

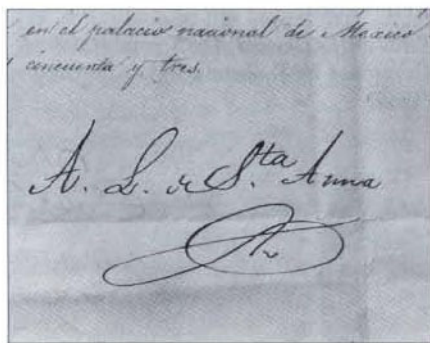
Personalities on Mexican Bank Notes (1853-1910)

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In 1853 Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, a colorful Mexican general and politician, became President of Mexico for the eleventh time and in that same year he sold the Mesilla Valley (Arizona, New Mexico) to the United States.

The intellectuals in Mexico became alarmed at the loss of half of the country's territories. From 1821 to 1850 Mexico was in a state of constant turmoil. In those thirty years there were 50 different governments, eleven of which were presided over by General Santa Anna. Life in the country was at the mercy of feuding Masonic lodges, ambitious Army leaders, audacious bandits, raiding Indians and generals who engaged in battles to overthrow presidents and governors.

The intellectuals formed two political parties: the Conservative party and the Liberal party. The

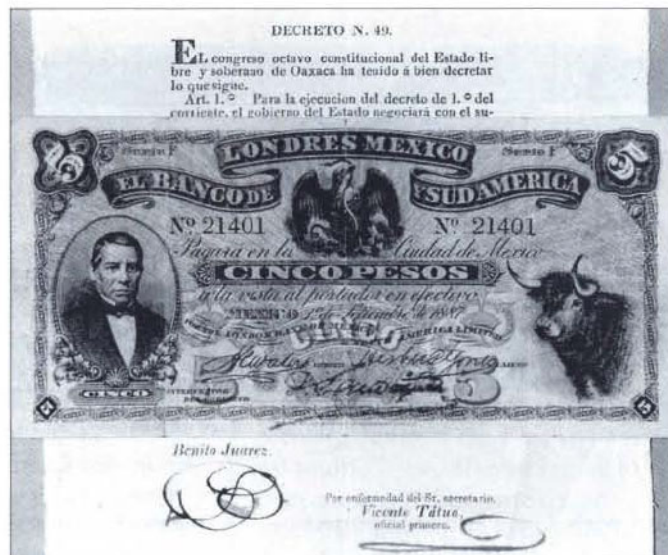


Signature of General Antonio López Santa Anna—in 1853, he became President of Mexico for the 11th time and gave himself the title of "His Most Supreme Highness." To support his extravagant lifestyle, he sold a large part of the Mexican territory and imposed taxes on things such as horses, dogs and windows.

General Santa Anna's picture does not appear on any Mexican bank note, but he was a colorful general, a political manipulator and a factor in the Mexican life since taking part in the Independence War. Sadly, his presidencies and policies have always been short lived.

5 pesos, Banco de Londres, México y Sud America, 1887—this note depicts President Benito Juárez. His short signature as Governor of the State of Oaxaca appears below.

This series of notes was printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. in London. There are six different denomination notes which all depict President Benito Juárez on the face of the note. Only three lower denominations, 5, 10 and 20 pesos, were issued.



Conservatives longed to return to the Spanish order and to live in the shadow of the Old World monarchies. The Liberals denied the Spanish traditions. They wanted to lead Mexico along completely new paths, to have freedom of the press, work, education and trade, all under the tutelage of the United States. They believed their northern neighbor should guide the destiny of

Mexico "...not only in its institutions, but also in its civil practices..." As the Liberals were divided because they could not agree on the means to achieve their goals, the Conservative took power. In 1858 Benito Juárez, then President of the Supreme Court, drafted a constitution and formed its own Liberal government. As the Conservatives had their own government, both parties engaged in a war. Finally in 1861 Juárez conquered Mexico City



This series of notes was printed by American Bank Note Co. and there are seven different issued denominations up to 1000 pesos. All the notes depict Benito Juárez on the face of the note.

100 Pesos, Banco de Londres y México, 1897—this note depicts Benito Juárez, President of Mexico from 1858 to 1872. His signature appears below.





50 pesos, Banco de México, 1973—President Benito Juárez.

and restored his government.

Due to the difficult economic situation that resulted from so many years of fighting, the Mexican Government had to declare a temporary moratorium on the payment of its foreign debt. Spain, France and Britain sent military troops to demand payment of their claims by force. The following year, the Spanish and the British troops withdrew after signing agreements. The French, however, stayed and began their invasion of Mexico with the help of the Conservatives. The French Emperor, Napoleon III, wanted to raise a barrier against the United States' expansionist policies and this was an excellent moment to act, as the U.S. was involved in a civil war of its own and could not help the Liberals. The Mexicans, under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza, defeated the

French during the Battle of Puebla in 1862. As the Liberal forces were able to stop the French from advancing, Napoleon III sent a sizable reservoir of manpower as reinforcements.

A year later, Benito Juárez was forced to relocate his government from Mexico City to Chihuahua. Soon after, the Conservatives helped Archduke Maximilian of Hapsburg to become Emperor of Mexico. He sought the recognition of the Mexican Empire by the United States, but President Abraham Lincoln refused. Instead, Lincoln believed that Juárez's government in exile was the legitimate representative of the



5 pesos, Banco de México note, 1937—This note depicts General Ignacio Zaragoza. His signature appears below.

Mexican people.

In 1866 the French Emperor began withdrawing his troops from Mexico. Several envoys sent by Maximilian's wife Carlotta, and later Empress Carlotta herself, appealed to Napoleon III and asked him to honor the Convention of Miramar, by which France had undertaken to keep her husband Maximilian on the throne of Mexico in return for the payment of substantial sums of money (around 260 million French francs). A year later, Emperor Maximilian left Mexico City and gathered his Imperial Army in the State of Queretaro,



20 nuevos pesos, Banco de México, 1992—depicts President Benito Juárez.



500 nuevos pesos, Banco de México, 1992—This is the largest denomination note currently in circulation. The portrait of General Ignacio appears on the right side, along with his signature and the following message, "The arms of this nation have been covered with glory." Both the message and the scene in the background refer to the victorious Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.



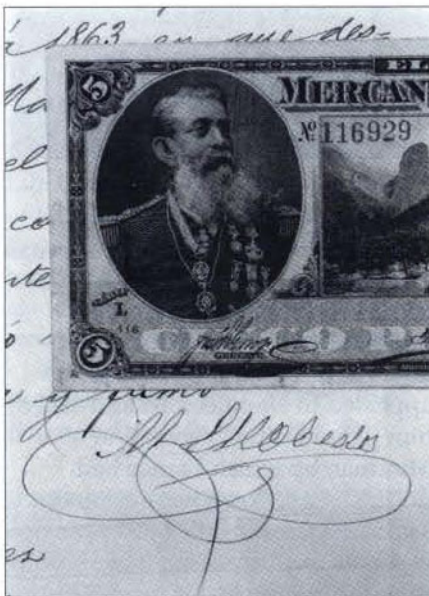
5 pesos, Banco de Nuevo León, 1913—This note depicts General Ignacio Zaragoza.

This series of notes was printed by American Bank Note Co. and there are seven different denomination notes up to 500 pesos. All notes depict General Zaragoza on the face of the note. The highest denomination note appears as specimen.



10 pesos 1915, issued by the Constitutionalist Army during the Mexican Revolution 1910-1917 by the order of General Venustiano Carranza, "First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army" in order to provide for the needs and for his campaign.

This model note above was issued in the state of Jalisco and they were circulated in 1, 5 and 10 peso denominations. All these notes depict General Ramon Corona on the face of the note.



5 pesos, Banco Mercantil de Monterrey, 1900—This note depicts General Mariano Escobedo. His signature appears below.

American Bank Note Co. printed six different denomination notes up to 500 pesos and each denomination note depicts General Escobedo on the face of the note. The highest denomination appears as specimen.

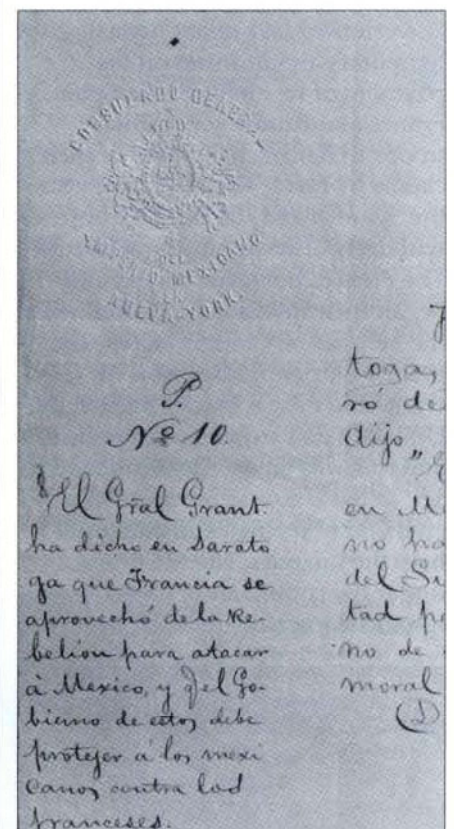
where he and his generals were captured by the Liberal Army, commanded by Generals Mariano Escobedo and Ramon Corona. These generals' portraits appear on several Mexican banknotes.

The French were forced to withdraw from Mexico because the United States demanded their departure based on the Monroe Doctrine. The Americans saw the

establishment of a monarchy in Mexico as a hostile act. They claimed that France had used the Mexican rebellion as an excuse to intervene and they vowed to defend the Mexicans against the French and to help Benito Juarez's Liberal government. Meanwhile, Matias Romero, a diplomat and the head of the Mexican delegation in Washington, negotiated with the Lincoln administration for aid and secured arms shipments to Mexico with the help of General Ulysses S. Grant. Without the French Army to back them up, the Imperial forces could not hold out and were either defeated or forced to surrender. Emperor Napoleon advised Emperor Maximilian to leave the country with the French troops and Maximilian was going to until his Mexican Imperial Generals and some Conservative friends asked him to continue the fighting with them. In the end all imperial forces were captured. Emperor Maximilian had several opportunities to escape but he refused. He would not escape unless his closest generals Miracom and Mejia could accompany him. General Miramon, among other things, was earlier during the years 1859-1860 the President of Mexico which position he occupied at the young age of twenty-seven.

Half of the kings of Europe petitioned Juarez for a pardon, but

finally on June 19th 1867, Emperor Maximilian and Generals Miramon and Mejia faced a firing squad by



Quote from a letter date August 7, 1865, sent by General Consul of the Mexican Empire in New York to his superiors in Mexico—This letter quotes United States General Ulysses S. Grant as saying that France had used the Mexican rebellion as an excuse to invade that country and that based on the Monroe Doctrine, the U.S. had the obligation to defend the Mexicans against the French.



10,000 pesos, Banco de México, 1950—this note depicts Matías Romero, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States during the French intervention in Mexico.

It was printed by the American Bank Note Company and was first issued in 1943. At that time, its equivalent in U.S. dollars was \$1,250. It was only used in larger transactions. Romero's signature appears below.

the order of President Benito Juárez.

In 1871 Benito Juárez was elected president for a fourth term. However, he died in 1872 at the age of 66. His portrait appears on several Mexican banknotes. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Miguel Lerdo de Tejada, was then elected president. Five years later, Lerdo de Tejada was driven into exile by General Porfirio Díaz, who was to govern the country for the next 30 years, that is, until 1910.

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1 Peso, Banco Internacional e Hipotecario de México, and 10 Pesos, Banco Mercantil de Veracruz, 1914—These notes depict Miguel Lerdo de Tejada, President of Mexico from 1872 to 1877. His signature appears alongside.