that in its early years of production the Oaxaca mint encountered numerous problems including flatness of strike and improperly annealed dies that wore out or broke prematurely. Clearly, the mint was operating at a level technologically inferior to that of other contemporary Mexican mints.

One of the most interesting features of these early coins is that they permit us to correlate the coins to each other and thus trace the die lineage. Several of this period's early die styles were produced in very small quantities and in some cases, only one set of dies were made. This permits us to link one style to the next definitively. For example, the reverse die of the 1858-O (fig. 2) is the same as that for the 1859-Oa (fig. 3).

However, the obverse die style of the 1859-Oa is unique to this year (figs. 3-4). Coins from this die often have a large vertical die crack, sometimes spanning the entire length of the die, confirming that this die style was only used in 1859. Obviously, the die broke and became so damaged that it could no longer be used and thus necessitated a new obverse die style the following year. As is evident from the diagonal die crack (starting at about 7 o'clock), the first issue of 1860 (fig. 5) continued using the same reverse die of the 1859. It appears that this die was retired temporarily since the second issue of 1860 (fig. 6) uses a reverse die unique to this year. However, the second reverse die used in 1860 seems to have not lasted very long. As is clear from the coin pictured in fig. 6, this reverse die had broken to the point where it could no longer be used. Due to its extreme rarity, it is certain that this reverse die broke fairly early after its production.

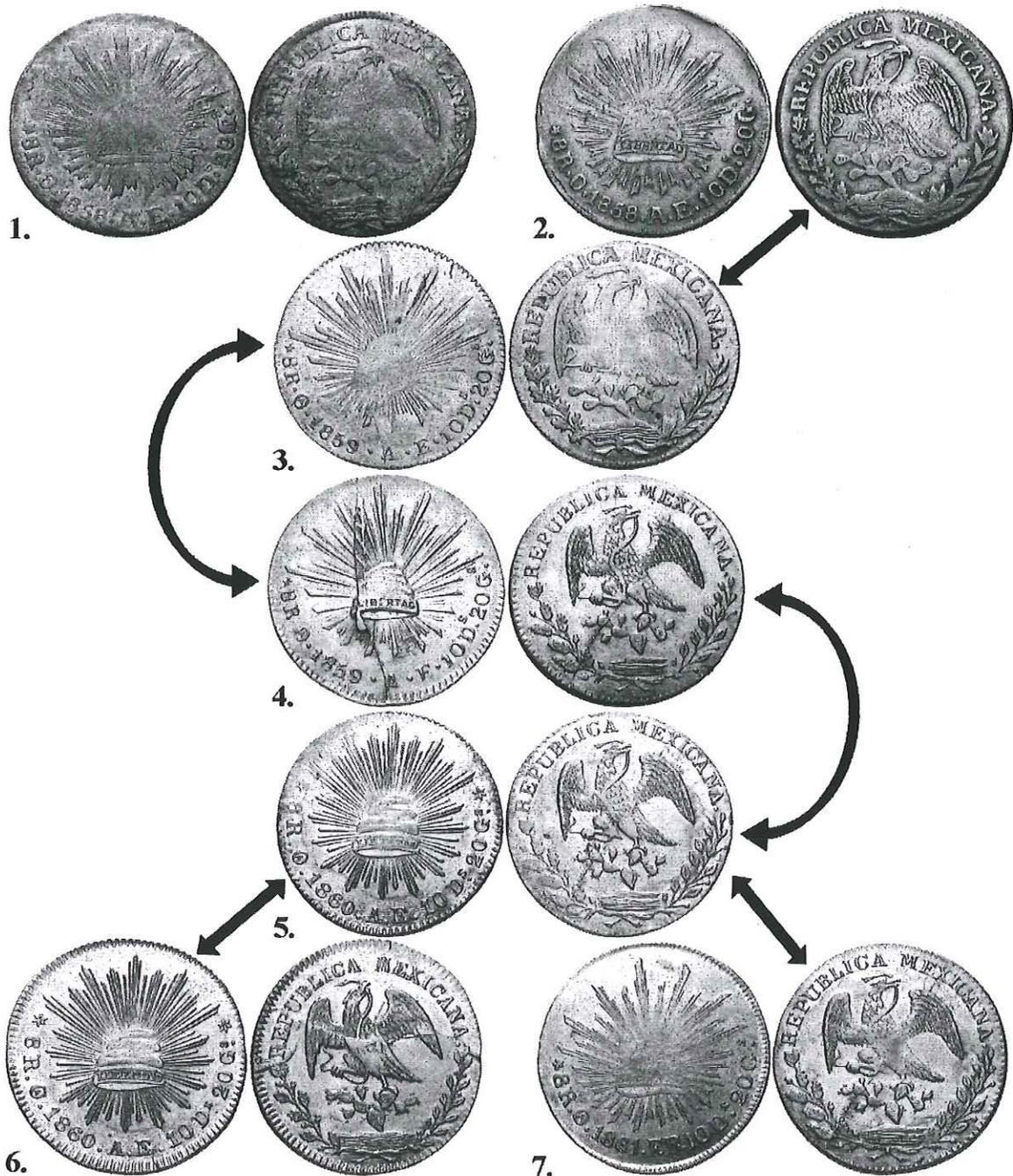
The coin pictured in fig. 7 represents a previously unpublished muling in which the obverse die style of 1861-1862 is paired with the reverse die of 1859-1860. Apparently, after the reverse die of 1860 broke, the mint reverted to using the reverse die of 1859-1860, since that die was still functional. This coin, along with several other examples was part of a large hoard of Oaxacan mint 8 Reales of this period and represents a recent discovery.

In terms of the quality of its die workmanship, the coinage of the die style of 1861-1862 can be considered among the crudest in the entire Cap & Ray series. The overall design elements lack artistic refinement, the letters in the legends are placed unevenly and crudely engraved local punches replace worn out or broken punches ("EP" of "REPUBLICA", see fig. 9-12). As with the previous dates in this series these coins exhibit multiple problems in manufacture, such as flatness of strike, improperly annealed dies, etc. However, unlike the earlier coinage, many different dies were produced in the style of 1861-1862, some examples of which can be seen in figs. 8-12.

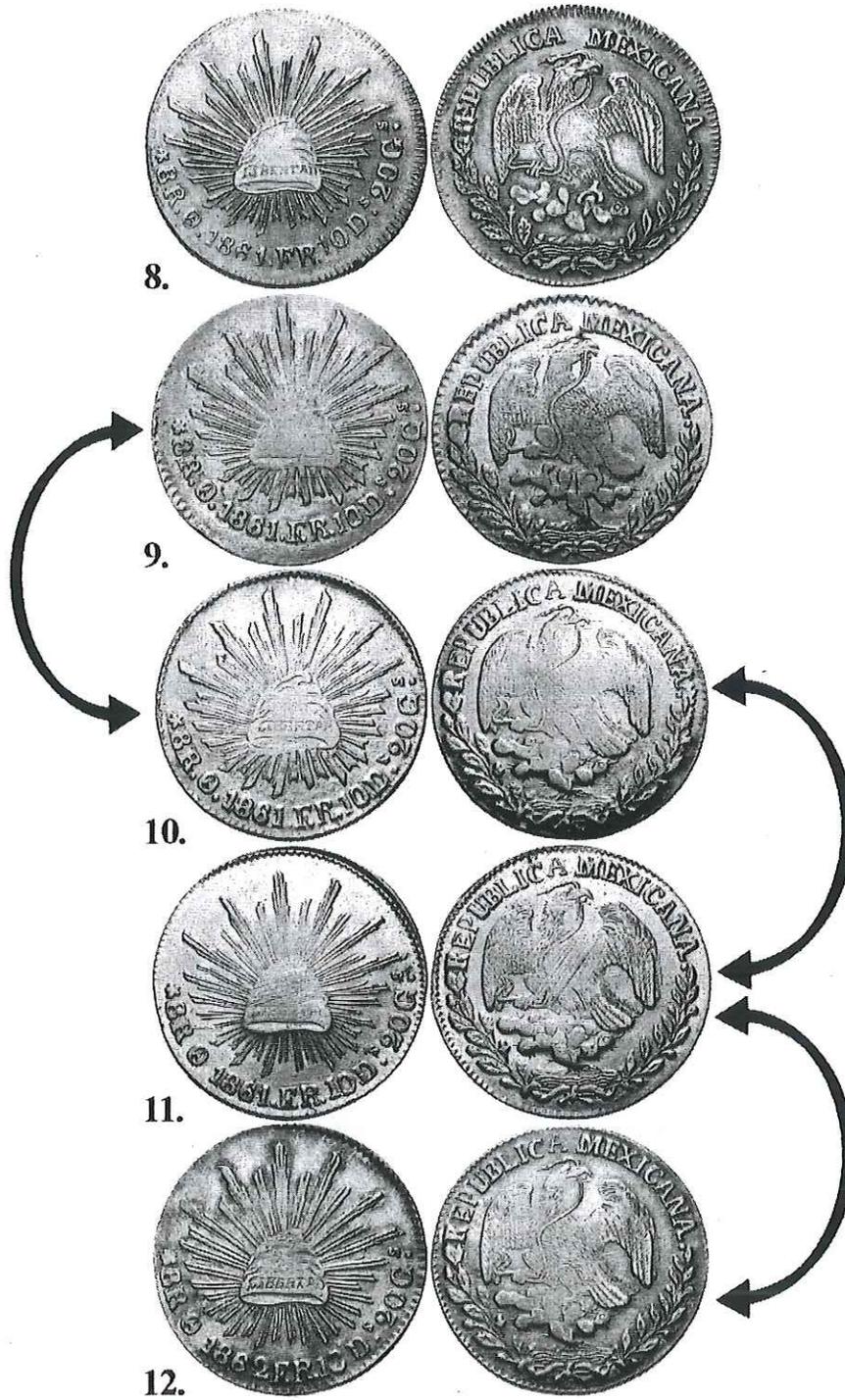
In 1863, a reformation took place and remedied many of the problems associated with the coinage issues of the previous two years. Several new die styles were introduced and gradually evolved until the end of 1863, at which point the mint ceased to strike coins until it re-opened in 1867 (see figs. 13-18). For more detailed information regarding the various Oaxaca mints please see Mike Dunigan and J.B. Parker's Resplandores, pp. 822-844

### Early die lineage of the first Oaxaca Mint

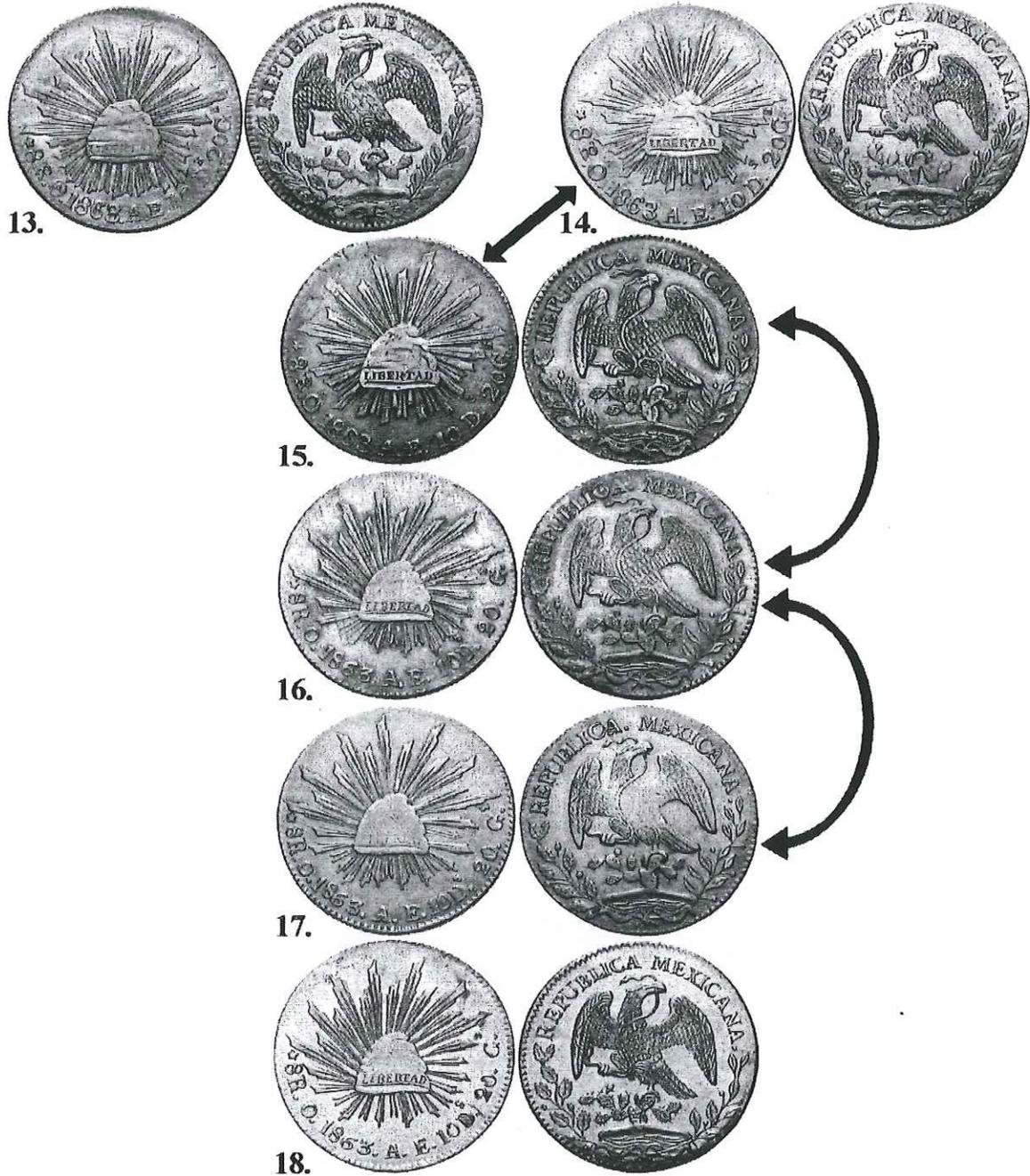
Black arrows indicate die linkage of coins struck from the same dies.



Early die lineage of the first Oaxaca Mint  
Black arrows indicate die linkage of coins struck from the same dies.



**Early die lineage of the first Oaxaca Mint**  
Black arrows indicate die linkage of coins struck from the same dies.



**ANOTHER MINACIOUS COIN**

By Dr. A. F. Pradeau, ANA 3787

Reprinted from The "Numismatist" February, 1960

Most collectors are familiar with the death threatening MUERA HUERTA peso struck at Cuencamé, State of Durango, in 1914, but few have knowledge of another doubly menacing peso, struck in silver twenty one years later at an unknown place and to date, of a yet unnamed genesis. Its description is: Obverse" In the field, the coat of arms of Mexico – an eagle, wings out stretched, frontal view, head to the right, devouring a serpent, perched upon a cactus that grows on a mound arising from the water of Texcoco Lake. Oak and olive branches at the base. Marginal inscriptions: Beginning at the lower left quadrant and ending at the lower right, REPUBLICA INSTITUCIONAL MEXICANA; in the exergue, Muera Calles. Slightly raised border.

Reverse: The field may be divided into three parts; in the center there is a row of mountains which actually represent the Popocatepec volcano on the left and the Ittlacihuatl on the right. The upper third presents a radiating Liberty cap with the value UN PESO below. The lower third shows the year of issue 1935 over a garland of oak and olive branches. Marginal inscriptions: above, ABAJO LOS MONOPOLIS (down with the monopolies); in the exergue, MUERA GARRIDO CANABAL with a slightly raised border.

Edge: plain; size 33 millimeters; weight, 16.5 grams.

The planchet is circular but of uneven thickness measuring two millimeters at the top and one and a half at the bottom. The design on both sides being topmost instead of the customary way of having one side facing up while the opposite side faces down. It is definitely a well struck piece but of inferior workmanship to that of the Mexico City Mint. The eagle is somewhat coarsely engraved, the talons of the left leg are completely separated from the body and the bird does not seem to have tail feathers.

As the Mexico City Mint emphatically avers that it was not struck there, the investigator must look elsewhere. As Plutarco Elias Calles and Tomas Canabal were anticlerical, the logical assumption is that it was issued by a fanatic or some religious group, but an impartial investigation absolves the latter.

The religious persecution that had its inception with the rise in power of Oberegón and Calles in 1913 reached its climax during July, 1926, when all Catholic churches were ordered closed. This motivated the Soldiers of Christ (Cristeros) revolt that lasted until June, 1929, who emitted paper money assuming the obligation under the name of *Liga Nacional de Defensa Religiosa*, not the 1935 pesos. With the closing of the Calles presidential term on November 30, 1928, the subsequent Presidents were more tolerant or conciliatory towards the clergy and the prevailing religion, that the problem had ceased to exist by 1935.

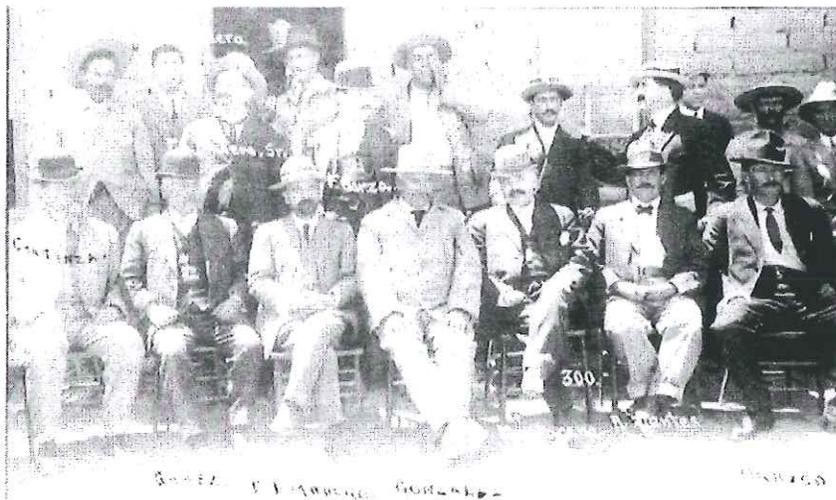
Calles remained in Mexico in a more or less passive capacity until April 8, 1936, at which time President Cárdenas must have discovered some activity on the part of the antireligious ex-president, and exiled him two days later. Incidentally, both Calles and his first wife passed away in California in Catholic hospitals. It has been rumored that he was the son of a Smyrnian camel driver, an escapee from the U. S. Camel Corps established in 1858.

Garrido Canabal did not achieve the high post of General Calles although he had greater educational advantages, was a lawyer by profession, was congressman and senator and later governor of his native state, Tabasco. At the time Calles was exiled, Garrido Canabal was a member of the cabinet of President Cárdenas. He has been much more hostile toward the clergy than Calles and on August 19, 1926, an attempt was made on his life wounding him slightly, killing three of his companions and injuring a boy lottery ticket vendor.

Dr. Pradeau thanked Messrs. Maxwell Studley and G. Reza Castañón who loaned the specimens he studied.



Lot #662, Ponterio and Associate's Sales #127, September 20, 2003



## John Reed's "What About Mexico?": The United States and the Mexican Revolution

The Mexican Revolution of 1911 was not well understood in the United States, but it found a place in numerous American novels, short stories, and silent films—albeit a clichéd and stereotypical one in which Mexicans often played the villains vanquished by heroic American cowboys. Such stereotypes of Mexicans dominated U.S. films about Mexico for much of the 20th century. Despite these negative stereotypes, Francisco Villa, leader of the peasant uprisings in northern Mexico, exploited American interest in the revolution for his own ends. A contract with a U.S. newsreel company—he agreed to fight his battles primarily during the day so they could be filmed—earned him money to buy weapons. He also granted interviews to prominent journalists, including the socialist John Reed. Reed's June 1914 article in the *Masses*, "What About Mexico?," opposed U.S. intervention and countered the negative images of Mexicans by portraying their struggle as brave and heroic.

In the first place, let's settle the question of whether or not the Mexican people are fighting just because they want to fight—or because they want something that they can get no other way. It is of course to the interest of those who desire Intervention and Annexation of Mexico to spread the news that this is a "comic opera revolution." If anybody wants to know the truth at first hand, he must do as I did go through the country and especially through the Constitutionalist army, asking the people what they are fighting for and whether they like revolution as a way of living.

You will make the astonishing discovery that the peons are sick of war that, curiously enough, they do not enjoy starvation, thirst, cold, nakedness, and wounds without pay for three years steady; that loss of their homes and years of ignorance as to whether their women and children are alive, does not appeal to them much.

But of course that argument by foreign holders of concessions is like that other which we are familiar with in this country: that the reason employers of labor down there don't pay better wages is that the Mexicans would not know how to spend it, because their standard of living is so low. So you'll find often, when you ask these people why they're fighting, that "It's more fun to fight than work in the mines or as slaves on the great haciendas."

I have seen these mines, where the hovels of the workers are infinitely wretcheder than the slums of Mexican towns. For example, the American Smelting and Refining Company's properties at Santa Eulalia, where they've built a church for the workers to keep them contented, though they crush strikes unmercifully and herd the poor devils into the filthiest huts; where such is the good feeling between miners and operators that the latter don't dare go down into the village at night. And just to prove how different it can be, I've been to Magistral where the National Mines and Smelters plant is situated—the happiest village I have seen in Mexico.

There the workmen, though not receiving much more pay than the others, live in their own houses; and hardly a night passes without a *baile*, at which the extremely popular

officers of the company are always present. I haven't time to go into the differences between Santa Eulalia and Magistral; but the point is, they are different. The miners at Santa Eulalia join the revolution simply to escape the mines; those at Magistral do not. And any people who would not rather fight than work in most American mines in Mexico are a degraded people.

There is only one book that gives the real facts about the Mexican revolution, and that is the recently published "The Mexican People. Their Struggle for Freedom," by L. Gutierrez de Lara and Edgcumb Pinchon. If you can get hold of that absorbingly interesting book, read it. I am not going to paraphrase it in this article; but I just want to put in a few words the real character of this Revolution. In the first place, it is not a revolution of the middle class; it is a slowly growing accumulation of grievances of the peons—the lowest class—that has finally burst definitely into expression. There is not one peon out of twenty who cannot tell you exactly what they are all fighting for: Land. In different ways they have been struggling for it for four hundred years, and most of the time, like all simple, half-primitive peoples, they haven't even been able to express this desire consciously. But that they felt it deeply and strongly is shown by the fact that they rose in arms whenever anyone expressed it for them.

This is the strongest underlying cause of the Revolution. Little by little, the untaxed owners of big estates, originally created by Spanish land-grants, have absorbed the common lands of villages, the open ranges, and the small independent farms, leaving the people no choice but to become slaves on the great haciendas and no hope for the future at all. Sometimes it would be the granting of whole valleys as concessions to foreign capitalists by the National Government, or the declaration of areas thrown open to colonization with disregard for those who lived on them, like the lands of the Yaqui Indians in Sonora—an act that turned an agricultural race which had been at peace for three hundred years into a warring tribe that has resisted ever since.

The culmination of this process was the infamous land law of 1896, for which Porfirio Diaz is responsible. This law permitted denunciation of all lands in the Republic not secured by a legal title. The cynical criminality of this piece of legislation only appears when you consider that three-fourths of the small independent farms and even city property were held by peons too ignorant to know what "title" meant, whose lands had been worked by their ancestors sometimes for four generations, and whose tenure the Government had never questioned. These are the people whom the great land-owners dispossessed of their homes, and turned out to starve or enter virtual slavery. And when they refused to move, regiments of Federal soldiers descended upon them and exterminated whole districts. I know of one case where 400 families were literally massacred, so that one man who already owned 15,000,000 acres of land might add a few hundred more to his estate. De Lara tells of many more horrible ones.

And the result was that by 1910 the big haciendas touched each other's borders all across the North of Mexico, and the agricultural population were chained to particular haciendas by debt, religious superstition, or the most cunningly calculated mental debauchery. Education was at a standstill; or worse, it was just what the *hacendados* wanted it to be.

Public schools could not be established there, because the law said that haciendas were "private property." But the people, scattered, unable to communicate with one another, deliberately sunk in content and ignorance by their employers, hopeless of change, still nourished a dream.

I have said that the Mexicans are normally an agricultural people. They are more than that. Like all other people, nothing spurs them so much to live as personal ownership of their homes and tools. The peons on the haciendas dreamed of the farms that their grandfathers used to own, and that they themselves desired. Indeed, so strong was this instinct, that the landowners themselves gave each peon his own little field which he could work Sundays. And so, under such tremendous handicaps, the strange thing is not that the peons rose in such numbers; it is remarkable that they rose at all.

For there is another lie that those interested will tell you that a very small per cent of the Mexican people are fighting in the Revolution that out of a population of seventeen million, only some four hundred thousand have been engaged on both sides in the last three years. It is true that those who originally revolted in 1910 were a small percentage of the people—but that is because news and ideas spread very slowly through the Republic. Every day more people joined the revolution and every day to more and more distant villages far removed from the lines of communication comes the astonishing word that there is hope for the peons. Every state in the Republic is now in revolt, reporting to Carranza at least weekly—and in all these states the revolution steadily gains. The Constitutionalist army in the North now amounts to over fifty thousand men, and a conservative guess at the revolutionists' strength in the rest of the Republic would give them over two hundred thousand in all. Not all of these are fighting men yet. But even the *pacificos*, the peons one finds tilling the fields and tending the cattle in the villages and haciendas of the country, are all in favor of the Constitutionalist. They welcome the rebel entry into their towns; they hate the Federals. Often I asked them why they did not fight. "They do not need us," came the reply. "The Revolution is going well. When it goes badly and they call to us, then the whole country will rise. But if we fight now, who will raise corn for the army and cattle for the soldiers? And who will make babies that can grow up to be soldiers?" That is how deep their faith is. They look forward possibly to many years of fighting still, and see the necessity for a growing race of young soldiers to carry on the Revolution.

Zapata was the first leader of the peons in the present revolution to call them to arms for the settlement of the land question. Almost a year afterward Madero issued his famous Plan of San Luis Potosi, which inflamed the people chiefly because it promised a distribution of the great estates among the poor. Zapata joined him, too, nor did he abandon Madero until the latter showed himself unable to settle the question. The rich land-owners bribed Orozco then to start a counter-revolution to embarrass Madero, but the only way Orozco could raise the people was by promising them free farms. And when they discovered that he really did not propose to give them land at all, they deserted Orozco and went back to their homes. At the death of Madero, Carranza took the field, endorsing vaguely the principles of Madero's plan, but placing all the emphasis upon the restoration of constitutionalist government. Zapata denounced Carranza, who refused to

commit himself on the land question, but endorsed Villa, because the latter has gone ahead confiscating the great estates and dividing them gratis among the poor. And on that point, I think, the split between Carranza and his General will come because the Mexican Revolution will not be won until the peons get their land. And don't let anybody tell you that there are no losses to speak of in a Mexican battle that the whole affair is a joke, or that Mexicans are not brave. They are perhaps the most recklessly brave people in the world. I saw them charge on foot up a hill two hundred and fifty feet high in the face of artillery saw them do it *seven times*, and get absolutely massacred every time. I saw them on foot again, armed only with hand bombs, rush a corral defended by twelve hundred men shooting through loopholes and five machine guns eight times they did it, and hardly one of them came back from each charge. And about the sparsity of dead in Mexican battles, let me add that about three thousand of Villa's army were killed and wounded in the first five days' fighting at Torreon; and remember, there have been hundreds of battles in the three years.

Have you ever heard one of your fellow-countrymen talk about the "damned little Greasers," to the effect that "one American was worth twenty Mexicans," or perhaps that they are "a dirty, ignorant, treacherous, cowardly, immoral race"? I was two weeks marching with one hundred ex-bandits, perhaps the most disreputable company in the entire Constitutionalist army, Gringo-haters, too. Not only did they not steal anything from me these wretchedly poor, unclothed, unpaid, immoral rascals, but they refused to allow me to buy food or even tobacco. They gave me their horses to ride. They gave me their blankets to sleep in. Mexicans are notoriously the most warm-hearted and generous of peoples. They are big men, too good riders, good shots, good dancers and singers. They endure daily what would drive an American soldier to desert. And they never complain. And let me tell you this: *Except in times of war it is almost unknown that foreigners should be killed or even held up in Mexico!* As for outrages to foreigners, they think nothing of killing a Greaser on the American side of the Texas border. There have been enough wanton outrages to Mexican citizens in Texas and California in the last ten years to have justified armed intervention by the Mexican army fifty times. A list will be furnished on request. And yet the Texan is not a particularly bad man. He's just like all the rest of the Americans he doesn't understand the Mexican temperament and doesn't want to; but the Texans come into direct contact with Mexicans, and so they are a little more uncivilized than the rest of us farther north. If you will trace the pedigree of Intervention Shouters, you will find that they are either Texans, or somebody with large interests in Mexico, or somebody who hopes to acquire large interests there under the Dear Old Flag. Or perhaps he might be an American Business Man in Mexico, and that is the worst of all. For American Business Men in Mexico are a degraded race. They have a deep-seated contempt for the Mexicans, because they are different from themselves. They prate of our grand old democratic institutions, and then declare in the same breath that the peons ought to be driven to work for them with rifles. They boast in private of the superiority of American courage over Mexican, and then sneakingly buckle to whatever party is in power. The other foreigners in Mexico usually stand firm on the side of the oppressor, but the American can be found hat in hand in the audience room of the Palace at all seasons of the year, so long as there is some hope of protecting his little investment. And it is for the benefit of these men who admittedly make forty or fifty per cent on their

money, because they say they are taking a “gambler’s chance,” and then squeal when they lose that the United States has been pushed to the very brink of conquest.

If you interest yourself much in Mexican affairs you will meet many people who know all about it, because they have “been there for fifteen, or twenty, or thirty years.” Do not let them bully you. They know nothing about Mexico at all no more than the Capitalist who has “employed men for twenty years” knows about Labor. Whenever you hear anyone refer to Porfirio Diaz as the “Great Educator” or the “Warrior-Statesman,” you may know that you have before you one who has “been in Mexico fifteen years,” and if you have anything to do, go away and do it. First remarking, however, that the test of Diaz’ barbarous regime was that it failed and that there is *no big South American Republic* which did not progress more in *every way* than Mexico during Diaz’ beneficent rule. You may know, too, that this person is probably the owner of a share of stock or so in some concession that Diaz sold for bribes.

At the present time Villa has wisely and calmly refused to say the word, which would raise the North against our legions occupying Vera Cruz. He has the promise of the President of the United States that we are not making war against the Mexican people that we intend to withdraw from Mexico as soon as reparation is made, and he will undoubtedly stick to his neutrality and make half of Mexico stick, too which he can do with a word unless we break our promise. The pressure upon President Wilson to force him to break it is fearfully strong. And you may depend upon it that the Border is trying every means in its power to provoke the Mexicans to some act of aggression. I will not dwell upon Mr. Hearst; because of course you remember when he said a few years ago that he intended to invest his family fortunes in Mexico, so as to provide largely and surely for his children.

But if we are forced over the Border if in any way we inject ourselves into Mexican politics it will mean the end of the Revolution. For we could never recognize a government there unsuited to the European Powers indeed, I don’t see how we can now; and a government suited to the European Powers would mean the confirmation of foreign concessions, the establishment of the “respectable” element in power, and the subsequent checking of anything like a radical distribution of lands among the peons. We could not sanction a government really elected by the peons, because they would elect a government, which would give them what they have been fighting for so long. And that means Confiscation which the merest schoolchild knows to be a worse crime than the robbery of peons!

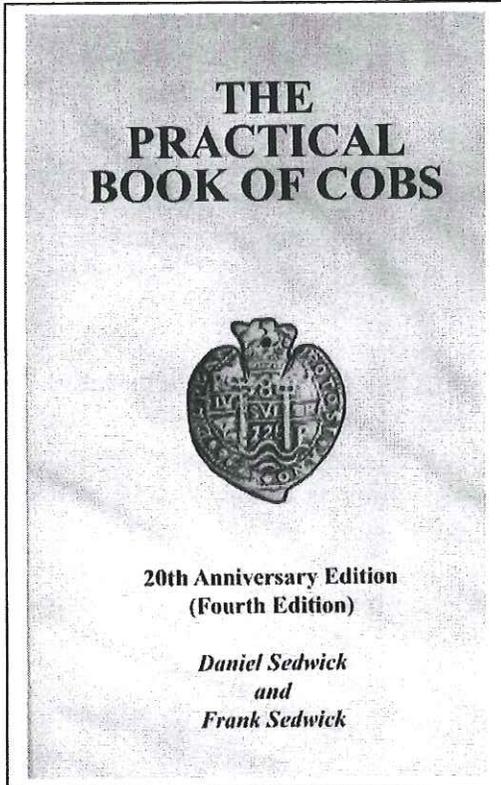
So I think that the United States Government is really headed toward the policy of “civilizing ‘em with a Krag” a process which consists in forcing upon alien races with alien temperaments our own Grand Democratic Institutions: I refer to Trust Government, Unemployment, and Wage Slavery.

Source: John Reed, “What About Mexico?” *Masses*, June 1914.

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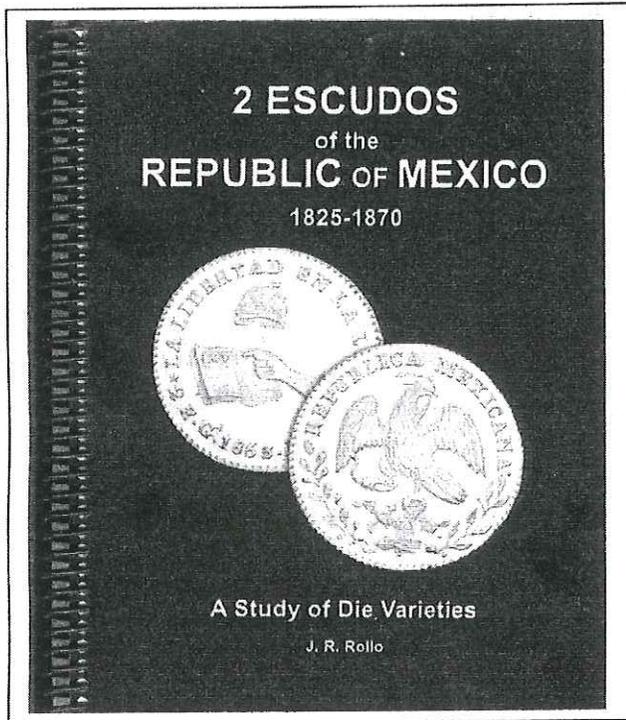
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2 Escudos of the Republic of Mexico 1825 – 1870, A Study of die Varieties  
by J. R. Rollo Released



J. R. Rollo of Kerrville, Texas has just released his book, 2 Escudos of the Republic of Mexico, 1825 – 1870A Study of die Varieties. This spiral bound book 9" X 7" has 164 pages, and is a long time effort by Rob to assemble in book form all the information possible on a very scarce area of Mexican numismatics, and his efforts are shown in the information contained in this book. A job well done.

Rob goes into details of the obverse and reverse designs, discussions on the assayers, the edge designs. He has established a Die Variety numbering system.

He also covers the physical data, the rarity and the coining process, as well as counterfeits.

Each of the eight mints that issued 2 Escudos are discussed. These being Culiacán, Durango, Estado de México, Guadalajara, Guadalupe y Calvo, Hermosillo, Mexico City and Zacatecas. Coin illustrations are shown at 2.5 times true size, for better viewing as the true size is in the 22 – 23mm. range.

Each date is illustrated with brief comments on the date and descriptions of the obverse and reverse coin. All illustrations are in black and white, and are of good quality.

This book should be apart of any Mexican numismatic library, sell for \$25.00 plus shipping and can be ordered from the author at:

J.R. Rollo  
P.O. Box 293296  
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## HIGHLIGHTS OF MEXICAN NUMISMATICS

By Dr. Alberto F. Pradeau

Reprinted from Vol. IV, Number 48, September, 1967 "Plus Ultra"

Most collectors specializing in Mexican coinage are familiar with types, assayers' initials and over dates, therefore this material will deal, as the title indicates, with unusual happening.

It is well known that because of the War for Independence (1810 – 1821) New Spain was bankrupt, that the market was flooded with these interesting pieces known as tlacos (hacienda tokens); that the viceregal authorities issued copper species from 1814 to 1821; that Morelos and other insurgent commanders were placing in circulation their own currency, and that Iturbide, with grandiose ideals and no economic ability, issued paper money and was about to coin copper when deposed.

By national law of November 16, 1824 the individual states were empowered to strike their own coinage while the central government was forbidden by the same law to issue copper, thus the collector finds copper coinage for the States of \*\* Colima, Durango and Guanajuato from 1824 on; Jalisco, Sonora (Estado de Occidente) and San Luis Potosi as early as 1828 and 1829 and many others too numerous to specify, but it was not until March 28, 1829 that Congress authorized the first national copper coinage.

From then on the sorry spectacle of bankruptcy, aggravated by untold suffering of the populace, became a nightmare; governments toppled and each succeeding one, unable to cope with the problem, made matters worst by recalling the old, authorizing new issues, printing I. O. U's imposing forced loans and borrowing from the foreign powers.

Counterfeiting in and out of the country was rampant; it is interesting to note that Missouri was among the first to enter this profitable field and upon complaint of the Mexican Charge de Affairs in Washington (Jose Maria Montoya) received from the Secretary of State Edward Livingston the following:

\* "... the fabrication of counterfeit coin of Mexico, with the intent of introducing it to Mexico, will receive the serious attention of the President and directions have been sent to the District Attorney of New Orleans to make strict inquiries. If the coins counterfeited are Spanish Milled dollars as they are current by law, the counterfeiting is punishable ... but if of and other description and manufactured within the United States for the purpose of fraudulently passing them in a foreign country, altho such act does not come within the purview of any existing law of the United States, yet, the President thinks it is due to other nations to recommend to the consideration of Congress the propriety of passing an act to the effect ...."

\* Diplomatic correspondence of the United States, Inter-American Affairs.

Wm. R. Manning, Washington, D.C., Vol. VIII, pages 23 and 251.

Communication of April 18, 1932.

\*\* Editor's note Believe he meant Chihuahua.

## Highlights of Mexican Numismatics, Con't:

New York was next and during the month of August 1833, the "Robert Wilson" a vessel from that port arrived at Vera Cruz carrying large sums of counterfeits; in Pennsylvania an enterprising firm had been making enormous quantities of Chihuahua coppers dated 1846 and smuggled them into Mexico through C. Juarez (El Paso del Norte at the time) in the hollow portions of water pumps; San Francisco, California, struck Sinaloa fourths of a real dated 1864 and smuggled into Mazatlan in the lumen (tubular cavity) of water pipes ; \* Sinaloa had coppers of a different design struck at the Alamos mint in 1861. The dies were engraved by Quentin Douglas whose initials appear at the base of the feminine head and the amount recorded as \$17,000 (544,400) pieces; Arizona not to be left behind, for spurious coinage of Sonora was being struck in Tucson during the year of 1879. Unfortunately, this last item was not identified in the protest filed by the Mexican consul.

The intercession or interference of the United States in Mexico was much in evidence in the case of Juan Temple, lessee of the Mexico City Mint. He was born in Redding , Mass., in 1798, migrated to California in 1827, became a citizen, embraced the Catholic faith (was baptized in San Diego), married Rafaela, daughter of a wealthy Mexican (Francisco Cota) in 1830 and had a daughter whom they named Francisca. As a successful trader, at times working by himself or associated with his brother Pliny F. Temple who assumed the name of Johnathon, built the Temple Block in Los Angeles and the adjacent street stills bears his name. He was active in the vigilante movement, owner of the Cerritos ranch and creditor of the California Missions. Died in San Francisco on May 30,1866.

Destiny brought to San Francisco in 1845 another trader well recommended to Thomas Oliver Larkin; the new arrival was Gregorio Ajuria, a Spaniard born in 1807, who in 1850 married Temple's daughter thus acquiring wealth and influence, wily enough to advance \$60,000 to the Comonfort revolutionary movement in 1854 in exchange for promissory notes worth \$250,000 if and when the movement was successful. The gamble paid off and as legal representative of his father-in-law, obtained an immensely profitable lease on the Mexico City Mint.

Although the lease carried a clause that for all intents and purposes the lessee was to be considered a Mexican citizen, Temple who had made use of a prerogative granted by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, reassumed American citizenship, ignored the exempting clause and repeatedly demanded protection from the diplomatic representative of the United States who on January 27, 1862 expressed himself as follows:

...“This act of the (Mexican) Government amazes me; it seems scarcely possible. No fierce barbarian despotism in ancient or modern times has shown a more through contempt for pledged faith and national honor....”

In 1877, John W. Foster, diplomatic representative of the United States in Mexico, published in the New York Herald an article titled, “The Turks of America, Mexico and

its abuses against American Citizen. A Government of thieves.”... Harsh words hardly applicable when the American Legation in Mexico City had acted as a depository to the silver stolen in 1858 from the cathedral of Michoacan amounting to a million and half dollars! Sometime later this loot was disposed of in some unaccounted manner and the Mexican authorities were unable to recover more than \$70,000.

MICHOACAN – The legislature approved on January 23, 1834, the establishment of a mint and while several offers for its lease were received nothing was done. During 1858 the ornaments of the cathedral were removed by prominent revolutionaries and melted down, obtaining 15,000 lbs. Of silver, 25 of gold and numerous precious stones; this was the loot that found asylum in the U. S. legation in Mexico City.

The lessees of the DURANGO mint struck 8 real coins of base metal from 1833 to 1840; the legal coinage of that period was 5 to 6 grains short in its silver content; in 1847 they had dies made in France and to top it all, they refused to accept the government inspector, threatening to eject him by force if he gained admittance. In 1840 they issued 8 real pieces with a different legend on the reverse (\*8.R.A.,D<sup>o</sup> 1840.O.M.C.) that in lieu of a better explanation has been interpreted as 8 reales annum dominatio (year of despotism) Octavo Martinez Castro, the assayer. The use of three assayer’s initials was repeated in 1849 – 1852 (J.M.R.) Jose Maria Ramirez... and in 1877 J.M.P.- Jose Maria Peimbert).

The gold coins of GUADALAJARA from 1824 to 1834 were short 4 to 16 grains each, deficiency reported by Great Britain caused the suspension of the assayer Francisco Suarez but his untimely death prevented prosecution.

During the months of September and October 1860, the silver ornaments of the Guadalajara cathedral were removed and ordered coined without due process of assay obtaining an estimated 100,000 pieces of eight; had it not been for the foresight of the engraver (Albino del Moral) who surreptitiously placed a dot in the space between the right wing of the eagle and the tail end of the serpent, this coinage would have gone unrecognized. It was recalled shortly after and the number that escaped the melting pot was scant.

GUADALUPE y CALVO – in 1839 a silver shipment was taken over by highwaymen while on the road to Durango and sometime later turned into coin; while the robbers were caught and punished the judgment papers fail to disclose the characteristics of said coinage. Macintosh, director of the Guadalupe y Calvo mint, declared that it did not bear the GC mint mark or the assayer’s initials.

HERMOSILLO – The Santoyo copper coinage, as reported in *PIUS ULTRA* (Vol. I, No. 5, Feb. 28, 1964) was made surreptitiously in a mountain cave. The silver coinage of 1835 & 1836 (consult the *NUMISMATIST*, Vol. 66, numbers 8 and 11, 1953) that began November 1, 1835 with locally made dies, ended abruptly January 29, 1836, when the central government ordered the recollection of the issue and the mint closed.

The State of SONORA, independently of the Central government, contracted with the Culican mint to coin cuartillas (fourth's of a real) in 1859 and 1861; during the latter year the mints of Alamos and Hermosillo were established and shortly after the French intervention took place; Maximilian's Secretary of the treasury disapproved their lease and ordered the mints closed on August 25, 1865. The lessee (Robert R. Symon) hastened to Mexico City signed a new lease and both Sonora mints resumed coinage March 11, 1866.

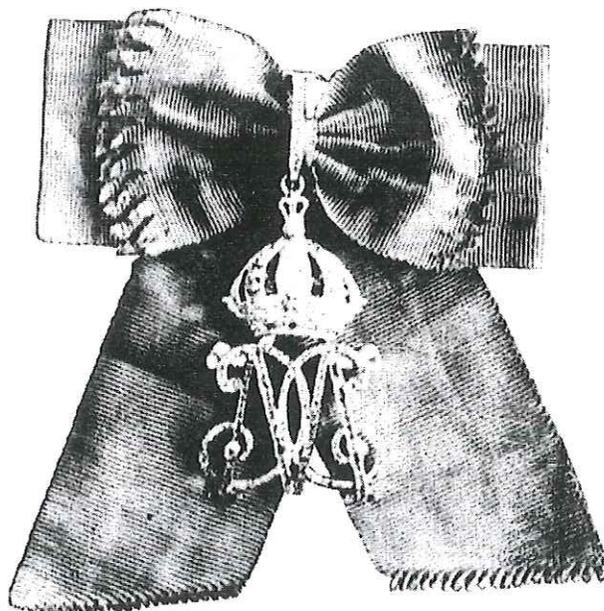
The GUANAJUATO mint, leased to Manning and Marshall had beautiful dies made in the Roysl Mint in England and trial pieces were struck, they bear the initials of the engraver William Wyon and the year 1827. The dies were confiscated in Veracruz and charges filed against the leasing co. The same thing happened in 1843 and the initials of Patrick Murphy appear after the date.

ZACATECAS – The silver coinage of 1832 and 1833 was six grains short of its legal fineness; in 1843 dies were made in England, trial pieces struck and the initials O. M. placed after the date correspond to the last names of the assayers Manual Ochoa and Manuel Miner.

-End-

Published as printed in *Plus Ultra*.

XX



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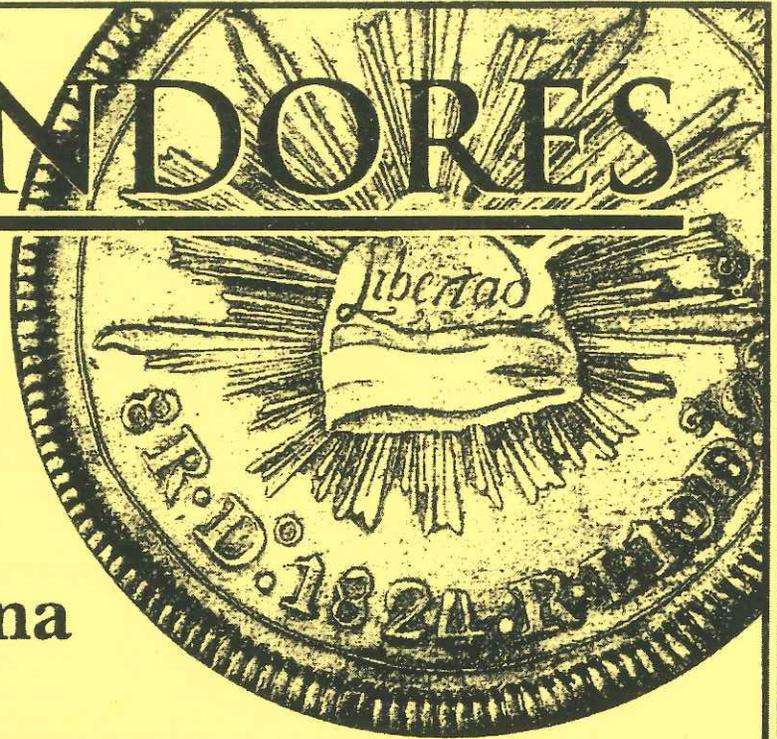
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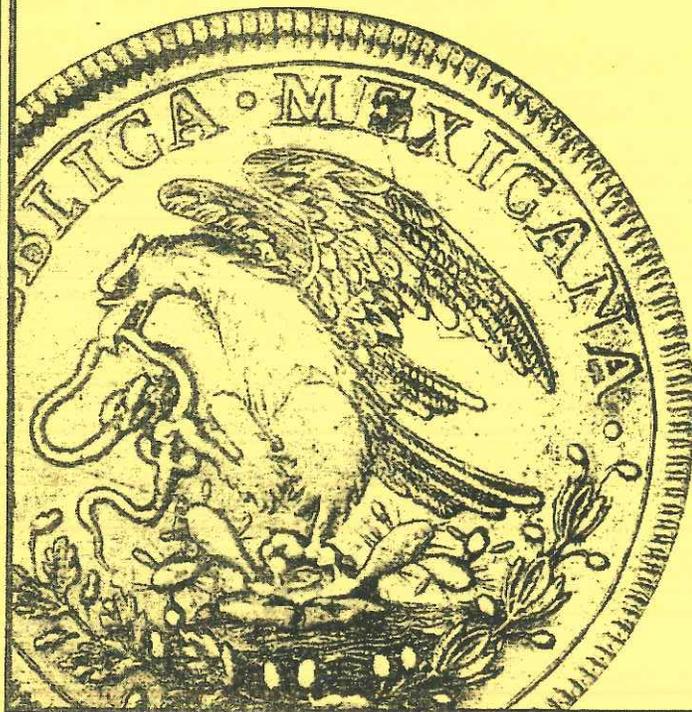
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