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**COVER IMAGE** \_\_\_\_\_

The cover shows a possibly unique coin that featured in the recent Morton and Eden auction.

Quite a number of Mexican 8 reales were counterstamped on both sides for circulation in the Philippines, with the mark MANILA 1828 on one side and a crowned Spanish shield on the other – a time-consuming and relatively costly exercise, effectively involving complete re-striking of the host coins but usually unsuccessful in its objective of creating a ‘new’ coin. A very small number of coins were produced with the date MANILA 1830 (instead of 1828) and these are extremely rare.

From 1832 much simpler ‘F VII’ and then ‘Y II’ punches (for Ferdinand VII and Isabel II) were used to countermark 8 reales.

On this coin, which most unusually has the MANILA counterstamp and a later F VII punch-mark, the punch has obliterated the date numerals. However, the date can be deduced to have been 1830, by looking at the detail of the counterstamped Spanish shield on the other side of the coin, which demonstrates details which apply to a die only used for MANILA 1830.

This coin is featured and figured in Clyde Hubbard and David O’Harrow’s book *Hookneck - El Aguila de Perfil*, though the authors did not clearly opine on whether the date was 1830 or 1828.



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# NEWS

## 'The Mexico Collection'

Morton & Eden's representatives were treated to a most generous welcome at the USMexNA Convention when they arrived in Scottsdale with a high-quality collection of Mexican coins for pre-sale viewing. The auction itself was staged in London on 14 November when over 450 lots achieved some \$800,000 (including 20% buyers' premium).

Colonial period highlights included a Carlos II 'jewelled cross' cob 4 escudos with the full date 1695 and a 'corazón' half-real of 1716. An outstanding selection of cap-and-rays coinage included most of the classic rarities, many with provenances dating from the 1950s to the early 80s. These sold very strongly, as did some seldom-offered Decimal rarities led by a Hermosillo 2½ pesos dated 1888 from the Pradeau Collection (GBP 7,200 / \$9,250) and a choice 1874 10 pesos from the same mint which was bid to GBP 20,400 / \$26,000.

Top honours in the auction went to lot 312 – a Hookneck 8 reales bearing a Philippines Ferdinand VII mark punched over an earlier MANILA 1830 counterstamp - at GBP 36,000 / \$46,250.

The fully-illustrated catalogue and pricelist can be found online at [www.mortonandeden.com](http://www.mortonandeden.com) (past sale # 104) and further information is available on request via [info@mortonandeden.com](mailto:info@mortonandeden.com).



Zacatecas, 'Flying Eros' coinage, pattern or proof quarter-real, 1833, struck in a copper-nickel alloy of unknown composition. Ex Guttag Collection. Sold for GBP 7,800 / \$10,000.

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## INTERESTING VARIETIES FROM MEXICO 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY COINAGE (Part 1)

by Scott Doll

Those who know me fully understand my passion in the chase and acquisition of Mexico varieties. This segment of the hobby is way too interesting to be overlooked, but many collectors simply don't know and simply pass them by. With that said, I didn't start out as a focused variety collector. Like many collectors, I started out a Mexico type collector, then got bored and moved on to collecting all dates within a series. Got bored once again and moved on to the varieties within a series which seems like a very logical progression as you move forward as a more serious and advanced collector.

When you look at Mexico 20<sup>th</sup> century coinage, the various issues are blessed with numerous kinds of varieties to include overdates, repunched dates, and various kinds of doubling, just to name a few. As my variety collection grew, I became more in love with all that I was able to find. I also found it amazing how many varieties I was able to find at coin shows or off sites such as eBay. All of this was good for me since many of the varieties were not common and could easily have commanded a higher price had the seller been more aware of what they had.

This article will hopefully be a primer for the Mexico 20<sup>th</sup> century variety collector as most numismatic publications don't really describe or even have photographs available to help better explain and show the variety details. Even if you are not a variety collector, it is my hope that this information may help move you towards being a variety collector. It's not like I really want more competition, but the fact is there is so much material available out in the market. Quite honestly, there is way too much for any one collector to try and acquire. With that said, let's get started!

### 1981 over 1982 - 20 Centavos struck in copper-nickel (KM-442)

To begin, I'm going to discuss one of my favorite varieties which is the 1981/1982 20 centavos which shows the bust of Francisco Madero in semi-profile to the right. This overdate is quite obvious and very easy to spot even without a loupe. It is speculated that towards the end of 1981, the mint did not have any available dies with the date of 1981 and had to rework some newly created 1982 dies in order to provide 20 centavos coins which were needed to be struck for circulation. This particular variety has been recognized by both NGC and PCGS and noted in their respective Census pages.



*1981 over 1982 - 20 Centavos  
Each digit of 1981 has been reworked over and set  
slightly to the right of the 1982 under date*

**1927 over inverted 1927 - 10 Centavos struck in silver (.720) (KM-431)**

The next coin, dated 1927, has a very interesting overdate. It shows a 10 centavos which has a 1927 over an inverted 1927. The "7" over "1" and "1" over "7" digits are not easily seen, however the "2" over "9" and the "9" over "2" are very easily visible. I guess the mint worker was having a very bad day when working on this die. This particular variety has been recognized by the NGC Variety Plus program and can also be seen in their Census while PCGS has yet to attribute this variety.



*1927 over inverted 1927 - 10 Centavos  
Inverted digits are hard to see on the "1" and "7", but  
easily visible on the "9" and "2".*

**1913 over 313 (9/3) - 10 Centavos struck in silver (.800) (KM-428)**

This next coin contains an overdate on a 1913 10 centavos which shows a "9" struck over a "3". The middle portion of the "3" can easily be seen right above the middle part on the curve of the "9", as well as the bottom tail of the "9" which has a small protrusion of the "3" which extends slightly longer than that of the "9". This particular variety has been recognized by the NGC Variety Plus program and can be seen in their Census while PCGS has yet to attribute this variety.



*1913 over 313 (9 over 3) - 10 Centavos  
Middle portion of the "3" easily seen within the inner  
circle at the middle of the "9", as well as the bottom tip  
of the tail of the "9".*

**1976 doubled die reverse (DDR) - 10 Pesos struck in copper-nickel (KM-477.1)**

This 1976 10 pesos shows signs of doubling throughout the reverse legend. There is no sign of any doubling on the bust, nor is any doubling evident on the obverse side of the coin. It is important to note that the quality of the Mexico City Mint was very poor during the 1970s and 1980s; therefore there are quite a few errors and varieties such as this coin that can be found on coins dated during this time. This also means that many of the more common varieties can be obtained for relatively low prices. This particular variety has not been recognized solely as a Doubled Die Reverse (DDR) with NGC as they also attributed it as a Mint Error. Interesting, similar doubled die coins from other denominations are not attributed as a Mint Error and simply attributed with a Doubled Die Reverse (DDR). That debate and discussion on inconsistency with such grading attributions will be for another time. As for PCGS, they have recognized this variety and it shows in their Census information.



*1976 Doubled Die Reverse (DDR) - 10 Pesos  
Doubling is very evident throughout the entire  
reverse legend and most noticeable on the date  
and mint mark.*

**1910 1 (second) over inverted 1 - 20 Centavos struck in silver (.800) (KM-435)**

One kind of variety which shows up from time to time within many denominations in Mexico coinage involves a date digit struck over an inverted digit. In this 20 centavos example, the second "1" in the date is struck over an inverted "1". The top point of the "1" can easily be seen at the base of the digit on the right side. This particular variety has been recognized by the NGC Variety Plus program and can be seen in their Census, while PCGS has yet to attribute this variety.



*1910 1 over inverted 1 - 10 Centavos  
Inverted "1" on the second "1" can easily be seen at the  
base of the digit.*

**1929 strike doubling (or large 29 over small 29) - 5 Centavos struck in bronze (KM-422)**

Normally I wouldn't include a strike doubling example in this article. However, I decided to make an exception with this coin since it has been documented by many collectors as a large "29" struck over a small "29". If you look closely at the date digits, you will see that the doubling is not a repunched date, but most likely due to strike doubling. All the same, I have encountered this particular variety often in my searches and wanted to help clarify. Since it is viewed as strike doubling, NGC and PCGS do not recognize this as such nor as a large 29 over small 29, but simply as a regular dated 1929 5 centavos.



*1929 Strike Doubling - 5 Centavos  
Gives appearance of a large "29" over a small "29".*

**1932 repunched 2 over 2 - 1 Peso struck in silver (.720) (KM-455)**

Mexico has many coins with repunched dates especially from the 1920s and 1930s. This particular coin is one such example and one that shows a very obvious 2/2 overdate. Most of the repunched dates are subtle, but this one is very strong and quite obvious even without a loupe. This particular variety has been recognized by the NGC Variety Plus program and can be seen in their Census while PCGS has yet to attribute this variety.



*1932 over 2 – 1 Peso  
Very strong 2 over 2 repunched date.*

**1924 over 3 - 1 Centavo struck in bronze (KM-415)**

Like many other mints around the world, Mexico was not immune from reusing old dies. 1924 was no exception when the mint decided to reuse and retool the 1923 centavo dies for the year 1924. What eventually happened was a very strong and obvious overdate as can be easily seen around the "4" digit where almost every aspect of the "3" is visible. This particular variety has been recognized by NGC, as well as PCGS and can both be seen listed in their respective Census information.



*1924 over 3 – 1 Centavo  
Very strong 4 over 3 overdate.*

**1913 over 2 - 50 Centavos struck in silver (.800) (KM-445)**

Unlike the previous coin mentioned which has a very strong and obvious overdate, this particular one is very subtle and could get easily overlooked if you don't know what you are looking for. The 1913/2 attributes are visible at the left and right base of the "3" where a small portion of the base of the "2" can be seen. The middle of the "3" also has a very faint area where the middle portion of the "2" can still be seen on the right side. This particular variety has been recognized by the NGC, as well as PCGS and can be seen in both their respective Census information.



*1913 over 2 – 50 Centavos  
Very subtle 3 over 2 overdate.*

**1935 repunched 9 over 9 or possibly 9 over 3 – 10 Centavos struck in bronze (KM-430)**

The following is a curious overdate. At first glance, the overdate appears to be a "9" over repunched "9" as can be easily seen at the base of the digit. Upon closer examination, more of the under digit is visible at the top of the "9". Also, the under digit appears like it could be a different font. So, is it a 9/9, or is it a "3" digit that was punched out of sequence and then corrected or is it possibly a different "9" digit date punch? You be the judge. This particular variety has not been recognized by NGC or PCGS.



*1935 9/9 or 9/3 – 10 Centavos  
Very strong overdate at the base of the "9".*

## 1906 6 over inverted 6 or possibly 6 over 9 – 2 Centavos struck in bronze (KM-419)

The following overdate attribution is inconsistent with grading agencies as well as some publications. Some list it as a 1906/9 overdate while others describe it as a “6” over inverted “6”. I personally feel it is most likely the “6” over inverted “6” variety. The overdate attribute can easily be seen at the top tip of the “6” on the right side which then trails down toward the center area of the digit. NGC has attributed this coin as the 1906/9 within their Census while PCGS has it attributed as the 1906 over inverted 6.



1906 6 over inverted 6 (or 1906/9) – 2 Centavos  
Overdate is apparent at the top right of the digit.

### Summary

Whether you are an entry level collector or an advanced collector with a lot of numismatic knowledge, Mexico varieties can definitely add a new dimension to your collection. Varieties within a collection also allows for collectors to look at these coins in a totally different, yet curious and detailed way. With the information presented here, you should be able to go out and hopefully find many of these varieties which may otherwise get overlooked by other collectors, as well as many dealers. Although the small group of varieties presented here is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg, there are many more out there waiting to be discovered and documented.

From a value perspective, most varieties run the gambit from cheap to expensive. Prices also closely align with scarcity and prevailing market demand. Some varieties are certainly more common than others, therefore they can be obtained for relatively little money while others are quite scarce, hence you may need to pay a premium if it is being sold as a documented variety. It is my hope however, that you may be able to find many of these for reasonable prices since they may not be attributed as a variety. In the end, it simply comes down to supply and demand and what you are willing to spend.

This is the first article in what I plan to have as part of a short series of articles which will help highlight some of the Mexico 20<sup>th</sup> century varieties. I hope that you found the information outlined in this article informative and easy to follow as you begin your search for varieties. I certainly appreciate any feedback you have on this topic and wish you happy hunting in your variety pursuits.

Please send your comments, questions or suggestions regarding this article, to Scott Doll at [rscottdoll@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rscottdoll@sbcglobal.net).

# **ANALYSIS OF RESTRIKE EVIDENCE FOR MEXICAN COLONIAL PROCLAMATION MEDALS OF CARLOS IV**

by William Sigl

This is the second part of my study of Spanish Colonial Proclamation medals of Mexico that evidence suggests may have been struck on more than one occasion. For the benefit of those who have not read the first article, and for those with failing memories, I will repeat much of the overview and the disclaimers.

Over the past eight years I have gathered information about hundreds of proclamation (proc) medals that have been offered for auction, and available in my personal collection. When available, I have recorded the diameter and weight of every medal. After a few years, it became obvious that the weights of some proc medals were uniform, but other proc medals varied quite a bit in weight and diameter. In this article I will discuss the proc medals about which I have accumulated enough data, and estimate the probability that at one time or another there was more than one production run of the medal, which I refer to as 'Restrikes'.

Disclaimers:

- 1) I do not have enough data on the production techniques of cast proclamation medals, so I will not consider cast issues for this study.
- 2) On many of the proc medal issues I have not recorded enough examples. Thus I will only make reference to those proc issues with three or more different weights.
- 3) The vast majority of recorded weights came from description of auction lots, where I did not personally weigh the medals. Since the weighing of the medals was done by many people on many different scales, not all weights may be accurate.
- 4) My estimates for the probability of restrikes are not definitive, because of the small number of samples of each issue used. Consider my estimates to be the basis of further research into the matter.

What can cause two or more medals of a particular type of proc issue to vary significantly in weight? When a medal is die struck there are three factors that affect its weight:

- 1) Thickness of the planchet, which is based on the thickness of the strip that it was cut from.
- 2) The diameter of the punch used to cut the planchet. Since most medals were struck with open collars, variance of diameter cannot be considered as significant as variance of weight is. All planchets may have been of the same diameter, but the medals struck from them may naturally vary due to striking pressure.
- 3) The specific gravity (density) of the medal that was used to produce the planchet. In other words, the alloy may have varied in terms of metals and relative quantities of each that were used.

For a specific issue of a proclamation medal produced in a specific year, it seems unlikely that there would have been planchet punches of slightly different diameters. A single punch would have been used to cut the planchets out of the rolled strips of medal.

On some issues the weight and diameter of different medals is very uniform, which indicates to me that all of those instances were created in a single batch of production. Other issues have a wide variation in size and weight, which points to a higher probability that the available medals for that issue were produced in more than one production batch, and possibly at more than one time.

The production runs for proclamation medals were small. For the small medals of half real to four reales in size the production runs were no more than 6,000 medals. For most of the larger medals there were fewer than 1,000 produced. Manufacture of small runs of medals like this would have taken no more than one or two weeks after preparation of the dies was complete.

The reason this is mentioned is it is likely that:

- A) All the silver for the production of all medals for a run would have been melted in one crucible.
- B) The ingots for the strips would have been poured from that single melting. It stands to reason that the alloy for all medals in that run would be uniform.
- C) One or two workers would have been responsible for rolling all of the planchet strips, and it is likely that they all would have been rolled to a thickness that had as little variance as possible.

CARLOS IV

c003a



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c003a	1789	Mexico City, obv: large bust right, 'G.A.GIL.' below bust, 'A CARLOS IV REY DE ESPANA Y DE LAS INDIAS' rev: crown over Mexico city shield, eagle and arrows behind, 'EN SU EXALTACION AL TRONO LA CIUDAD DE MEXICO', in exurga, 'EN. 27. DE DICIEMBRE/DE*1789'	silver	45mm	44.74grms							
				45.44mm	45.45grms							
				45.92mm	46.42grms							
				46mm	48.22grms							
				48mm	50.82grms				2	6	1	

Of the five weights recorded the variance is 12% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed, and the diameter varied by 6%, which is unusual. That is a moderate weight deviation, and a high diameter deviation. When taken together with the higher average condition of the medals observed, my view is that:

- there is a moderate probability of restrikes, and the restrikes may have been done at a later date after the original proclamation ceremony.
- The current price of this medal in AU/BU is \$900 to \$1,000. This seems high given the easy availability of the medal.

c009



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c009	1789	Mexico City, obv: shield bordered by columns, crown above, 'A CARLOS IV REY DE ESPANA Y DE LAS INDIAS' rev: 5 lines in wreath, 'PROCLAMA-/DO EN MEXI-/CO AÑO DE /1789./'8R'' Corded Edge	silver		19.4grms							
					26.88grms,							
					26.9grms							
					26.98							
				8r 39.3mm	27grms				5	2	2	

Of the five weights recorded the variance is 28% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a large weight deviation, and especially significant given that just one individual is an underweight outlier. Notes on the underweight coin indicate that x-ray analysis indicated it is mostly tin, and low silver content. Given that there was only one lightweight,

low silver content coin, it could be an off metal strike, or a counterfeit (I cannot tell since I did not examine the medal).

When taking everything together, my view is that:

- there is a low probability of restrikes, as all but one medal were very similar in weight.
- When presented with a medal that is under 26 grams, inspect it closely.

**c010**



Nbr.	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au
c010	1789	Mexico City, obv: shield bordered by columns, crown above, "A*CARLOS*IV*REY*DE*ESPANA*Y*DE*LAS*YNDIAS*" rev: 5 lines in wreath, "PROCLAMA-/DO*EN*MEXI-/CO*ANO*DE./1789./**4R**"	silver	4r 34mm	13.3grms 13.4grms 13.47grms				1	2	2

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 1% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a very small weight deviation. My view is that:

- there is a very low probability of restrikes.

**c011**



Nbr.	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c011	1789	Mexico City, obv: shield bordered by columns, crown above, "A*CARLOS*IV*REY*DE*ESPANA*Y*DE*LAS*YNDIAS*" rev: 5 lines in wreath, "PROCLAMA-/DO*EN*MEXI-/CO*ANO*DE./1789./**2R**"	silver	2 real	6.7grms 6.75grms 6.8grms			2	3	2	2	4

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 1.5% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a very small weight deviation. My view is that:

- there is a very low probability of restrikes.

c011a



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf
c011a	1789	Mexico City, <i>obv</i> : shield bordered by columns, crown above, "A*CARLOS*IV*REY*DE*ESPANA*Y*DE*LAS*YNDIAS*" <i>rev</i> : 5 lines in wreath, "PROCLAMA-/DO*EN*MEXI-/CO*ANO*DE./1789./*2R*"	bronze	2 real	5.66grms 6.71grms 7.54grms			1		2

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 25% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a large weight deviation. On the other hand, the average grade of this issue is low, and the underweight coin was in Fine condition with apparent corrosion, so it can be dismissed as not comparable to the other two. My view is that:  
 -- there is a low probability of restrikes.

c020a



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au
c020a	1789	Mexico City, <i>el Arzobispo</i> , inverted date, <i>obv</i> : bust right, "CAROLO*IV*HISP*ET*IND* REG*MEX*PROCL*AN*" "1789*" <i>rev</i> : bust left of queen, "LVDOV*REG*" "AVSPICE*" "ALF*ARCH*MEX*"	silver	40mm 41mm 42.42mm	28.7grms 30.88grms 36.14grms			1	4		4

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 21% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a large weight deviation, especially considering that the diameter also has a 6% deviation. This is a common medal with nine instances coming on the market in eight years, but the prices are moderate also. My view is that:  
 -- there is a high probability of restrikes.  
 -- Given the moderate prices for this rather large medal, it appears the collectors have taken the probability into account.

c026a



Nbr.	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au
c026a	1789	Mexico City, al Consulado. obv: Older head right, 'G.A.GIL.' below shoulder "CARLOS IV POR LA GRACIA DE DIOS REY DE ESPAÑA Y EMPERADOR DE LAS INDIAS", rev: crown over shield, mercury to left, ship to right, 'A SU PROCLAMACION EL CONSULADO DE MEXICO', in exurge, "ANO DE 1789"	silver		29grms						
					29.79grms						
					32.7grms						
					33.01grms						
				40mm							
				42mm							
				42.4mm			1	5	2	7	2

Of the five weights recorded the variance is 30% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a large weight deviation, especially considering that the diameter also has a 6% deviation. The diameters seem VERY coincidental with those of c020a. This is a very common medal with 17 instances coming on the market in eight years, but the prices are moderate also. My view is that:

- there is a very high probability of restrikes.
- The average condition is not high, so if they were restruck, it was not too long after the original striking.
- Given the moderate prices for this rather large medal, it appears the collectors have taken the probability into account.

c033c



Nbr.	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c033c	1789	Mexico City, la Minería. obv: bust right, 'GIL.' below bust, "CAROLO IV HISP ET IND REGI FELICITER INAUGURATIO", rev: shield under crown, pillars on each side, 'REG FOD TRIB NOV HISP PRIM HOC FIDELIT MONUM CUDI FECIT MEXIC CIC IC C LXXXIX'	bronze									
					44mm							
					44.8mm							
					45mm	45.7grms						
									2	4	3	2

Every instance of this medal weighs almost the exact amount, and the diameter varies by only about 2%. This is a common medal with 11 instances coming on the market in eight years, but the prices are moderate also. My view is that:

- there is a very low probability of restrikes.

c042



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	
c042	1790	Campeche, obv: curvy shield under crown, palm wreath on each side, **PROCLAMADO*EN*CAMPECHE*POR*JVAN*PEDRO*YIVRALDE *1790*, rev: 5 lines under starburst, inside boarder of flowers, MAGNE*ET*AUGUSTE/CAROLE*IV/PROSPERE*PROCEDE/ET/REGNA'		8r	26.5grms							
				38.87mm	26.85grms							
			silver	39mm	26.93grms				1	3	1	

There is almost no variance in weight and diameter in this uncommon medal. My view is that:  
 -- there is a very low probability of restrikes.

c052a



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	
c052a	1790	Chihuahua, Carlos bust, obv: bust right, 'GIL' under shoulder, 'CAROLUS+IV+VOCAT+INDIARUM+IMPER+NPA+TRIUMPH+ *1790*', rev: altar with clurgy hat on top, sunburst behind, 'V PAROCHUS+JUDEX+ECCUS+ET+CLERUS+CHIHUAHU+'		45mm	39.74grms							
				47mm	47.13grms							
			silver		48.60grms				1	1	2	

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 18% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a moderate weight deviation, and the diameter also has a 4% deviation. This is a scarce medal, that is not easily available in very high grades. My view is that:

- There is a low to moderate probability of restrikes.
- If they were restruck, it was not too long after the original striking.

c073



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	yf	xf	au	bu	
c073	1790	Guanajuato obv: bust right, small "G*A*GIL" under bust, 'CARLOS*IIII*REY*DE ESPAÑA*Y*EMPERADOR*DE LAS*YNDs.' around, rev: oval with standing lady holding holding staff, under crown, ribbon around sides, 'FUE PROCLAMADO POR LA NOBLE CIUDAD. De GUANAJUATO EN 25 DE DIZIEMBRE DE 1790.'			51grms								
				47mm	53.4 grms								
				47.5mm	53.53grms								
			silver	47.53mm	56.9grms						2	2	2

Of the four weights recorded the variance is 10% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a minor weight deviation. This is an uncommon medal, that is available in very high grades. My view is that:  
 -- There is a low probability of restrikes.

c073b



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	yf	xf	au	bu	
c073b	1790	Guanajuato obv: bust right, small "G*A*GIL" under bust, 'CARLOS*IIII*REY*DE ESPAÑA*Y*EMPERADOR*DE LAS*YNDs.' around, rev: oval with standing lady holding holding staff, under crown, ribbon around sides, 'FUE PROCLAMADO POR LA NOBLE CIUDAD. De GUANAJUATO EN 25 DE DIZIEMBRE DE 1790.'			52.07grms								
					53grms								
				47.5mm	54.63grms						1	2	1
			bronze										

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 5% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is an insignificant weight deviation. This is a very scarce medal, that is available in very high grades. My view is that:  
 -- There is a very low probability of restrikes.

c075a



Nbr.	Date	Desc.	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c075a	1790	Guanajuato, los Mineros, 'G.A.GIL.' below obv: bust right, 'CARLOS III REY DE ESPAÑA Y DE LAS INDIAS', rev: interior of mine, 'ACLAMADO EN LA C. DE GUANAJUATO POR SUS LEALES MINEROS' exurge, 'EN 28 DE OCTUBRE DE 1790'	silver	47mm 47.7mm	42.65grms 51.6grms 62.52grms				1	2		1

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 32% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a large weight deviation. This is a very scarce medal, that is available in very high grades. My view is that:

-- There is a very low probability of restrikes.

Author's note: In my opinion, this is the MOST BEAUTIFUL and original medal ever produced in the Spanish Colonies. I almost wish it had been heavily restruck because then I could buy more examples of this medal to give to each of my grandchildren, along with a short lesson in appreciation of the engraver's art.

c078



Nbr.	Date	Desc.	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c078 Fon6823	1790	Guanajuato, Marques de Rayas, obv: Conjoined busts of Carlos IV and Queen Maria Luisa, 'G.A.GIL.' below, 'CARLOS III Y LUISA REYS DE ESPAÑA Y DE LAS YNDIAS EN SU FELIZ EXALTON AL TRONO' rev: Coat of Arms of Marques de San Juan de Rayas, date in exurge 'A. 1790', 'CONSAGRO ESTE MONUMENTO DE SU FIDELIDAD DE MARQUES DE SAN JUAN DE RAYES Y LE' inner legend: 'PROCLAMO EN'	silver	46mm 46.85mm 47.5 mm	35.58grms 50.5grms 53.51grms 54.55grms					2	3	1

Of the four weights recorded the variance is 35% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a large weight deviation. This is a common medal, that is available in very high grades, with very high prices. Out of seven observed medals, only one was underweight, accounting for almost all of the deviation. My view is that:

-- There is a low to moderate probability of restrikes.

-- If you encounter an underweight example, it should be closely inspected for authenticity.



Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	
c122	1790	Puebla - la ciudad de los angeles, obv: bust right with short hair and sash, "A*CARLOS*IV*REY*CATOLICO*", 'G.A.GIL.' below bust, Single line circle by edge; rev: circular city coat of arms under crown, flanked by wreath of Palm (left) and laural (right), single line circle by edge, 'A 17.DE ENERO.DE/,1790.' in exurge, 'EN SU FELIZ PROCLAMACION LA CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES' around	silver	49mm	45.28grms 45.4grms 49mm					1	1	1

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 8% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a small weight deviation. This is a rare medal, that is not easily available in very high grades. My view is that:  
 -- There is a very low probability of restrikes.

c122a

Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c122a	1790	Puebla - la ciudad de los angeles, obv: bust right with short hair and sash, "A*CARLOS*IV*REY*CATOLICO*", 'G.A.GIL.' below bust, Single line circle by edge; rev: circular city coat of arms under crown, flanked by wreath of Palm (left) and laural (right), single line circle by edge, 'A 17.DE ENERO.DE/,1790.' in exurge, 'EN SU FELIZ PROCLAMACION LA CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES' around	bronze gold plated	48mm 49mm	48.74grms 51.6grms						2	1

Of the three weights recorded the variance is 5.5% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a very small weight deviation. My view is that:  
 -- there is a very low probability of restrikes.

c122b

Nbr	Date	Desc	Metal	Size	Weight	g	vg	f	vf	xf	au	bu
c122b	1790	Puebla - la ciudad de los angeles, obv: bust right with short hair and sash, "A*CARLOS*IV*REY*CATOLICO*", 'G.A.GIL.' below bust, Single line circle by edge; rev: circular city coat of arms under crown, flanked by wreath of Palm (left) and laural (right), single line circle by edge, 'A 17.DE ENERO.DE/,1790.' in exurge, 'EN SU FELIZ PROCLAMACION LA CIUDAD DE LOS ANGELES' around	bronze	47.9mm 49mm	50.1grms 54.66grms					1	1	2

Of the four weights recorded the variance is 9% of the weight of the heaviest medal observed. That is a small weight deviation. This is a rare medal, that is not easily available in very high grades. My view is that:  
 -- There is a very low probability of restrikes.

(to be continued)

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## WISH YOU WERE HERE 2

by Simon Prendergast

Some of you will already know that I am on my biennial visit to Mexico to research their archives. This time I crossed from Brownsville to Matamoros and journeyed through Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Puebla before I swung across to Mexico City. Then I visited Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan and Chiapas and am currently in Oaxaca.

Since I have expanded my research interests from Chihuahua and Sonora to all of Mexican paper money I am visiting states that I had ignored in the past because Villista currency did not reach so far. I have also moved beyond just the state archives to any town that boasts an *archivo histórico* as opposed to just an *archivo municipal* and had an issue of paper currency during the Revolution. This inevitably means that in some places, such as Chalchicomula, Puebla, and Comitán, Chiapas, I turn up, introduce myself, find out that they have no documentation for the periods that I am interested in, and move on within the half hour. Frustrating and demanding in time and resources but usually there is some reward. In Chalchicomula I arrived on a Monday, the day of the weekly market, and all the streets in the centre of town were covered by awnings and crowded with small “pop-up” stalls so it looked like I had stepped off the bus into a Middle Eastern souk. In Comitán, as elsewhere, I left the staff with knowledge of an aspect of their history of which they were previously unaware, and images of notes for their memory stick. In Comitán they were overjoyed that these included a \$2 note with a portrait of local hero, Belisario Domínguez (see Pablo Luna Herrera’s article in the last journal), a note that my earlier research in Tuxtla Gutiérrez had revealed was either a model for an unissued denomination or some spurious mock-up.



*A model for a \$2 note for the Gobierno Preconstitucional of Chiapas*

As I said, demanding in terms of time and resources so not a choice for the average researcher. I am lucky that I am retired and not following some strict timetable or agenda, that I live cheaply and so am probably spending less than I receive in my state pension, and that I can combine my research with occasionally playing the tourist (though I could not interest myself in visiting Chichén Itzá or Uxmal, again) or taking a week off on the beach at Puerto Angel. However, my dominant work ethic means that I must protest that I am spending most of my time on research, in the archive here from 8.00 until 4.00 and then typing up my findings in the evening.

My modus operandi is again probably idiosyncratic. Rather than take notes I photograph every document and then transcribe them verbatim onto my computer. I justify this because in the pre-laptop days when I did summarise my findings I occasionally made mistakes or missed nuances, which I could not correct when I was back in England. However, reading Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* revealed to me what others have suspected, that I demonstrate symptoms of Asperger’s syndrome, and this could explain my desire for completeness. If you have written out the bulk of a letter, why not finish off with the salutation and sign off (*Protesto las seguridades de mi atenta y distinguida consideración*), especially when there is a whole new world in studying the graduations in formalities, or the lema “Constitución y Reformas”?

When I have typed up and referenced the bulk of the documents I then reorder them in chronological sequence and “threads”. This enables a narrative to emerge (a request in one folder, a reply in another, a misinterpretation in a third) and surprisingly the ebb and flow of conflict, and the resulting economic and monetary consequences, fall into place.

I am not an “early adopter” so rely on established technology. No doubt there are already advances in optical character recognition and dictation that would make the process easier, and I’ll gradually succumb. Technology does have its downside, though: I will transcribe a document with all its idiosyncratic spelling and punctuation and Word will autocorrect.

I should also note that many archives are digitalising their records, and some are putting the result on the Internet, so one day visiting an archive might be viewed as as quaint as going to the shops rather than asking Jeff Bezos to deliver.

Thus, the national newspaper collection, Hemeroteca Nacional de México, is gradually putting more and more stuff online, so I can sit in my room in Ramsden, England and search for key words. But this depends on what is put online and, more importantly, what the Hemeroteca holds. Each state produced an official gazette, usually termed the *Periodico Oficial*, and in normal times sent a copy to the National Library. But this system fell apart during the Revolution so the national archive does not have copies, and you need to go to the individual states. Indeed, here in Oaxaca, I have just tracked down the *Periodicos Oficiales* for 1914 and 1916, but for 1915 only the few months put out by the Carrancista government in Salina Cruz, not the main one from the government in Oaxaca.

Of course, my method falls down when the archive, such as the one in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, does not allow photographing (they want you to pay to have the document scanned). This leads to a prolonged stay while I write everything out. Oaxaca also charges for photographs but I have been granted a dispensation by the Director.

You might wonder why I do not seem to have contacted archives before my visit. In fact, prior to this trip, I did send emails to several archives but only received one response. In addition, they would only be able to confirm that they had no documentation from a particular period. Most archives have limited inventories, for example marking boxes "Hacienda 1914" so one still needs physically to wade through each box to see what it contains.

Interpreting the cataloging is always a daunting part of the task. Here in Oaxaca they have spent prodigiously on an impressive, brutalist, building and on restoring documentation after years of neglect when it was attacked by damp and mould. Yet the catalogue appeared minimalist and last week I thought I was facing the task of searching through over forty boxes with little more to help me than "Correspondencia 1914-1915". In fact, it turns out that each folder (*expediente*) has a summary on its face, so the work is less daunting, but will still take a couple of weeks.



*The massive, modern Archive of the state of Oaxaca*

Moreover, there is always the serendipitous discovery that one could not foresee. In 1908 the collapse of the Banco Yucateco was not helped by the discovery that the cashier, Mateus Ponce, had defrauded the bank of \$740,000, from a strongbox that contained notes from Mexico City that had not yet been put into circulation. Ponce was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment but I discovered Ponce petitioning the revolutionary Constitutionalist governor for release. Ponce was granted his freedom, because of the time served and probably because defrauding a capitalist institution and spending the proceeds on items such as a collection of exotic parrots (Ponce was still paying a *mozo* to look after his aviary whilst under arrest) chimed with revolutionary aims.



*What one assumes more likely to represent Mexico, the archive in Orizaba, Veracruz*

I still find the odd piece of information on Chihuahua or Sonora. A long-standing mystery has been the origin of a series of \$1, \$2 and \$10 notes (M913-M915) that mimic Villa's *sábanas* but were not issued in Chihuahua. Here in Oaxaca, in October 1915, a mass revalidation of certain issues included 588 of these \$2 notes and a month later another letter mentions notes with the *resello* of the "Brigada Malpica", raised in the Mixteca, in northwest Oaxaca, and low serial numbers (from 00087 to 00617) which suggests a close proximity to the original source.



A \$2 *sábanas*-type note with three *resellos*, including the "Brigada Malpica"

There is always something, sometime outside my field, that I cannot ignore. For example, at the 2019 Convention Kyle Ponterio discussed the key counterstamp on Mexican coins and suggested it related to rebel forces during the Cuban Wars of Independence (1868-1898). However, during that time in Veracruz there was a sizeable and wealthy group of Spaniards who supported the Spanish government and formed societies and raised money for the island's defence. Is it not perhaps more likely that the counterstamp was a pocket or commemorative piece to acknowledge a pro-Spain contribution rather than an insurgent issue?

Before I left England I had three main objectives, firstly to find out more details on local revolutionary issues, secondly, to assemble tables of issues (with dates, series, numbers and signatures) for the other state banks of issues, as I have done for the banks of Chihuahua and Sonora, and finally to research the necessity issues of 1935 and 1943, two occasions when a rise in the price of silver caused coins to disappear from circulation and for, mainly, local Chambers of Commerce to issue bearer cheques (*cheques al portador*) drawn on local banks.

For the second the first port of call are the *Informes* of the various *Interventors* (government-appointed overseers of the banks) collected in the *Memorias de las Instituciones de Crédito*, published from 1897 until 1911. These are hard to find, an incomplete set in the Biblioteca Nacional and a set in the Fondo Reservado of the Biblioteca "Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada" housed in the Capilla de la Emperatriz within the National Palace. Difficult to get through security until you have been enough times for every guard to recognise you, but a very pleasant location. I spent two weeks there but having written up my notes realise that I have failed to capture all the banks and need to go back.



A notice lists the ten people who will sign 50c cheques for the Chamber of Commerce in Mérida

A notice for as yet unknown 50c cheques from the Chamber of Commerce in Progreso

As for the *cheques al portador* these were of passing interest and with little direct federal or municipal involvement so I have visited, where possible, the archives of the main newspapers. We have examples of a few of these notes but it seems that every major town or city issued them.

In Mérida, Yucatan, in 1943 the task of signing the first issue was split between ten different people, while for a second issue the manager (*Gerente*), Arturo Rendon R., himself got off the bench and into the fray (his signature is the only one listed in *Mexican Paper Money*). Meanwhile, a week later the Chamber in Progreso, Yucatán, also issued its own yet to be listed notes. Once we have discovered all the issuers, denominations, dates and signatures it will be a lifetime task to assemble a collection. An indication of their rarity is the fact that of 10,000 notes issued in Guadalajara only 18 were not redeemed.

Research always throws up other avenues to follow or missed opportunities to regret. Three examples.

In 1889 the Jefe de Hacienda in Mérida, Yucatán, decided to fine fifteen companies that for more than a decade had been issuing bearer cheques (*vales al portador*) that had been widely used by the local population in place of banknotes, on the pretext that they were breaking the law. Within the folder for each individual complaint the Jefe de Hacienda attached an example of the offending *vales*. So where are these folders, and all the subsequent documentation for a case that finally petered out when Porfirio Díaz gave the companies a time limit in which to recall their notes?

On 23 August 1915 Arturo Osorio, the Secretario de Despacho here in Oaxaca, sent a circular to his *jefes políticos*. He noted that some private commercial and industrial concerns and even individuals had issued *bonos*, which though useful in facilitating market transactions needed to be regulated. Therefore, he asked for a report detailing such *bonos*, with the names of issuer and the number of each denomination, so that the government could obtain financial guarantees and retrospectively authorise these issues. On 9 October Osorio reminded the *jefes políticos* that he had yet to hear from most of them. *Mexican Paper Money* lists a few private issues, but would it not be wonderful to get hold of some of these detailed reports. However, this presumes that the *jefes políticos* were able to do their job and were conscientious in their investigations. So far, I have not come across any actual documentation, and given that there were two governments in the state at this time (the “independents” in Oaxaca and the Carrancistas in Salina Cruz) I am not too hopeful.

Finally, in many of their *informes* the Interventors of the banks (unlike the sainted Interventor of the Banco Minero of Chihuahua) did not give details of issues or incinerations of banknotes but merely remarked that they had already sent the relevant information to the Secretaría de Hacienda at the opportune time. Moreover, the Secretaría only published the *Memorias* from 1897 up to 1911 but the Interventors will have continued sending in their reports until dislodged by revolutionary forces in 1914. So somewhere in the archives of the Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público lies the extra information we need. I will also see what I can find in the account books of various banks that were taken over by Carranza's Liquidating Commission (Comisión Liquidadora de los Antiguos Bancos de Emisión) and are now in the National Archives.

I must record how helpful everyone has been, to someone with poor spoken Spanish and few social skills. In Misantla the tourist office even offered to drive me out to the Hacienda Miramar and Hacienda La Lima that I had mentioned had issued notes during the revolution.

So far I am not eager to get home, and this time, I realise that I will have left a lot undone. So I have to write up my research and incorporate it into my website. But, like Arnold, I'll be back.

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# THE COMPAÑIA OCCIDENTAL DE ALMACENAJE

by Elmer Powell

In the March 1917 journal Cedrian López-Bosch detailed the history of the 50c and \$1 Comisión Monetaria notes produced in January 1920 and withdrawn less than six months later. This issue was primarily restricted to Mexico City and even there it was unpopular. Elsewhere in Mexico they resorted to other solutions to the problem of the lack of small change. In the northern states American coins, though prohibited, circulated freely and their use extended as far south as Guanajuato and San Luis Potosí. In Jalisco, the Comisión Monetaria had an outpost in Mexico's second city, Guadalajara, but it did not receive any small denomination coins or notes from the capital and the state also suffered from the lack of small change.

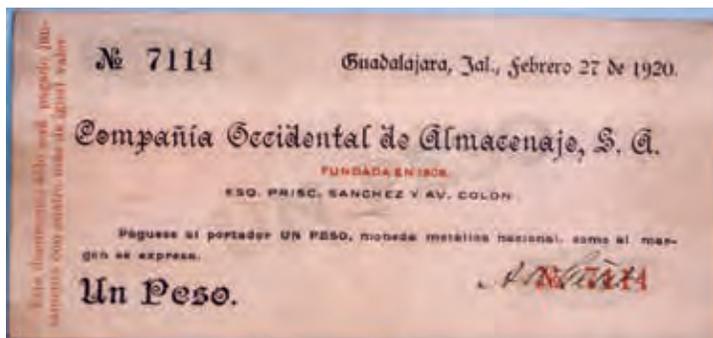
So in early February 1920 it was reported that in most of the towns in the state, especially in the south, the following solution had been found. Four or five of the most reputable commercial establishments would combine to issue a certain amount in bearer checks payable at a fixed time and guaranteed by the credit of the issuers. The businesses would exchange these notes for goods or money, at the purchaser's choice. When the time limit expired the notes would be collected and destroyed and the businesses would recover their deposits. Autlán and Zapotlán are specifically mentioned as places where this happened.

As for Guadalajara in my collection I have a couple of such bearer checks issued by the Compañía Occidental de Almacenaje (the Western Storage Company).



This company had been founded in 1908 and was controlled by two Americans, Alfred W. Geist and Arthur H. Brewer, who had made their fortunes in mining (one of Alfred Geist's companies, the Compañía Minera Unión en Cuale, owned most of the land in Puerto Vallarta). Geist is the person who signed these notes.

These bearer checks were redeemable immediately and in unlimited quantities by the company, which had set aside enough funds to guarantee them. The company not only covered the cost of paper and print but also the 5c revenues stamp that each check required. They were well received by the general public though they became the object of speculation by 'coyotes'.



However, on 27 March the Secretaría de Hacienda referred the matter to the Procurador General de Justicia as it claimed it breached the government's monopoly on issuing currency. A local newspaper, *El Informador*, sarcastically hoped that the Secretario, so keen on the law, would ensure that Jalisco received the coins or even *vales* it needed before he forced the Compañía's checks to disappear. The company secretary, E. Breckweldt, wrote to the paper to explain that the company had not issued checks but limited itself to lending money (in *oro nacional metálico*), receiving it on deposit and opening current accounts. Account holders made use of checks drawn on the company, in accordance with the current Code of Commerce.

Experts (the Administrador del Timbre and Administrador de Correos of Guadalajara and the Administrador Principal del Timbre in Sayula) were tasked with deciding whether the documents issued were really checks, as the company claimed, or paper money and in June they decided that they were bearer checks (*cheques al portador*). A convenient resolution because by this time the problem has passed.

## THE ENIGMATIC REVOLUTIONARY 1-CENTAVO . . .

by David Hughes

I have always liked the Enigmatic 1-centavos, since first reading about them in the 1965 Neil Utberg book. I hoped to puzzle them out or unearth an insight, perhaps, despite this great time and distance from Revolutionary Mexico . . .

Ambrose Bierce (1908) noted an enigma was “. . . interpreted by the light of possible events in the sweet by-and-by”. The 71-year old Bierce, a veteran of the Civil War, wanted to report on Revolutionary Mexico. He disappeared into Chihuahua in 1913, was possibly seen ill, near the battle of Ojinaga, in January 1914, vanishing, never to reappear out of Mexico. An enigma . . .

The Enigmatics are rough copies of the Federal 1-centavo, usually poorly struck. Both Angel Smith and myself noted the similarities between the 1910-M Enigmatic 1-centavo and the extremely rare terracotta clay Texcoco, Estado de México 1915 1-centavo (GB-262) during an open question session at Richard Long's 1996 ANA Summer Class. He slowed us down at the time, in the middle of agreeing with each other. Perhaps, an enigmatic insight? Possible . . .

And, in the order they were first reported in the hobby . . .



Plate 1: 1910-M 1-centavo, the first reported Revolutionary Enigmatic, catalogued by Garza (1932) as No. 142c, noted as being struck possibly in Guanajuato by some Revolutionary chief. Summarized in the Chicago Coin Club, October 2007, as “An enigmatic issue resembling a [Mexican] 1 centavo, not counterfeit, but we do not know who made it. From early in the Revolution, it is styled upon the 1 centavo of Guanajuato [?], but the wreath is different and the obverse eagle does not have a head.”

There actually is an eagle head, small and poorly engraved. Later die states show a die crack through the D of ESTADOS and the snake head, joining another die crack from the top of the left eagle wing through the eagle head, as shown on Plate 1. This piece has similarities to the terracotta clay Texcoco, EoMo 1915 1-centavo. Gaytan (1969) tried to place it in Puebla, and called it a 1915, although his photo shows the 1910 date. The 1910-M is the most common of the Enigmatics, seeming too common to be a circulating counterfeit<sup>1</sup>. They made enough of them to break up the dies. This example is an unusually nicely struck and lustrous piece for the issue.

1. I also collect the circulating counterfeits of the Federal coinage (after all, it did circulate during the Revolution), and I have not noted a duplicate among the pieces I have accumulated. The 1910-M Enigmatic was encountered in batches in the 1990s, and you could buy them by the pound (I exaggerate only for effect) for \$25-\$35 each, cheaper in Mexico. They are probably overpriced at \$100+ on eBay and other auctions, in my opinion.



Plate 2: Utberg (1965) 1906-M 1-centavo, with MEXICANOS misspelled as MEXCANOS. There is a 1906-M 2-centavos struck circulating counterfeit. Is it similar to the 1906 Enigmatic? No, the 2-centavos is correctly spelled and nicely done compared to the 1-centavo, although obviously counterfeit when compared to an original (probably a piece produced in the US and smuggled into Mexico, back in the day). This is the second-most common of the Enigmatics. Utberg also mentioned, but did not picture, the 1911 Gaytan.



Plate 3: Gaytan (1969) catalogued a 1911-(M?) Enigmatic 1-centavo. Gaytan called it a 1915, although his photo shows the 1911 date. Gaytan claimed to see a mintmark P, but I cannot spot it, it looks more like the ruins of an M with a planchet lamination running through it. The 9 of the date is an upright 9: the tail of the 9 extends up to the head of the 9. The eagle side appears double struck, with poorly defined letters, including UN, in the (oversize) space between ESTADOS (poorly struck, but there) and UNIDOS, and doubling in the left eagle wing.

This piece, reported unique, was obtained from Garza in 1956, who challenged Gaytan to find out more about the coin (Gaytan, p. 213-214). Gaytan suggested a P mintmark with a connection to Puebla and the first gunfire of the Madero Revolution in the unrest of 1910.



Plate 4: Walrafen (photo, 1978) notes a poorly struck and worn brass 1905 1-centavo, with ESTADOS misspelled as ESTAOS. There does not appear to be a mintmark, or it may be lost in the poor strike. It is struck with different dies compared to the 1906 Utberg.



Plate 5: The modern "1916-G" fantasy 1-centavo, crude dies but nice planchet and strike (unlike virtually every other Zapatista coin), noted in Long (1996, 1997), photo and described as a fantasy in Amaya (2011, 2015). This is likely out of the 1960s Guadalajara counterfeit-fantasy-shop that produced a plethora of bogus pieces that still plague the hobby, showing up on eBay as "RARE!!!" and "UNLISTED!!!".

(As an aside, I have noticed a waste of time and electrons in reporting counterfeits to eBay, despite their claims to the contrary. I still do it, out of spite, I guess, believing anything is possible. The money of listing fees talks loudest.)



Plate 6: 1911 Karam 1-centavo, in Long (1996). Of all the Enigmatics, this piece looks most like a Zapatista-engraved coin, on a Zapatista-type brass streaked planchet. There is definitely no mintmark below the wreath tie. This is the second catalogued 1911 Enigmatic, two known out of the Karam collection auctioned by Richard Long. Karam's notes on a 2x2 holder calls out one piece as x-Gaytan and believed unique until the second piece appeared. 1911 is the year of the Plan de Ayala of the Zapatistas, suggesting a possible spiritual connection with the date.



Plate 7: 1909-M Cortina 1-centavo, in Long (1997) and Amaya (2011, 2015). Crude engraving and strike, very weak eagle side.



Plate 8: 1911 Cortina 1-centavo, with a retrograde D in ESTADOS and unusually shaped S's, in Walrafen (photo, 1978), Long (1997) and Amaya (2011, 2015). This is the third different 1911, marking a banner year amongst the Enigmatics. No mintmark, poorly engraved eagle side. Amaya notes four pieces are known. Even less, if possible, is known about this crude piece.

Amaya (2015, Vol. 2, p. 129) notes a (missing date)-M 1-centavo [date missing from poor strike and/or misaligned dies], that he calls a copper counterfeit of the terracotta clay Texcoco, EoMo 1915 1-centavo GB-262. This, instead, appears to be another Enigmatic of the time. His photos do not match any of the above coins.

Noticing this proliferation of Enigmatics, including the overuse of the word by Amaya to cover everything from metal varieties to counterfeits to striking vagaries, I suggest the 1910 and the three 1911s are Revolutionary coins. Logic suggests, if Revolutionary, the dates would be in the 1910-1921 range. Garza (1932) places the 1910, and by his 1956 comments to Gaytan, the 1911 Gaytan in the Revolution issues. Garza, in 1932 Mexico, was much closer to the action than I am in 2020 North California, and I defer to Don Sanchez. The no-mintmark 1911s also suggest a Revolutionary origin, as circulating counterfeits would be expected to copy the standard M mintmark.

What does this suggest for the off-year Enigmatics? Are they circulating counterfeits or mis-dated Revolutionary issues?

There is no political profit made producing a mis-dated Revolutionary coin. Separatist Oaxaca, in 1915, found they spent 2.004626 centavos each (to 6 decimal places!), to prepare 2,600 nicely-struck 1-centavo coins at the Oaxaca State Mint during the month of April 1915 (Clyde Hubbard remarked the accountant must have studied in Germany). The Free and Sovereign State of Oaxaca lost approximately 1 centavo for each centavo coin placed in circulation. By the Mint Report, they were paying wages of some sort, thereby increasing the price of the product. A counterfeiter would "pay" these wages to himself, and a crude product is cheaper to produce.

Therefore, I suggest the other Enigmatic 1-centavo (that is, the 1905 Walrafen, 1906-M Utberg, and 1909-M Cortina) are circulating counterfeits, local products, struck in Mexico. Perhaps these rather crude pieces passed because no one really looked at a 1-centavo, and the poor strikes could be attributed to wear. Although there was likely not much profit in the 1-centavo trade, it was certainly safer than counterfeiting peso coins.

And finally, the modern c.1960s fantasy "1916-G" 1-centavo. Of interest only as a curiosity and should be discouraged when encountered. Dangerous, as some of these have been in collections for over 50 years, unfortunately. Watch for these and other FALSA (FALSE) on eBay, in the hundreds of dollars. Amuse yourself by reporting them.

As Neil Utberg used to say, your comments, pro or con, are welcome. Email [GeoGen2008@att.net](mailto:GeoGen2008@att.net), or join the conversation in a letter to the Editor for the journal.

### The Enigmatic 1-Centavo in the Literature, in Order of Occurrence

Type Author	1910-M Garza	1906-M Utberg	1911-(M?) Gaytan	1905 VRW (VRW '78)	"1916-G" Fantasy	1911 Karam (Long '96)	1909-M Cortina (Long '97)	1911 Cortina (Long '97)
Garza (1932)	X							
Utberg (1965)	X	X	Mention					
Gaytan (1969)	X		X					
Walrafen (MRR)				Photo				Photo
Long (auctions)	X	In Lot	X		In Lot	X	In Lot	In Lot
Amaya	X	X	X		X		X	X

#### References:

- Carlos Amaya, *Compendio de la Moneda de la Revolución Mexicana*, Segunda edición, Mexico, 2011  
 Carlos Amaya, *Tricolor Compendium of Mexican Revolutionary Coinage*, Monterrey, Mexico, 2015  
 Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*, c.1908, reprinted 1926 and subsequently  
 J. Sanchez Garza, *Historic Notes on Coins of the Mexican Revolution, 1913-1917*, Mexico City, 1932  
 Carlos Gaytan, *La Revolución Mexicana y sus Monedas*, Mexico City, [1969]  
 Richard Long, *Mail Auction Sale #81*, 25 March 1996 (Karam remainder sale), Langlois, Oregon, 1996  
 Richard Long, *Mail Auction Sale #85*, 7 April 1997 (third Cortina sale), Langlois, Oregon, 1997  
 Neil Utberg, *The Coins of the Mexican Revolution 1910-1917*, Edinburg, Texas, 1965  
 Verne R. Walrafen, editor and author, *The Mexican Revolution Reporter*, quarterly, May 1976-May 1984, Ozawkie, Kansas  
 1905 VRW, 1911 Cortina (photos), May 1978



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