

Banco De México

Pre-Columbian Series

Of NCLT Coins, 1992 – 1998

By Don Bailey



THE PRE-COLUMBIAN COINAGE PROGRAM OF MEXICO

At the American Numismatic Association's Convention in Baltimore on July 28, 1993 The Banco de Mexico held a press conference to announce the beginning of a new commemorative coinage program. This new program would be known as "The Pre-Columbian Coin program".

This event was to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus discovery of the Americas in 1492. This series of commemorative coins will honor six Pre - Columbian civilizations: the Aztec, Central Veracruz, Mayan, Olmec, Teotihuacan, and the Toltec cultures.

The first series released in 1992 was to honor the Aztecs. This culture originated in the northern part of Mexico at Aztlan, what is now known as Arizona and Sonora. This Nahuatl speaking tribe referred to themselves as the Mexica or Teochca. In the 13th century after a century of nomadic wandering settled on small islands in Lake Texcoco. In 1325 they created the city known as Tenochtitlan, which is now Mexico City.

In the 15th century the Aztecs were only exceeded in size by the Incas in Peru. This culture reflected of a highly specialized society with expanded trading, an imperial administration and an agricultural economy.

This Aztec Empire ceased to exist when Cuauhtemoc died. He ruled of the Aztecs in 1521 during the siege of Tenochtitlan and led the fight against Herman Cortes and his Spanish conquistadors. Surrendering after weeks of street fighting, Cuauhtemoc was tortured and put in prison. Later Cortes hanged him on his march to Honduras.

These coin sets are all structured in the same fashion, with a five oz silver coin, a three-piece set of ¼, ½ and 1 oz with the same design. There are also three 1oz coins depicting various historical aspects of the cultures discussed here. The Aztec collection had several changes from the original issues, due to the coinage reform of 1992.

THE AZTEC COLLECTION:

Guerrero Aguila (Eagle Warrior):

The three-piece set was first issued in 1992 in proof to honor the Eagle Warriors, (*Guerrero Aguila*). The eagle knights were the Aztec army elite. The helmet shown was part of their costume to the devotion to Huitzilopochtli, the war/sun god and special guardian of Tenochtitlan. He became the hero-warrior. These coins were originally issued in 1992 in proof only. Later in 1992, the Eagle Warriors were issued in BU.

After these items were issued, they discovered that the denominations in pesos were illegal due to the coinage reform. They issued these coins in BU and proof with the 1993 date and denominations of N\$1, N\$2 and N\$5.

The three one ounce coins honored the following Aztec gods:

Brasero Efigie (Brazier Effigy):

This represents the god Tlaloc, the god of rain and creation. The tears that flow down his cheeks fertilized and regenerated the crops according to Aztec beliefs.

Huehueteotl :

The cult of fire was among the oldest in Mesoamerica, also known as the protector of the earth, and "The old, old deity".

Xochipilli:

The god of flowers was tattooed over his body with floral designs. They held intricate rites to Xochipilli when gardens were dedicated

These items were originally issued dated 1992 in proof only. As with the Guerrero Aguila, they discovered that the denominations in pesos were illegal due to the coinage reform so they issued these in BU and proof with the 1993 date and a denomination of N\$5.

Piedra de Tizoc, (The Tizoc Stone):

This five3-ounce coin represents a huge monolith. It was discovered in the Templo Mayor, which celebrated the victories of Tizoc, (Pierna Enferma), who was the Aztec Emperor from 1482 - 1487. This also symbolizes the ritual passing of the throne from Tizoc to his brother Ahuitzotl, (Perro de Agua) in 1487.

These issues experienced to the same problems with the denominations and the coinage reform. The 1992 \$10,000 in proof has been very elusive to the collectors. Those that I have seen of these are from sets that were put together and sold by a telemarketer in a oak case containing the three piece Guerrero Aguila set, the \$250 proof gold, Jaguar de Los Soles, and the proof 1992 \$10,000. Thus far I have seen only a few of these sets. These were sold at \$1,500.00 per set when issued from the tele-marketer, a few sets have the 1993 dated silver proofs in New Peso denomination, but demand a smaller price. .

The 1992 \$10,000 in BU is readily available. There is a 1992 \$10 in proof known, but no mintage figures are available, but only a small quantity are known.

Each of these collections have a three piece gold set that honor an aspect of that particular culture.

Jaguar - Piedra de Los Soles, (Jaguar, Stone of the Suns):

These represent the first period of the sun and symbolize the fertility of the earth.

SPECIFICATIONS, AZTEC COLLECTION:

Guerrero Aguila:

¼ Oz 1992 \$25 .999 silver 27 mm. BU Mintage 50,000

¼ Oz 1992 \$25 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

¼ Oz 1993 N\$1 .999 silver 27mm. BU Mintage 1,500

¼ Oz 1993 N\$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 900

½ Oz 1992 \$50 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 50,000

½ Oz 1992 \$50 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

½ Oz 1993 N\$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 1,500

½ Oz 1993 N\$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 800

1 Oz 1992 \$100 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 205,000

1 Oz 1992 \$100 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,000

Brasero Effigie:

1 Oz 1992 \$100 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 500

Huehueteotl:

1 Oz 1992 \$100 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 5,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 800

Xochipilli:

1 Oz 1992 \$100 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,000

1 Oz 1993 \$100 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 800

Piedra de Tizoc:

5 Oz 1992 \$10,000 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 51,900

5 Oz 1992 \$10,000 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 3,300

5 Oz 1992 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage N/A

5 Oz 1993 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 1,000

5 Oz 1993 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 1,000

Jaguar – Piedra de Los Soles:

¼ Oz 1992 \$250 .999 gold 23mm. BU Mintage 10,000

¼ Oz 1992 \$250 .999 gold 23mm. Proof Mintage 2,000

½ Oz 1992 \$500 .999 gold 29mm. BU Mintage 10,000

½ Oz 1992 \$500 .999 gold 29mm. Proof Mintage 2,000

1 Oz 1992 \$1,000 .999 gold 34.5mm. BU Mintage 17,850

1 Oz 1992 \$1,000 .999 gold 34.5mm. Proof Mintage 2,000

CENTRAL VERACRUZ COLLECTION:

The Totonac Indians built a very complex civilization in the northern part of Mexico, between the year 1000 B.C.E. The Totanacs were deeply influenced by Teotihuacan. The political dimension El Tajin was a city of at least 2,600 acres. It was the capital of a centralized tribute state. At its apogee it controlled a broad area, including much of present-day north central Veracruz and adjoining portions of the state of Puebla.

Additionally, it was a religious, artistic, architectural and engineering center of first magnitude in ancient Mexico. It's flourished with a broad impact on surrounding coastal and highland regions. In terms of ball-game ritualism, they excelled. They went beyond the northern frontiers of Mesoamerica.

The Veracruz Classic period is noted among other things for the creation of a sculptured complex, Yugoo-Hacha-Palma, (Yoke-Hatchet-Palm). These sculptures are associated with the Juego de Pelota – Prehispanic ritual ball game played by the Mesoamerican Indians. They are included some of the most outstanding stone sculptures of Totonac art.

Baqjorrelieve del Tajin (The Tajin Bas-Relief):

The three-piece set depicts the thirteen courts for the ritual ball-game which is found in the central section of El Tajin, indicating the game's importance at that site. The vertical walls of the South Ball Court exhibit a bas-relief, with scenes of the ceremonial game in the double-outline linear style, which includes interwoven scrolls and bands.

The three one ounce coins honored the following Central Veracruz symbols:

Palma con Cocodrilo, (Palm with Crocodile):

The crocodile was set to the landscape of the gulf coast, where the Totonac civilization was developed. This group gave it a main importance. The crocodile is related with the earth and the water, and stands among other animals due to its amphibian nature. In this "Palma," the Totonac artist could make good use of the space he had to extend the twisted tail in the top of the "Palma."

Carita Sonriente: (The smiling face):

These small smiling faces are, undoubtedly, one of the most original and representative products of the art of the Central Veracruz prehispanic culture. The figurines and, in some cases little smiling heads, have been discovered. They are related to fertility rites.

Anciano con Brasero, (Old Man with Brazier):

These sculptures that come from the Cerro de las Mesas in the state of Veracruz are made with clay, and sometimes in full size. The relations between the Totonac culture with Teotihuacan are quite clear when we analyze this great sculpture.

Piramide del Tajin, (The Pyramid of the Niches):

This five-ounce represents the Pyramid of the Niches. The buildings of El Tajin reveal a freer spirit than those of Teotihuacan or Monte Alban. They adapt to the topography by means of structures, clustered around plazas. The forms vary in height and ornamentation, producing an elegant and dynamic visual effect.

The impression is further enhanced by contrasts of light and shadow created by the niches and jutting cornices embellishing the tiers of the pyramids. The "Piramide del Tajin" has total 365 niches, that number verifies their use for calendar and ritual purposes.

Hacha Ceremonial, (Ceremonial Hatchet):

The three piece gold has the representation of the Ceremonial Hatchet, a human profile with a fish helmet, certifying the importance of the ocean in the Totonac culture, with the ceremonial hatchet which undoubtedly is the best example of the implements related with the Juego de Pelota, not only because of its symbolism, but also because of its crafting.

SPECIFICATIONS, CENTRAL VERACRUZ COLLECTION:

Bajorrelieve de el Tajin:

¼ Oz 1993 N\$1 .999 silver 27 mm. BU Mintage 100,000

¼ Oz 1993 N\$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

½ Oz 1993 N\$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 100,000

½ Oz 1993 N\$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 100,000

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

Palma con Coocodrilo:

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 2,650

Carita Sonriente:

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 3,300

Anciano con Brasero:

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,500

1 Oz 1993 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,650

Piramide del Tajin:

5 Oz 1993 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 50,000

5 Oz 1993 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 3,100

Hacha Ceremonial:

¼ Oz 1993 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. BU Mintage 15,500

¼ Oz 1993 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. Proof Mintage 800

½ Oz 1993 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. BU Mintage 15,500

½ Oz 1993 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. Proof Mintage 500

1 Oz 1993 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. BU Mintage 7,150

1 Oz 1993 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. Proof Mintage 500

MAYAN COLLECTION:

The third collection in this series is to honor the Mayan culture. The inspiring civilizations in Central America dates from 320AD, and consisted of the areas of Yucatan, Guatemala and the South East of Mexico. It was initially centered in the Peten region with the Tikal and Uaxactun agglomerations. The

cities, which were the religious centers, included Bonampak, Chichen Itza, and Copan. Palenque, and Uxmal to name a few.

The temples were built on huge pyramids that had stepped sides leading to the ornate stone temple located at the top. The interiors had intricate mural paintings and Mayan hieroglyphics. The Toltec warriors around the 11th and 12th century subdued the Mayans. This change created the Maya-Tolteca civilization.

Chaac Mool:

The three-piece silver set depicts a characteristic sculpture of Chichen Itza, the Chaac Mool which shows a human being half-sitting and half-lying on his back. His face turned sharply away from the line of his body. The position was associated with Mayan sacrificial methods.

The three other one-ounce coins depicted the following Mayan sculptures:

Dintel 26:

This item depicts a sculpture discovered in the ruins of Yaxchilan. It shows a woman giving a Jaguar head or mask to a dignitary or high priest. This sculpture dates around 726 AD.

Lapida Tumba de Palenque:

These features a fragment of the slab bas-relief found in the funeral chamber of the Temple of Inscriptions. The detailed design of the sarcophagus shows an earth monster, human bearing signs of the sacrificial rite and a tree with a profile of a god crowned with a bird.

Mascaron del Dios Chaac:

This depicts the figurehead of the Mayan rain god Chaac, found on the façade of the Temple of Kabah in the Yucatan peninsula.

Piramide del Castillo:

The five ounce silver coin depicts the stepped Piramide del Castillo, dedicated to the Maya god Kukulcan, the deified personality of a mythical king. He restored the city of Chichen Itza. Kukulcan was believed connected with the creation of the universe.

There are two varieties of this coin; one is dated 1994 like the rest of the series and with the legend Piramide del Castillo, and one with the 1993 date and the legend Piramide del Castillo Chicken-itza. This error in the date and the legend "Chicken – itza" was discovered but not before a very small quantity were released.

Personaje de Jaina:

The three-piece gold coins depict the clay figure of Personaje de Jaina, a civil dignitary sitting on a throne. The figure has a cranium deformation and a beard.

SPECIFICATIONS, MAYAN COLLECTION:

Chaac Mool:

¼ Oz 1994 N\$1 .999 silver 27 mm. BU Mintage 30,000

¼ Oz 1994 N\$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 2,500

½ Oz 1994 N\$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 30,000

½ Oz 1994 N\$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 2,500

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 50,000

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

Dintel 26:

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 2,600

Lapida Tumba de Palenque:

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 2,500

Mascaron del Dios Chaac:

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1994 N\$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 2,500

Piramide del Castillo Chicken-itza:

5 Oz 1993 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage N/A

Piramide del Castillo:

5 Oz 1994 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 20,000

5 Oz 1994 N\$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 2,100

Personaje de Jaina:

¼ Oz 1994 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. BU Mintage 2,000

¼ Oz 1994 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. Proof Mintage 500

½ Oz 1994 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. BU Mintage 1,000

½ Oz 1994 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. Proof Mintage 500

1 Oz 1994 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. BU Mintage 1,000

1 Oz 1994 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. Proof Mintage 500

OLMEC COLLECTION:

The fourth issue in this program honored the Olmec culture. This culture flourished in central Mexico and parts of Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica about 1200 to 300 BC. Olmec works in clay, jade and stone represented the first sophisticated artistic style of art.

The Olmec society was hierarchical, with wealth and status determining social class. The higher social class of rulers, priests and skilled artisans lived in the larger towns like San Lorenzo and La Venta. The farmers in the surrounding rural areas provided the food for the higher classes in the cities.

There is no written record of the Olmecs. We have to reconstruct their society from what is available to us, such as sculptures, ceramics, tools and architecture, along with the other things that have survived over the years. The Olmec archaeological sites are located in the tropical lowlands close to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gulf Coast Olmec's hallmark is the monumental basalt sculptures of huge heads, human figures, thrones and supernatural creatures. What is amazing is that the stones were not from this region. They were moved from the mountains, a distance of sixty miles.

The colossal heads found at San Lorenzo are known as the oldest representations of Olmec rulers. These massive stones asserted the ruler's superhuman power. Their expressive faces are realistic portraits of specific personages.

There was no collection issued for 1995. In 1998 for an unknown reason this series was issued in BU and dated 1998.

Senor de las Limas (The Lord of Las Limas):

The three-piece silver set of coins in this collection depicts a green stone sculpture of a priest with a baby jaguar in his arms. According to archaeologists, it is related to fertility and maternity rituals. It was found in the village of Las Limas in the region of Veracruz.

The three other one-ounce coins depict the following Olmec sculptures:

Hombre Jaguar (Jaguar-man):

These outstanding figures are one of the finest examples of Olmec sculpture. They can be found in a number of poses. The most common and used on this coin is the character sitting wearing a helmet. The facial features resembled a jaguar, which was the center of most Olmec rituals.

The 1996 Hombre Jaguar is hard to find. I have seen only a very few.

El Luchador (The Wrestler):

This outstanding stone sculpture was found in the state of Veracruz at Santa Maria Uxpanapa. This represents a sitting man with his arms in a dynamic attitude, as if playing some sort of sport or fighting. This sculpture is 66 cm high.

Hacha Ceremonial (Ceremonial Hatchet):

It depicts a green stone ceremonial hatchet with delicate markings and represents a jaguar-man. The hatchet has a v shaped crevice that is a characteristic of ritual tools found from the middle period of the pre-classic era.

Cabeza Olmeca (The Olmec Head):

This design on the 5-ounce coins from this collection depicts one of the most representative sculptures of the Olmec culture. So far only 16 of these colossal heads have been found and their weight ranges from 9 to 11 metric tons. Their height is from 1.6m to 3m. Archaeologists are uncertain if these heads represent gods, priest or rulers.

El Sacerdote (The Priest):

The gold coins in this collection depict a priest or dignitary seated, and surrounded by an undulating rattlesnake. It is a constant feature in all Mesoamerican cultures.

SPECIFICATIONS, OLMEC COLLECTION;

Senor de las Limas:

¼ Oz 1996 \$1 .999 silver 27 mm. BU Mintage 4,000

¼ Oz 1996 \$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 2,200

¼ Oz 1998 \$1 .999 silver 27mm. BU Mintage 2,400

½ Oz 1996 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 4,000

½ Oz 1996 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 2,200

½ Oz 1998 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 2,400

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,000

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 3,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 3,400

Hombre Jaguar:

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 3,500

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,800

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

El Luchador:

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 2,700

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

Hacha Ceremonial:

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1996 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 2,700

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

Cabeza Olmeca:

5 Oz 1996 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 2,000

5 Oz 1996 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 2,750

5 Oz 1998 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 2,150

Sacerdote:

¼ Oz 1996 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. BU Mintage 500

¼ Oz 1996 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. Proof Mintage 600

½ Oz 1996 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. BU Mintage 500

½ Oz 1996 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. Proof Mintage 500

1 Oz 1996 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. BU Mintage 500

1 Oz 1996 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. Proof Mintage 500

THE TEOTIHUACAN COLLECTION:

In the second century BC in the valley of Mexico, the most important civilization dominated the culture of the valley. It extended from Sinaloa in western Mexico and Guatemala to the southeast. This civilization was centered on the city of Teotihuacan. During its peak, it had a population of over one hundred thousand people. The largest city in the ancient world, it was the religious center of Mesoamerica, and the most highly urbanized center of a huge territory.

The Teotihuacanos controlled the activities of hundreds of thousands of people. The arts and sciences flourished.

This city prospered when several settlements joined to form the first urban center. It was constructed with pyramids, symbolizing the sun and the moon. A broad avenue connected them. This was a planned city with over two thousand structures. While the farmers lived in wooden houses, other inhabitants lived in stone houses decorated with murals and paintings. Some of these homes had elaborate drainage systems.

The city reached its greatest splendor from 350 AD to 650 AD, with great achievements. During 650 to 700 AD the Teotihuacan culture declined. The final dissolution occurred about 700 AD. Some archaeologists have found a great fire decimated just about every structure in the city.

Disco de la Muerte, (Disc of the death):

The three pieces set in these collection features an extraordinary sculpture in stone represented the death. It was a common and important theme between people in this culture.

The three one ounce coins in this series depict:

Mascara (Mask):

Magnificent stone masks like this were part of the funerary dressing for the high-ranking people of this culture.

Vasija (Vessel):

The design on this coin is based on a vessel shaped as a seated human figure from this culture. This vessel illustrates many types of human figurines. Their significance is unknown. Although it is believed they were gods or probably high-ranking individuals.

Jugador de Pelota (Ball player):

The figure shown on this one ounce coin is of a ball player that was molded in orange mud ceramic that prevailed in a certain stage of the Teotihuacan culture. The Teotihuacan commercial system extended to almost all of the Mesoamerican regions and these figurines were important to this system.

Piramide del sol (Sun pyramid):

The five-ounce coin for this collection depicts the Piramide del Sol. It was an ambitious monument dedicated to the sun and important to the Teotihuacans. Its orientation is based on astronomical considerations and it deviates slightly from the astronomical north.

Serpiente Emplumada (Feathered serpent):

The design is depicted on the three-piece gold coins. It is of a detail showing in the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, one of the most powerful gods of the Teotihuacan culture to whom they dedicate special rituals.

SPECIFICATIONS, TEOTIHUACAN COLLECTION;

Disco de la Murete:

¼ Oz 1997 \$1 .999 silver 27 mm. BU Mintage 3,000

¼ Oz 1997 \$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 1,600

¼ Oz 1998 \$1 .999 silver 27mm. BU Mintage 2,400

¼ Oz 1998 \$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 500

½ Oz 1997 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 3,000

½ Oz 1997 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 1,600

½ Oz 1998 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 2,400

½ Oz 1998 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 500

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 3,500

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,800

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 3,400

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 500

Mascara:

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,800

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 500

Vasiga:

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,800

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 500

Jugador de Pelota:

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 4,500

1 Oz 1997 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 1,800

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 2,000

Piramide del Sol:

5 Oz 1997 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 1,500

5 Oz 1997 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 2,100

5 Oz 1998 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 2,150

Serpiente Emplumada:

¼ Oz 1997 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. BU Mintage 500

¼ Oz 1997 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. Proof Mintage 200

½ Oz 1997 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. BU Mintage 500

½ Oz 1997 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. Proof Mintage 200

1 Oz 1997 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. BU Mintage 500

1 Oz 1997 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. Proof Mintage 200

THE TOLTEC COLLECTION:

A complex civilization, the Toltecs occupied the region of Tula in 713 AC. They left a legacy of a vast wealth of wisdom and beauty in a majestic archaeological zone. They created a spiritual center preserved by their colossal atlases. Some of the advances made in the arts are still conserved in the walls of the buildings.

The Toltecs formed alliances with other tribes, such as the Chichimecas from northeast of the state of Guanajuato. They later destroyed the Toltec city of Tula in the state of Hidalgo after it existed for 449 years.

The Toltecs established an advanced educational system that attracted students from the higher society from as far away as Central America. The Toltecs worshipped the feather-serpent god Quetzalcoatl. Other gods were important to the Toltecs were Tezcatlipoca, god of the night and darkness, Talaloc, god of the rain and vegetation, Centeotl, god of the corn, Itzpapalotl, or butterfly of obsidian, and Tonatiuh, or solar god.

Invading Chichimec tribes destroyed the Toltec Empire about 1200.

Jaguar:

These three piece silver coins depict the sculpture known as "Jaguar", an animal adored by the Toltecs.

The three ounce silver coins are:

Quetzalcoatl (Feathered serpent god):

A representation of the birth of Ce-Acatl Topilzin, Quetzalcoatl achieved the domination of several territories, power and wealth.

Sacerdote (The Priest):

The motif is a design of a priest represented by an Atlantean figure.

Serpiente con Craneo (Serpent with skull):

This motif shows a snake that represented Quetzalcoatl, as a morning star. This relieves alternate with images with motifs of eagles eating bloody hearts.

Atlantes (Atlantean Figures):

The five ounce silver coin has a representation of the Atlantes that are found in the temple of Quetzalcoatl. These figures represent Toltec warriors holding. In their right hands are weapons that fired darts. In their left hands were several arrows. There is also a chest shield in the shape of a butterfly; a skirt with a big belt tied in the front with a solar disk in the background.

SPECIFICATIONS, TOLTEC COLLECTION;

Jaguar:

¼ Oz 1998 \$1 .999 silver 27 mm. BU Mintage 6,000

¼ Oz 1998 \$1 .999 silver 27mm. Proof Mintage 4,800

½ Oz 1998 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. BU Mintage 6,000

½ Oz 1998 \$2 .999 silver 33mm. Proof Mintage 4,800

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 6,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,800

Quetzalcoatl:

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 5,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,800

Sacerdote:

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 5,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,800

Serpiente Con Carne:

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. BU Mintage 5,000

1 Oz 1998 \$5 .999 silver 40mm. Proof Mintage 4,800

Atlantas:

5 Oz 1998 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. BU Mintage 3,500

5 Oz 1998 \$10 .999 silver 65mm. Proof Mintage 4,200

Aguila:

¼ Oz 1998 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. BU Mintage 300

¼ Oz 1998 \$25 .999 gold 23mm. Proof Mintage 300

½ Oz 1998 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. BU Mintage 300

½ Oz 1998 \$50 .999 gold 29mm. Proof Mintage 300

1 Oz 1998 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. BU Mintage 300

1 Oz 1998 \$100 .999 gold 34.5mm. Proof Mintage 300

This brings to a close the Pre-Columbian Coinage Program of Mexico. This series shows the artistic abilities and capabilities of the Casa de Moneda de Mexico. The mintage figures quoted herein are the official mintage figures as of November 15, 2002.

VISIT Don Bailey's Website at: <http://donbailey-mexico.com/>