

The Numismatics of

† SPANISH COLONIAL †

MEXICO

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Special *Coin World* Supplement - November 1987

This article will attempt to convey to the novice collector the many interesting areas of Mexican numismatics of Spanish colonial Mexico that can be collected. The more advanced collector will find it may open doors to areas that he had not thought of previously.

In preparing this overview, I consulted with Clyde Hubbard, one of the leading authorities concerning Mexican numismatics. The fruits of his 50 years of researching Mexican numismatics allows us for the first time to correct many often-repeated errors. Some unverified facts have been omitted so fact will not be confused with fiction and the collector will not be misled. Collectors of Mexican coins and the numismatic community are indebted to Hubbard for sharing his research with us.

The numismatic history of Mexico covers so much more than what can be covered in the allowed space. Those that are interested will find there are numerous books available that detail in much more depth some of the many facets of Mexican numismatics.

The romantic numismatic history of Mexico dates to the Aztec Empire period where the principal medium of exchange was the fruit of the cacahuatl tree, known as "cacao beans." The highest unit of exchange was a sack of cacao beans consisting of 24,000 beans. As in our current time, there were those in that period who were unscrupulous and removed the meat of the bean, replaced it with dirt to defraud the unknowing public.

The use of the cacao beans as a medium of exchange continued even after the arrival of the Spanish led by Don Hernando Cortes, and the subsequent overthrow of the Aztec Empire during the period 1519 to 1521. The powers to be of New Spain gave the bean a value of 140 to the Spanish real.

Some other mediums of exchange used by the Aztecs were the "patolquechtle," a small piece of finely woven cloth, plus red sea shells, stone beads, gold dust contained in transparent quills, small disks of tin as reported by Hernando Cortes in one of his letters to Charles V, King of Spain, the only historical reference to this medium of exchange. Another form of exchange was the

"quauhtli." These so-called Aztec eagles were gold flattened to the shape of an eagle with outspread wings.

There was a medium of exchange called "tajaderas," but more commonly known as Aztec hoe money. Numismatists and historians throughout the years have had different views of these copper pieces made in the shape resembling Greek taus. The earliest reference to these is in a document dated Oct. 31, 1548, in which a Spanish resident of Antiquera de Oaxaca, Francisco Lopez Tenorio, not only described the piece but also attached a drawing with the notation: "This is the form of copper coins that were in use in New Spain. The value placed and at which these were commonly accepted was of four such pieces. if new, for five Spanish reales. If worn, many refused to accept them, and they were sold to be melted at ten pieces for one Spanish Real." Even in the 1500s there was an awareness of the grading of the medium of exchange.

The late Dr. Alberto Pradeau in his Numismatic History of Mexico, From the Pre-Columbian Epoch to 1823, quotes many sources concerning this subject and was of the opinion that these "tajaderas" were used as money. Current Mexican numismatists concur with Dr. Pradeau Hoe money is collected along with the other before-mentioned mediums of exchange and fall under the classification of odd and curious money.

There was a period of time after the Spanish that a medium of exchange known to the natives as "tepuzque," which meant copper. The coined money the conquerors brought to Mexico was of the higher denominations and, there was a shortage of small coins. The tradesmen of the time made gold dust made into disks, first marked with only the weight. As soon as these started to circulate, the counterfeiting began by adding copper to the gold, henceforth the "tepuzque" name. These circulated from about 1522 up into the period of Philip II, 1556-98.

By resolution of April 6, 1526, the City Council of Mexico authorized the tradesmen to have their tepuzque gold turned into slugs at the Royal Smelting and Assay Office. These could, at the owners' wishes, be made into sizes of 1, 2 or 4

tomines, which is 12 grains and was used to indicate one-eighth of a peso de oro, or in pieces weighing 1, 2 or 4 pesos de oro. A peso de oro was 96 grains. Even though the tepuzque coinage is well documented no specimens are known, to this writer's knowledge.

The establishment of the Mint in Mexico was authorized in 1535 under the Spanish rule of Charles I. This is the first Mint of the Americas, preceeding U.S. coinage by more than 250 years. The Mint was authorized to coin silver coins in the denomination of quarter, half, 1, 2 and 3 reales, while the 2 and 4 maravedis were authorized to be struck in copper. When the Mint began operations in 1536, the real contained 3.43 grams of 93.05 fine silver. The Spanish ruler expressly forbade the issuance of gold coins, but, the records indicate that the tepuzque were struck into coin.

The date the Mint began striking coins is unknown but it is believed that the engraving of the dies began around March 10, 1536, while the actual coinage began the following month. These coins were struck by hand as crude coining procedures existed for several years. These coins were not dated until 1607, but even then, the dates and assayers were not always visible due to the irregular planchets and striking methods.

The Mint marks on the Mexico City coinage of this period can be found as M, Mo, *M.X*, MXo and M (w/sm '0' above). The MXo is found only on gold coins dated about 1681 to 1713; the *M.X* shows on coins struck in 1733.

The appearance of the assayers' initials on the coinage of New Spain can be traced to the decree of June 13, 1497, by Ferdinand and Isabella. The decree states in part: "...that the assayers shall mark the coins with a sign or mark which must be recorded with the notary of the Mint, said sign or mark to be kept in the notary's book so that ... if any gold or silver coin is found of low fineness, the sign or mark borne by such coin, will serve to identify the assayers responsible for the error, who shall be punished accordingly."

Ferdinand VI's ordinance of Aug. 1, 1750, established the assaying procedures and states in part: "... in the presence of the Accountant, Treasurer, Assayers, Fiel de la Moneda [Inspector

of Weights and Measures], Juez de la Valanza (sic) [overseer in the weighing of coins], the keeper of the dies, and the Notary, the Superintendent of the Mint shall draw from every batch three coins of each denomination, two of which are to be sent to the Spanish Cortes and the third one to be cut in half. The half bearing the year of coinage and the initials of the two assayers must be kept by the Superintendent, while the other half is to be divided into two pieces, one for each of the two chief assayers, who independent of each other must proceed to assay the portion given to him and certify as to its fineness."

The same ordinance very precisely specifies that the Mexico Mint was to have two chief assayers and two assistant assayers. The initials on the coinage of New Spain from the Mexico Mint represent the first letter of either the given name or surname of the two chief assayers. It was not till 1733 that two initials appeared on the coinage.

The Spanish ruler is not always apparent due to the striking process. Identifying coat of arms is not always a good method to date these coins because the same coat of arms was used by more than one ruler, often changed during the reign and at times the prior ruler's coat of arms was used into the next ruler's reign.

The "Charles and Johanna" coins were the first coins struck at the Mexico Mint. These were issued during the reign of Charles and Johanna, 1515-1556. Johanna, the daughter of King Ferdinand, was unable to function as queen upon the death of Ferdinand, so her son Charles was recognized as king along with his mother. He was known as Charles I, King of Spain.

The royal decree of May 11, 1535, authorized the minting of quarter, half, 1, 2 and 3 reales with the 1 real making up 50 percent of the production. The denominations were to be shown by the method of placing dots (..) between the Pillars of Hercules on the reverse: (.) was used for 1 real, (..) represented 2 reales and were used on the 3-real coin.

Charles V issued a decree Nov. 18, 1537, authorizing a 4-real coin. The mintage of the 4 reales was to make up one-third of the earlier silver coin age. Thus far no example of an 8 reales has turned up, nor has any documentation

surfaced that would support the minting of any 8 reales during the Charles and Johanna period. The "cuartilla," "cuarto" or quarter real was only struck briefly as the locals did not like them because of their size and melted all that came into their possession.

During this period, two copper coins were struck in denominations of 2 and 4 maravedis. These were issued during the period April 1536 through April 1538. This short series was also disliked by the natives, who threw them into Lake Texcoco, so the rulers stopped the production. Viceroy Mendoza on his own authority tried to circulate the copper coins again in 1542 and these would continue until 1551 or 1552. The design of the second attempt was changed. There is a possibility that trial strikes were made of the 1 maravedi.

The coinage of Charles and Johanna comes in two series referred to as early and late. There are many varieties of these but there are major differences between the two series. In the early series the name "Charles" is spelled with a K and the motto PLVS or PLVSVLT appears in a panel. The lettering on the early series are mainly in Gothic and the engraving is crudely executed. On the 4 reales of the early series the 4 appears above the panel and on the late series it appears below the panel.

The obverse of the coinage of this era has the crowned arms of Castile and Leon quartered with a pomegranate below. On the coins struck during the Charles and Johanna reign, the pomegranate is flanked by large leaves with stems. On the coins struck under Philip II in the name of Charles and Johanna, the pomegranate has only small leaves, if any. The assayers' initials can be found on each coin at the left or right of the coat of arms. The assayers' initial that can be found on these coins are A, G, F, L, O, P, R and S. The mint mark can be found as M or M (w/sm. '0' above).

There are several ways that this coinage can be collected. One is by series, and denomination, another is by numerous varieties when you look at die varieties as well as the mint mark and assayer combinations. This is a very historical series as these are truly the first coins of the Americas.

The next series of coinage to be issued from Mexico was what is known as "cob" coinage. The numismatic meaning of the term cob refers to planchets sliced from the end of a cast bar of refined silver or gold.

These were then clipped to the correct weight, and struck by hand-hammering with engraved dies. This is the reason that cobs are so crude, with portions of the legends and coat of arms incomplete or missing. The assayers' initials were the one main aspect of the legend the coiners attempted to have appear on each coin. There was a severe penalty for this not appearing on the coins as it was a guarantee of the fineness of the coin.

The first, cob coinage was issued during the reign of Philip II, who was the ruler of the Spanish empire from 1556 to 1598. During the reign, there were coins issued in the denominations half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales in silver. Most of these were of the cob type but some circular pieces can be found. These coins are undated and were made with very crude dies.

The 8-real coin was struck under Philip II for the first time at the Mexico Mint. This coin has been romanticized since it circulated in the American colonies as coinage when U.S. coins were scarce. These pieces are known as "Pieces of eight" and an intricate part of the romance of pirates on the Spanish main and subsequent sunken treasure and discovery of same. The cob coinage was issued up to 1733, with "klippe" coinage for 1733 and 1734, then round coinage was issued.

The obverse of the cobs issued under Philip II, with the exception of the half real, shows a crowned shield similar to that of the House of Habsburg. It contains the arms of Castile, Leon, Granada, Aragon, Naples, Sicily, Burgundy, Brabant, Flanders, Tyrol, Austria and the Low Countries.

The reverse features a cross with lions and castles and the legend HISPANIARVM: ET: INDIARVM: REX, ("King of the Spains and the Indies"). The legend can be found in several forms. The cross found on the cob coins can be very helpful to determine those issued from Mexico. Most of the silver cobs from the Mexico Mint can be found with a small ball at the end of

each cross arm. The gold coinage shows the Cross of Jerusalem which has a bar at the end of the cross bars. The half real has in monogram PHILIPPUS. None of the cobs issued from Mexico under Philip II are dated. The assayers' initials appearing during this reign were F and O. Philip II died in 1598.

Philip III ascended to the throne upon the death of his father. During his reign the cob coinage continued with more general dating of the coins. The silver coinage issued during Philip III's reign were the half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales. There are a few round pieces known. The coinage of Philip III is more crudely struck than Philip II and this resulted in more incomplete legends.

The crown is the best way to tell the difference between the coinage of Philip II and Philip III. On Philip II coinage, the band at the base of the crown is jeweled and without shading below. On the coinage of Philip III, the band is seldom jeweled and the space below is with vertical shading. The initials used by assayers during Philip III's reign were A, D and F.

Philip III died March 31, 1621. His third son, Philip IV, came to power, and ruled until Sept. 7, 1665. During this reign the Mexico Mint issued silver coinage in denominations of half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales.

These are of the cob style but reasonably round specimens can be found. The assayers' initials used during this reign were D, J and P. The coins of Philip IV are very similar to those issued by Philip III with the crown being the best source of distinguishing the differences. The crown on Philip III sits on the shield. On Philip IV it appears to be behind the shield. The coinage of Philip IV can be found in square, oblong and in various other shapes but there are some almost round specimens known.

Charles II came to power upon the death of Philip IV on Sept. 17, 1665. As he was only 4 years of age at this time, his mother, Maria Anna, ruled as regent until 1675. Silver coins issued for Charles II were in denominations of half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales. The 8 reales had a limited mintage. There are circular coins known but most of the issue is in the cob style. The coat-of-arms are similar to Philip II with the biggest difference

being the fleur-de-lis of Burgundy which are portrayed as stylized upright eagles. The Granada pomegranate is in a triangular shield.

Charles II was numismatically important as he brought the issuance of gold coins to Mexico for the first time. The Cedula that authorized the gold coins was issued Feb. 25 1675, but no gold was issued until Dec. 23, 1679, and it was struck to the standard set by Charles V in 1536. The fineness was set at 22 karats. At that period in time, an escudo was equal to one-eighth of an 8 escudos which was worth 16 pesos. The Spanish ounce contained 28.6875 grams. The gold 8 escudos was also called onza and is sometimes referred to as a "doubloon." It was seldom full weight and in Very Fine condition it generally weighs 27 grams. The official weight is 27.07 grams.

The lower denominations, the 1, 2 and 4 escudos, are almost always underweight with the shortage more pronounced the lower the denomination.

The dies for the gold cobs were crude as were the planchets so the marginal legends are only partially visible. The coat of arms is the same as used on the silver coins. The reverse differs in that there are fleur-de-lis in each quarter of the cross and the cross is the Cross of Jerusalem style.

Philip V became ruler in 1700 upon the death of Charles II and ruled until Jan. 10, 1724, when he abdicated in favor of his son, Louis I. Louis I died Aug. 23, 1724, and Philip V reassumed the throne, which he held until his death July 9, 1746.

Under Philip V, milled coinage was introduced in 1732, and both cob and circular coins were issued up to 1733. Then only circular coins were issued and those being of the milled type. Under the two reigns of Philip V, silver coins were issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 4 and 8 escudos.

The silver cobs of Philip V can be identified by the addition of the three fleur-de-lis on a shield superimposed on the center of the Coat of arms. The gold cobs show a new treatment of the Jerusalem Cross which has four lobes on the treasure surrounding the cross. The lower denominations of gold show the arms of Castile, Leon and Granada with the Bourbon escutcheon in the center.

Louis I, who only ruled a brief period in 1724, Jan. 10 to Aug. 31, had few coins struck at the Mexico Mint. His coinage is generally similar to the circular coins of Philip V. There are no records of the coinage struck at the Mexico Mint for Louis I but they have been cataloged in half, 4 and 8 reales in silver and 8 escudos in gold. Some of Louis I's coins are found dated 1724 and 1725 even though he died in 1724.

The Mint marks that can be found on the cob coinage from Mexico are M (w/ sm. '0' above) and OXM (with the 0 stacked on top of the X, which is atop the M). The following assayers' initials where the names are known can be seen: F, Felipe Rivas de Angulo, 1730-33; F, Francisco de la Pena, 1733-84; M, Manuel de la Pena, 1733-63.

This vastly interesting historical series has many possibilities as collections, such as by denomination and ruler, by date, a type set by style, by various coats of arms of each ruler, by the fantastic shapes that can be found in some of the later cobs such as birds, and fish to name a few. The ultimate collection would be a collection of what is known as "royal strikes." These are rare examples of the specimen pieces made supposedly to be used as presentation pieces. These round, fully struck specimens are known to have been struck under the reigns of Philip III, Philip IV, Philip V, Luis I and Carlos II. The cob type of coinage continued to be legal tender' after the introduction of the milled coinage.

On March 29, 1732, the striking of round coins began. On this date, five silver coins and four gold coins were struck: half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales in silver, and 1, 2, 4, and 8 escudos in gold. The design of the milled coinage, which in numismatic terms means produced on a screw press as opposed to the previous method of hand striking the dies with a heavy hammer, was changed to what is most commonly called Pillar. Some refer to the design as World, Globe, or Two Worlds type.

The obverse of the Pillar coinage shows two hemispheres surmounted by a crown between the crowned Pillars of Hercules. These rest upon a wavy semicircular base, symbolic of the ocean separating the two continents. The inscription

around VTRAQUE VNUM ("both worlds are one") with date below and the M Mint mark at each side of the date.

On the obverse is the coat-of-arms similar to the one on the coinage issued under Charles and Johanna, the arms of the Kingdoms of Castile, Leon and Granada with the Bourbon escutcheon added. The inscription around reads PHILIP. V.D.G. HISPAN. ET IND. REX. The assayers' initials to the left of the coat of arms with rosettes above and below, and to the right the value in Arabic numerals between rosettes.

The Pillar design coin with denomination of 8 reales was also known as the romantic "piece of eight" and was legal tender in the United States until 1857. This is the type of coin that George Washington supposedly threw across the Potomac River.

There are two types of dies for the 1732 issue of 8 reales. According to the late Dr. A.F. Pradeau, the grandfather of Mexican numismatists, the first obverse die did not show the assayers or denomination on the reverse. There were four sets of dies also used in 1733. One die is similar to the second 1732 die except two assayers' initials appear in a vertical position. The other die shows in a marginal inscription M.X *1733* M.X. Around the edge, the Pillar coins have a deeply impressed laurel pattern. The lesser denomination design is basically the same as the 8 reales from 1732 on. They stay ed basically the same until 1747, when Ferdinand VI coinage appeared.

Both Philip V and Ferdinand VI appear on 1747 coinage in the denominations of half, 1, 4 and 8 reales. In the 2-real denomination, both rulers appear on issues dated 1747 and 1750, which is a mule of two dies with the obverse being Philip V. The silver coins of the Pillar style struck under Philip V were - half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales.

Gold coins of a portrait style were first struck in Mexico under Philip V in 1732. These were struck in denominations of 1, 2, 4 and 8 escudos. The obverse had the armored and peruked (bewigged) bust of Philip V and the marginal inscription *PHILIP. V.D.G. HISPAN. ET. IND. REX*, with the date below. The reverse on the 8 escudos has the Bourbon arms superimposed upon the complete Spanish coat of arms. This is

surmounted by a crown. The assayers' initials appear to the left of the shield. To the right of the shield is the denomination in Arabic numerals. The Collar of the Golden Fleece surrounds the center design. The legend around the margin reads INITIUM SAPIENTIAE TIMOR DOMINI ("the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"). The Mexico Mint mark appears twice on each side of the Fleece.

The edging can be found with either a transverse or twisted cord-like milling. On the 1732 and 1733 coinage, the Mint mark appears on the margin with the assayer's initial "F" to the left of the shield. The assayer's initial is missing on the 1732 issues of 4 and 8 escudos. Here, you again find coinage of the same date with different rulers. The 2, 4 and 8 escudos appear for both rulers.

Ferdinand VI succeeded to power July 9, 1746, upon the death of Philip V. During his reign, apparently no 8 reales were coined in Spain. The coinage came from the American Mints, mainly the Mexico Mint. The silver coinage was a carryover of the last type of Philip V and issued in half, 1-, 2-, 4- and 8-real denominations.

The gold coinage of Ferdinand VI comes in four types:

Type 1: Coined only in 1747, it has the armored and peruked bust with features not as full as the next two types. The reverse is similar to the coinage of Philip V in design and inscription.

Type 2: A smaller, draped portrait of the king with fuller features. The legend around the margins reads FERDND. VI. D.G. HISPAN. ET ' IND. REX. *1748*. The reverse has the same coat of arms as found on the gold coinage of Philip V for the 8 escudos but the assayers' initials have been moved from the left of the shield to the margin. The value in Arabic numerals between rosettes is at the left of the shield. The letter "S" for escudos is at the right of the shield also between rosettes. The Collar of the Golden Fleece has the Grand Cross suspended below the Fleece.

The marginal inscription is as follows: NOMINA MAGNA SEQUOR, ("I succeed great names"). The Mint mark and assayers' initials appear on either side of the Grand Cross.

Type 3: A slightly more ornamented bust similar to Type 2. The first date of issuance is 1753. The reverse is the same except, the value does not appear. The Mint mark and assayer *M* M (w/sm 'o' above) appear on either side of the Fleece on the margin.

Type 4: The obverse shows the heavily armored bust of Ferdinand VI, with curlier peruke (wig) and less rounded. These were minted from 1757-1759 and the name appears as FERDIND. The reverse is the same as the preceding type except the Grand Cross does not appear. On the 1, 2 and 4 escudos, the coat of arms is simplified and the Collar of the Golden Fleece does not appear. In some of the 2-escudo coins as well as the 1 escudo, they have only the head and neck, and also a draped bust. Some of the 1-escudo coins do not show the value. The edges can be found being either wreath, transverse or twisted cord-like. The assayers' initials found on coinage of Ferdinand VI are: M, MM, and MF.

In 1750 there was a large amount of spurious cob coins in circulation. The viceroy suggested Dec. 2, 1751, that all clipped coinage be retired. This was not done until a decree so ordered it March 18, 1761. This was not enforced until April 8, 1772, by order of Viceroy Bucareli by the usual town crier method. On May 29, 1772, Charles III issued a similar order.

Charles III succeeded to the throne upon the death of Ferdinand VI Aug. 10, 1759, and ruled till his death Dec. 14, 1788. The silver coins of Charles III were not struck until April 1760, and the gold, September 1760. During the reign of Charles III, the silver coinage issued were in two types. The Pillar design continued until April 1772 and a new design known as the Bust type was authorized by decree of Sept. 19, 1759. However, the use of the new design did not begin until April 8, 1772.

The obverse of Charles III Bust type coinage shows the laureated head, facing right, draped and cuirassed in Roman style. The inscription is around the margin CAROLUS. III. DEI GRATIA., and the date appears in the exergue. The reverse has the Spanish coat of arms but in a less ornate shield, set between two pillars entwined with motto PLUS ULTRA. The marginal inscription,

HISPAN. ET IND. REX, with the Mint marked denomination and assayers' initials completing the legend.

The silver coinage was issued in the usual half to 8 reales denomination with the Bust or portrait style coinage being slightly larger in diameter. The 8 reales were changed to the previous size in two years. The edge design was changed to a design of square and annulets (small interlocking rings).

There are three main types of gold coinage under Charles III.

Type 1: The obverse of the coins issued in 1760 and 1761 has a young thin face with a long pointed nose. The neck is uncovered and the bust armored and mantled. The legend CAROLVS. III. D.G. HISPAN. ET IND. REX., and the date are in large letters and numerals.

There are two varieties of obverse within the Type 1 design. On one, the Golden Fleece is on a ribbon and appears just below the neck. On the other; the Golden Fleece is suspended from a chain and hangs down into the marginal inscription. The Collar of the Golden Fleece only appears on the reverse of the 8 escudos.

Type 2: This type issued in 1762 to 1771 has the obverse showing a bust with a pointed nose and a receding forehead. The bust is larger and the draping is heavy. The neck is now covered and the Toison d'or hangs on the breast with the peruke showing individual curls. The marginal inscription is now split by the head projecting upward. The legend has smaller lettering and the name is spelled CAROLUS. There are four main varieties of the reverse:

1. The coat of arms are changed in that it is a different shape, the arrangement of the component parts are changed and the arms of Castile and Leon appear in the center.

2. The crown is higher.

3. The assayers' initials are to the right and the Mint mark is to the left of the Fleece.

4. The legend reads IN. UTROQ. FELIX. AUSPICE. DEO., ("with God's guidance happy in each").

Type 3: This type issued in 1772 shows a bust of a more mature king with a receding forehead and prominent rounded nose. The marginal

inscription reads CAROL. III. D.G. HISP. ET IND. R. with the date. The reverse differs from the Type 2 coin in that the shape of the coat of arms is different, the denomination in Arabic numerals is at the left of the shield and the capital letter S for escudo is at the right. The Mint mark is done in small letters. The Mint mark and assayers' initials can be found inverted.

The old dies were apparently used until at least 1783. About 1783 some of the lower denomination gold coins appeared with the full coat of arms surrounded by the Order of the Golden Fleece.

By secret order issued March 18, 1771, the fineness of the silver coinage was lowered from 916.66 to 902.66 thousandths fine while the gold coinage was lowered from 22 karats (.917 fine) to 21 karats (.875 fine). The assayers' initials that appear in this reign were F, M, M.F. and M.M.

A redesigned coat of arms appeared in 1762 on both the silver and gold coins. This was used on the gold coins from 1762 until the independence from Spanish rule was attained. There was a drastic modification made in the coat of arms to incorporate the arms of Parma and Tuscany.

There are two copper patterns of 1769 known. One is 22 millimeters in diameter and the other is 28 millimeters and show a prospective denomination of half and one. The Mint mark of Mexico appears as does the symbol OG (O on top of G), which to some historians it means the denomination of Grano, a non-existent monetary unit. Others feel that OG is the name of the designer. These strange pieces could either be practice patterns for student engravers or patterns for a base metal coinage for the Philippines.

Charles IV, the son of Charles III, assumed the throne upon the death of his father Dec. 14, 1788. Charles IV had all kinds of problems getting his coinage to show his effigy and the correct legend. Because of slow communications, public mourning was not decreed until, March 17, 1789, in Mexico. Coinage in both silver and gold had been struck using dies for Charles III. There was a Dec. 24, 1788, royal order which allowed the continued use of the dies of Charles III but adding a digit to make the legend read CAROLVS IIII. These were struck in 1789 and 1790. Some of these have the inscription CAROLVS IV also appearing

with the dates 1789 and 1790. On July 20, 1789, the bust of Charles IV was ordered to be placed on the coinage but this was not done until 1791.

The coat of symbols of Charles IV has the arms of Castile, Leon, Granada and the escutcheon of the Bourbons in the center.

The silver coinage of Charles IV is the same as Charles III with denominations of half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales, but under Charles IV the quarter real or *cuartilla* (*cuartilla*) was re-issued. The royal decree authorizing the *cuartillas* was announced by the usual town crier method on March 3, 1794, but they were not struck until 1796. These are known as Lion and Castle as the obverse shows a castle between the M (w/sm o above) Mint mark and the quarter denomination, with the date below. The reverse is a crowned lion. The *cuartillas* with no date or Mint mark are believed to have been struck for the Philippines.

The gold coins of Charles IV come in three types:

Type 1: Dated 1789 and 1790 the obverse has the bust of Charles III but the legend CAROL. IIII. The reverse of this type is the same as on the last type of Charles III.

Type 2: Also dated 1789 and 1790, this is the same as the first type except the legend reads CAROL. IV.

Type 3: Issued from 1791 through 1808, it has a heavily draped bust of Charles IV with hair in queue. The legend reads CAROL. IIII. D.G. HISP. ET IND. R., and the date. The reverse is the same except for assayer's initial as in the first type. The Collar of the Golden Fleece is surrounding the coat of arms on all denominations of gold in all types under this ruler. The edge has a twisted cord-like milling.

Charles IV abdicated to Ferdinand VII, his oldest son, March 19, 1808, and almost immediately declared it was not voluntary. However, Charles IV was never able to reclaim his throne. He died in exile 11 years later. Ferdinand VII ruled until 1833, but Mexico's independence from Spain came Sept. 27, 1821, therefore his reign over Mexico ended on that date. The first Ferdinand VII coinage was struck Aug. 12, 1808.

As there was no denomination issued less than a quarter real, there was a need of smaller denominations for commercial usage, so private coinage was issued by merchants, mining companies and haciendas. Numismatically these are tokens and are known as *senales* (equivalent to the English I.O.U.), *pilones* (one-sixteenth of a real value) and *tlacos* (one-eighth real). Most numismatists refer to these as Hacienda tokens, a collecting field all its own.

Even though these were to be redeemed on demand for official coinage, it really did not work due to the irresponsible nature of some of the issuers. In 1814, it was ordered that these private issues be retired from commerce. By edict of Aug. 23, 1814, coinage in copper of eighth, quarter and half were authorized. Two of the 2/4 were equal to 1/4 real silver.

The obverse of these copper coins had two F's in script, interlaced and facing each other. In the center of the F's is VII with a crown above. The M (w/sm. 'o' above) Mint mark is at the left and the denomination at the right. The marginal inscription is FERDIN. VII. D.G. HISP. REX.; and the date is below. The reverse consists of a floral cross, with three fleurs-de-lis contained, in the center oval.

Castles and lions are in the quarters of the cross. A full circular wreath surrounds the design. The one-eighth was struck in 1814 and 1815, the quarter in 1814, 1815 and 1816, while the 2/4 was struck in 1814, 1815, 1816 and 1821. There was no ready acceptance of these copper coins until the law of Dec. 20, 1814, which required their circulation and imposed a penalty for not complying with this law.

There are two main types of silver coinage under Ferdinand VII:

Type 1: This type known as the armored or imaginary bust shows Ferdinand VII with cuirass and toga in the style of the last coinage of Charles VI. The half real was issued for 1808-1814, the 1 real in 1809 to 1814, the 2 reales and 4 reales for 1809-1812 and the 8 reales for 1808-1811 for this type.

Type 2: This type known as the Draped Bust shows Ferdinand VII somewhat older and draped in a toga.

The half and 1 real was issued for 1814-1821, the 2 reales for 1812-1821, the 4 reales for 1816-1821 and the 8 reales for 1811-1821 of this type. The quarter real issued 1808-16 was of the same Lion and Castle type as under previous rulers. The reverses of the other silver coinage were similar to the previous coinage.

The gold coinage of Ferdinand VII issued from the Mexico Mint were of two types:

Type 1: Known as the armored or imaginary bust shows a large draped bust of Ferdinand VII with hair in queue. The marginal inscription FERDIN. VII. D.G. HISP. ET IND. R. with date. The reverse is the same as in previous coinage of Charles IV. This type was issued from 1808 through 1812.

Type 2: Known as the undraped bust, it shows the laureated head of Ferdinand and a small portion of the nude bust showing. The balance of the obverse and the reverse are similar to the first type with only the assayers' initials differing. This type was issued from 1814 through 1821.

The Order of the Golden Fleece is shown surrounding the coat of arms in all denominations. The edge has a twisted rope-like milling. A new denomination of gold was issued during this reign. This was the half escudo and was struck in 1814 through 1820. The assayers' initials found on the coinage of Ferdinand VII are TH, HJ and JJ.

This series of milled coinage could be collected in two types, the Pillar and the Bust or collectively. There is in this series the same possibilities as in the previous series: collections by dates, assayers, rulers, a type set by ruler and or denomination, and a complete date set.

The next period of Mexican numismatic history is the War of Independence period of 1810 through 1821 and the resulting independence of Mexico from Spain Sept. 27, 1821. This vastly interesting and romantic period gave the numismatic world all kinds of material, Royalist and Insurgent issues, cast coins, counter-stamped issues, cut coinage, plus coinage issued by cities, states, governments, several Mints and by numerous individuals. This period is not widely

collected but should be for its interesting coinage and its importance to the future of Mexico.

The Father of Mexican Independence was the parish priest of Dolores, in west central Mexico. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla had modest reasons to revolt as he only wanted a congress governing Mexico in the name of Ferdinand VII and land for the poor Indians who had been oppressed under three centuries as a colony of Spain. As one viceroy told his subject, "For once and all, know that you have been born to be silent and to obey, and neither to discuss nor hold opinions upon the exalted affairs of government."

Until 5 a.m. of Sept. 16, 1810, they had been silent and obeyed. At that time, Father Hidalgo called his parishioners to the church and with a call for liberty: "Viva Mexico, Viva Independence, Viva the Virgin of Guadalupe." His cry opened the War of Independence which lasted until 1821.

Under the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Hidalgo led this ragtag army, armed only with machetes sticks and stones, on toward Guanajuato. They attacked the town Sept. 18 and they looted and massacred the local governing Spanish emigres. The army of freedom fighters went from town to town, getting out of hand and more violent with each victory finally reaching Mexico City, where they overcame the Royalist forces. Here they chose to celebrate and the revolution fell apart at that point. Hidalgo was later betrayed by a creole officer, Elizondo, who turned against Hidalgo and other rebel leaders. He captured Hidalgo and others and the leaders were sent to the Spanish authorities at Chihuahua. Hidalgo was excommunicated from the church, executed and then beheaded. His head along with those of other rebel leaders, Allende, Jimenez and Aldama were sent to Guanajuato and set up on the walls of the Alhondiga, where they remained until 1821.

Hidalgo also caused to be made an 8-real coin while in Valladolid. He entered Valladolid Oct. 15, 1810, where he melted silver vessels and other artifacts confiscated from the church there. These are round specimens known of this coinage dated 1813 with "P.V.D."

Jose Maria Morelos Y Pavon, a Catholic priest and one of Hidalgo's followers, carried on the

rebel cause. On Oct. 20, 1810, he was ordered to establish an army in the south, which he did. Gen. Morelos, who had a natural military ability, was very successful in his conquests and had he not stopped to proclaim the Republic of Anahuac (Indian name for New Spain) and assemble a congress and get preoccupied with his ideals, he may not have been captured. He was executed by a firing squad Dec. 22, 1815.

The coinage attributed to Morelos is wide and varied. These can be found cast or struck, in gold, silver and copper. Copper is the predominate coinage. Morelos issued no regular gold coins but they apparently were made from time to time. All known pieces are cast with the valuation in reales. Specimens in gold today are considered trial or presentation pieces or counterfeits made since this period.

The silver coinage issued by Morelos are mostly cast and made at Oaxaca. These are known in denominations of half, 1, 2 and 8 reales. The 4-real pieces are thought to be trial strikes. Most silver Oaxaca pieces today are thought to be spurious.

The copper coins of Morelos were produced in large quantities as well as the contemporary counterfeits struck on thin planchets. This coinage has on one side a bow and arrow with the word SUD (Spanish for "south"), with the other side having a date, value and a Morelos monogram. There are two major varieties: one has a plain field, and the other has a grapevine design in the field.

There are two other coinage types issued by the insurgents that fall into the Morelos class. These are the T.C. coinage of Mier y Teran, commander of the rebel forces at Tehuacan. These are the same style as Morelos copper SUD coins. The T.C. initials indicate they were struck at Tierra Caliente. In 1814, the Insurgent commander at Oaxaca also issued a Morelos-like coin with the initials OXA.

The Supreme National Council formed to try to centralize the power of the revolution. They also issued coins in silver and copper. The basic design of the coinage was an upright eagle on a cactus on a bridge. The reverse shows a hand holding a bow and arrow, a quiver, a halberd and a sling.

The history of the period of the quest for Mexican independence is so vast that only a small part can be told here. The historical as well as numismatic impact this period had on the make up of the Americas is far reaching and would suggest that serious students of Mexican numismatics take a deep look at this era.

As there was such a varied issuance of coinage under the Insurgent forces, only some of the issues will be covered.

Supreme National Congress of America: Issued with design as mentioned above were an 1811 copper half real, an 1811 silver 1 real, an 1812 silver 2 reales and 1811 and 1812 cast silver 8 reales. Struck silver 8 reales 1811 and 1812 are cataloged. There is also a copper 8 reales for 1811 and 1812.

National Congress: Basically the same design as the coins of the Supreme National Congress. Denominations issued were a copper half real for 1811 through 1814, and in silver for 1812 and 1813; a silver 1 real for 1812 and 1813; copper 2 reales for 1812 through 1814; and an 1813 silver 2 reales. Also issued were the 4 reales in silver for 1813 and the 8 reales in silver for 1812 and 1813.

American Congress: The obverse has an eagle on a cactus with the legend CONGRESO AMERICANO, the reverse has F7 on a spread mantle with the legend DEPOS. D.L. AUT. D.

There are two varieties of the 1 real. Both are in silver, not dated but issued in 1813. The designs are basically the same except the legends differ. On the second variety the obverse legend reads CONGR. AMER.

Nueva Galicia: This later became the state of Jalisco. In the early colonial period this was a province and the name was used again during this era. The only coin issued from here was a silver 2 reales of 1813. The obverse has PROVYCIONAL and the initials N.G. in the center with the date.

Oaxaca: The coinage of Gen. Morelos is a field of collecting all its own. Most are readily available and reasonable in price. The Oaxaca issues have basically the same design with the bow and SUD. The only Morelos SUD coins with a marginal inscription are the issues with a lion reverse, the

1813 half real and 1 real in silver. Eight-real coins in silver were issued in 1812-1814 in various styles. The half real in copper was issued in 1813. Uniface specimens of this coin are known. There exist cast silver half reales dated 1813 and 1814. The 1-real, coins were issued in copper for 1811 through 1813, a struck silver in 1812 and a cast silver for 1813.

The 2-real coins were issued in copper for 1811-13, in 1813 and 1814 with the legend SUD-OXA and in 1814 with a legend SUD. OAXACA. There is also an 1812 cast silver 2 reales.

The 8 reales in copper dated 1811-1814 with the plain field are considered to be spurious. The 8 reales in copper with the flowery fields were issued in 1811 through 1814. Varieties are 8 reales in copper dated 1814 with OAXACA and OX.A., and cast silver 8-real coins dated 1811 through 1813. These and most silver specimens are considered spurious.

There is an 1812 copper 8-real SUD coin from Huautla with the obverse legend MONEDA PROW. CION PS. ES. around the bow and arrow and SUD. The reverse legend is FABRICADO EN HUAUTLA around the Morelos monogram, denomination and date.

Tierra Caliente: These pieces issued from the hot country under Morelos all have T.C. on the obverse between the bow and SUD. These were issued in half real in copper in 1813, and in an 1813 copper 1-real denomination. The 2 reales were issued in copper for 1813 and there are cast silver pieces dated 1814. The 8 reales were issued in copper for 1813 and there are cast silver pieces with an 1813 date.

Puebla: These coins, few in number, were issued from Zacatlan under Gen. Osorno, the insurgent leader in that area. The obverse has the Osorno monogram with ZACATLAN and the date 1813 while the reverse has crossed arrows within a wreath with the value below. These were issued in half, 1 and 2 reales in copper, all dated 1813.

Vera Cruz: Coins from the province of Vera Cruz were issued in the town of Zongolica by a lawyer and two, priests to raise money for the army. Records indicate they minted coins in the denominations of half real and 1 real, but only 2-

4- and 8-real coins are known. The obverse of these coins have the bow and arrow surrounded by the legend VIVA FERNANDO VII Y AMERICA. The reverse has a crossed palm branch with a sword in the center with the inscription above SONGOLICA and the date below. The 2, 4 and 8 reales are known in silver.

The Royalist government of New Spain had to open branch Mints due to the problems of getting bullion from other areas of Mexico to the Mexico City Mint. Most of these never closed after the War of Independence and continued to issue coinage of the Republic after 1823.

The branch Mints authorized by the Royalist were at Chihuahua (CA, Ca), Durango (D, DO, Do), Guadalajara (G, GA, Ga), Guanajuato (G, GO, Go) and Zacatecas (Z, ZS, Zs). Provisional Mints were also authorized at Sombrerete, Nueva Vizcaya (predecessor of Durango), Oaxaca, Real de Catorce and Vallodolid. The only Royalist provisional Mint to issue gold was Guadalajara. The quality of these coins varied from well-struck copies with counterstamps to locally designed crude issues.

As the War of Independence went on and the various areas changed hands from time to time, both the Royalists and Insurgents came into possession of each others' coins. As there was a severe shortage of coins on both sides the captured coins were validated by using a countermark. There were many varieties of these countermarks, for this short period. Morelos even revalidated his own copper coinage and some of the cast coins of the National Council with his script Mo countermark. It is not uncommon to find coins of this period with countermarks from both forces.

The Royalist issues from the branch Mints were as follows:

Chihuahua: Established by decree of Oct. 8, 1810. The first coins were cast copies of the 8 reales of Mexico City with the assayers' initials and the Mint mark changed. There are two counterstamps; on the obverse. On the left is a T for the Royal Treasurer showing he had received it and to the right a counterstamp of the crowned Pillars of Hercules with a pomegranate below, which is the symbol of the comptroller.

These cast counterstamped 8 reales were issued from 1811 to 1813 and all have the assayers' initials of R.P. In 1814, regular dies of a different design were available. These have a draped bust of Ferdinand VII with the reverse being similar to the previous bust type coinage of Ferdinand VII. These are known to have been struck from 1815 through 1822. There are reports of 1813 and 1814-dated coins. These are normally found struck over cast 8 reales and all have the assayers' initials R.P.

Durango: This Mint was authorized by decree of Oct. 8, 1810, and issued coins from 1811-22 in copper and silver. The copper coin was an eighth real with the obverse having a monogram of double F7s with a crown above and the reverse legend EN DURANGO with the value, OCTAVO DE REAL and the date. These were issued from 1812 through 1818.

The silver coinage was issued in half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales with the obverse being similar with the draped bust of Ferdinand VII surrounded by the legend FERDIN. VII. DEL GRATIA. with the date below. The reverses are similar in that they have a design similar to the previous Ferdinand 8 reales. There are several assayer combinations on these struck pieces: RM, MZ, CG, and CG/RM. Some examples can be found struck over the 8 reales from Guadalajara, and the issues prior to 1816 come soft struck. The half real was struck in 1814 and 1816, the 1 real coins were struck from 1813-15, the 2 reales were struck from 1811-17. The 4 reales were struck in 1814, 1816 and 1817, and the 8 reales were struck from 1812-22.

Guadalajara: This Mint was operated from 1812-15, then closed until 1818 when it was reopened and issued coins until 1822 except for 1819 and 1820. As previously stated, this was the only Royalist Mint to strike gold coins.

No copper coins were struck at the Guadalajara Mint during this period. The silver coins were struck in denominations of half, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales. They all have the Draped Bust obverse similar to the Chihuahua coinage. The reverses are also similar except for the Mint mark and assayers. The half reales were issued from 1812-15. The 1-real coins were struck in 1814 and 1815. The 2 reales were struck in 1812, 1814, 1815

and 1821. The 4 reales were struck in 1814 and 1815. The 8 reales were issued from 1812-15 then again in 1818, 1821 and 1823.

The only gold coins of the Royalist government during this conflict were the 4 and 8 escudos of the Guadalajara Mint. The 4 escudos has the uniformed bust of Ferdinand VII and was only issued in 1812.

The 8 escudos comes with four different obverse busts. One has a large uniformed bust, one has a small uniformed bust and the other two have a draped and undraped bust. The reverses of the 4 escudos and 8 escudos are similar to the reverses of the Ferdinand VII gold struck 1814-21 at the Mexico City Mint with JJ assayers' initials. The assayers' initials on these gold coins are MR and FS. The 8 escudos were issued in 1812, 1813 and 1821.

Guanajuato: This regional Mint was authorized Dec. 24, 1812, and it closed May 15, 1813. It was reopened in April 1821 by the Insurgent forces who continued to coin the same Spanish style coins until 1822. The obverse and reverse designs are basically the same as the other Ferdinand VII coinage. Only 2-real and 8-real coins were issued, the 2 reales in 1821 and 1822. The 8 reales were issued in 1812 and 1813 then 1821 and 1822. The assayers' initials known are JM, JJM and JJ.

Nueva Viscaya: This province later became the state of Durango. The Mint under Nueva Viscaya was only open during the months of February and March 1811. The obverse of this rare coin that was issued only in 8 reales has the arms of Durango surrounded by the legend MON. PROV. DE NUEV. VYZCA and the royal coat of arms on the reverse.

Oaxaca: Just prior to the city of Oaxaca being captured by the Insurgent forces, 'Lt. Gen. Saravia, the commander of the Royalist forces, had some coins cast in a blacksmith shop. The coins are in silver in the denominations of half, 1 and 8 reales. The obverse of the half real is a cross with castle, lion, F0 and 70 in each quarter. The reverse design is a shield surrounded by OAXACA, and is dated 1812.

The 1 real that was also issued in 1812 has the same obverse design while the reverse has the shield in the center with the legend PROV...

OAXACA, date, Mint mark and assayer's initial. The 8 reales was dated only 1812. The obverse has the cross in the center with the lion, castle, F^o and 7^o in the quarters. The legend around PROV. D. OAXACA, the date 1812, the denomination and the assayer's initial. These rare coins come with numerous counterstamps, these being A, B, C, D, K, Mo, N, O, R, V, Z and usually have another counterstamp of a 0 between crowned pillars.

Real del Catorce: This important mining center in the state of San Luis Potosi issued for a short time a silver 8-real coin. The obverse has the legend around a dotted circle, EL R. D. CATORC. POR FERNA VII. The reverse has the legend around a dotted circle MONEDA PROVISIONAL. VALE. 8R. This was issued in 1811.

San Fernando de Bexar: Little coins, sometimes called tokens, were issued in copper. They are cataloged as one-eighth real but have one-half on the obverse. These jolas, as they are known, were struck in San Antonio, Texas, by Jose Antonio de la Garza. They are the only coins of Spanish colonial rule to have been struck in what became a part of the United States.

These interesting pieces are dated 1818 and come in two types. One type has 1818 to the left and JAG to the right, while the other is reversed. Both have a star on the reverse. Needless to say, these are quite rare.

Sombrete: This Mint opened Oct. 8, 1810, and closed July 16, 1811, and then reopened in 1812. Fernando Vargas was in charge of the coinage operations. All of the coins come in silver and bear Vargas' name on the reverse.

The half real which was issued in 1811 and 1812 has in the center of the obverse crowned hemispheres with the legend around FERDIN. VII. SOMBRETE, while the reverse has the Bourbon escutcheon separating 1/2 - R in the center with the legend VARGAS: above and crossed branches with date below. The 1 real was issued in 1811 and 1812. It has basically the same obverse and reverse as the half real.

The 4-real coin was only issued in 1812 with an obverse similar to the 2 reales, but the reverse has VARGAS, the date and 3. The 8 reales was issued in two types. In 1810 and 1811 they were issued with the obverse of the royal arms surrounded by

the legend R. CAXA. DE SOMBRETE, with the reverse having the counterstamped VARGAS, the date and the S between two crowned pillars. The 8 reales issued in 1811 and 1812 has the same obverse but the reverse has the legend VARGAS, the date and the number 3 and the S between two crowned pillars.

Valladolid de Michoacan: Valladolid was the capital of the province of Michoacan at this time it is now known as Morelia. This area was very important from a military standpoint and the Royalists tried to hold on to it but failed in 1813. Just prior to the Insurgents capturing the town, coinage was struck by the Royalist forces. The Insurgents just counterstamped and used the coins.

The 8 reales was the only denomination struck and in two types. One type has an obverse of the royal arms in a wreath with the denomination at the sides. The reverse has the date and the legend PROVISIONAL DE VALLADOLID and the date. The other type obverse has the bust of Ferdinand VII and FERDIN VII. The coat of arms is on the reverse.

Zacatecas: The city of Zacatecas is located in a very rich mining area and has been producing silver since the mid-1500s. The Royalist Mint began producing coins Nov. 14, 1810, and produced the most coins of any Mint during the War of Independence. The Insurgents captured the town April 15, 1811, and continued to produce the LVO type coinage. The town was retaken by the Royalists May 21, 1811, and they produced coinage until 1822 but of the bust type of Ferdinand VII.

There are two basic types of coins issued by the Mint during this era. There are many varieties within each type. The first is known as the L.V.O. type and the other is a bust type. The half real in silver has for the obverse the crowned local arms, with date and legend FERDIN. VII. DEL GRATIA with date and denomination. The inscription reads MONEDA PROVISIONAL DE ZACATECAS. This type was issued in 1810 and 1811.

There is an LVO type with the royal coat of arms issued in 1811 only. The bust type shows on the obverse the provincial bust of Ferdinand VII

with the inscription FERDIN. VII. DEL GRATIA and the date. The reverse is the same as the LVO type. These were issued in 1811 and 1812.

The next type with the bust is the imaginary bust, with the only difference in design. These were issued in 1813-19. The next type of the bust style is the Draped Bust and was issued from 1819-21.

The 1 real was issued in both the LVO type and the bust type with three type busts. The designs of the LVO types are the same as the previous denominations with the local coat of arms being used in 1810 and 1811 and the royal coat of arms being used also in 1811. The provincial bust was the first bust type and was issued in 1811 and 1812. The next type was the imaginary bust issued from 1813 to 1820. The third type is the draped bust issued from 1820-22.

The 2 reales of the Zacatecas Mint has basically the same designs as the half and 1 real with two types of LVO and four types of the bust style. The local arms obverse type was issued in 1810 and 1811 while the royal arms type was only issued in 1811. The first type of the bust style is the provincial bust and was issued in 1811 and 1812. The next type is the large imaginary bust issued from 1813 through 1817. The next type is the small imaginary bust and was struck only in 1819. The Draped Bust type was issued from 1818 to 1822.

The 8 reales were issued in two LVO types and three bust types. The LVO types carry the local coat of arms and issued in 1810 and 1811. The first type of the bust style is the imaginary bust while the second is the Draped Bust. The imaginary bust was issued in 1811 and 1812, while the Draped Bust was issued in 1812. Both of these types have the reverse legend MONEDA PROVISIONAL DE ZACATECAS. The third type of the bust style is the Draped Bust with the obverse and reverse being the same as the Draped Bust 8 reales struck by the Royalists at Mexico City from 1811-21. This type was issued from 1813-22.

The 8 reales were issued in two LVO types and three bust types. The LVO types are the local coat of arms and were issued in 1810 and 1811. The second type is the royal coat of arms and was

issued only in 1811. The first type of the bust style is the imaginary bust while the second is the Draped Bust. The imaginary bust was issued in 1811 and 1812 while the Draped Bust was issued in 1812. Both of these types have the reverse legend MONEDA PROVISIONAL DE ZACATECAS. The third type of the bust style is the Draped Bust with the obverse being the same as the Draped Bust 8 reales struck by the Royalists at Mexico City from 1811 to 1821. This type was issued from 1813 to 1822.

The various assayers' initials that can be found on this series from Zacatecas are AG, AZ, AZ/RG, FP, and RG. There are no assayers' initials on the LVO type coinage.

The counterstamped issues of the War of Independence are varied and many. Little is known about some of these as they were not overly concerned about keeping records. Some have both Insurgent and Royalist counterstamps.

There are several Royalist counterstamps:

L.C.M.: This counterstamp comes in at least 15 different sizes and was for the La Comandancia Militar. This has been found on two reales of 1809, 1811 Zacatecas and a multitude of 8 reales from Chihuahua, Durango, Guanajuato, Nueva Vizcaya, Mexico, Guadalajara and Sombrerete.

L.C.V.: This counterstamp in rectangle for Las Cajas de Veracruz or the royal treasury of the city of Veracruz has appeared on 8-real coins. Some have appeared with counterstamped numbers in addition to the LCV. These are on underweight coins. The numbers known are 7, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 $\frac{3}{4}$. The LCV by itself has appeared on cast 1811 Chihuahua, and 1811 and 1812 Zacatecas 8 reales.

M.S.: This monogram in an oval is for Manuel Salcedo, governor of Texas, and has been found on 8 reales of 1809-11 from the Mexico City Mint.

M.V.A., 1811 and M.V.A., 1812: These two counterstamps in double rectangular indent for Monclova can be found on cast 8 reales with the 1811 counterstamp, for 1809, 1816 and 1821 of Chihuahua struck over a cast Mexico City 8 reales. The MVA 1812 has been found on Chihuahua 8 reales, cast 1798, 1802, 1809 and 1810 Mexico 8 reales and on 1813 Zacatecas 8 reales.

There are several Insurgent counterstamps: CONGRESS OF CHILPANZINGO: There are two types of counterstamps with one in a circle with the Chilpanzingo arms, a hand holding up a bow and arrow, crossed quiver, and spear, and sling beneath. This is enclosed in an open wreath with a Maltese cross between its ends. The second type has a crowned eagle sitting on an arched bridge.

The first type has been found on a cast 1812 piece from Mexico City. The second type has appeared on an 8 reales cut into quarters making each piece a 2 reales. It also appears on 8 reales of 1816 from Chihuahua, 1811 from Mexico City, 1813 Valladolid and 1810 from Zacatecas.

ENSAIE: This counterstamp in round shape contains an eagle above the word ENSAIE with a sling below. A wreath is around the design. This counterstamp is known on 8 reales of 1811 Mexico City and 1810, 1811 and 1812 Zacatecas.

J.M.L.: This counterstamp is for Gen. Jose Maria Liceaga, the defender of the island of Yuriria. The counterstamp consists of a circle with the initials J.M.L. with several letters below. Above this is a banner with a crown. The staff of the banner is across the circle and below are two crossed branches. There are several varieties of the counterstamp. The letters below the J.M.L. can be: A.P., D.S., E., P.G., S., Sea., S.M., s.r.a., S.y.s.l., V. and Ve. These counterstamps can be found on cast half real from Mexico City, 1811 2 reales from Zacatecas and on an 1811 8 reales from Zacatecas and 1813 of Durango.

LINA-RES: This rectangular counterstamp is attributed to Jose Maria de Linares, who was paymaster general under Hidalgo, but it could be Lt. Col. Antonia Linares, who was a Royalist Commander at Valladolid. As this counterstamp appears on only Royalist issues, this author feels it is of Hidalgo's paymaster. This can be found on an 1808 8 reales of Mexico City and 1811 and 1812 pieces from Zacatecas.

L.V.S.: This counterstamp in a 7-by-12mm rectangle has the initials L.V.S. and is bordered by stars. Some authorities say the initials stand for "labor Vincit Semper," while others believe that it is for "La Villa de Sombrerete." This counterstamp can be found on 8-real coins from Chihuahua of 1811, 1812, 1813, 1816-18 and 1820. It also can be

found on 8 reales of 1817 from Guadalajara, 1811 Nueva Vizcaya, 1811 and 1812 Sombrerete and 1811 and 1813 from Zacatecas.

MORELOS: This monogram counterstamp of Gen. Morelos comes in basically three types. The first type has the Mo monogram in a circle with stars above and below. The second type is an oval with dots above and below the monogram. The third type is rectangular in shape with just the monogram. Some of these Type 3 counterstamps are known to be spurious. The first type can be found on several 8 reales such as cast 1797, 1798, 1800 and 1807 and struck 1809, 1811 and 1812 on Mexico City pieces. These appear on the copper SUD 8 reales of 1811-14. They also are known on 8 reales of the Supreme National Congress and 1811 8 reales from Zacatecas. The second type has been reported on an 1810 8 reales from Guatemala.

NORTE: This counterstamp was for Ignacio Lopez Rayon, commander in chief of the army of the north. The Supreme National Congress is also given credit for this circular counterstamp with an eagle and cactus. Below is the word NORTE with a rayed border. There are three types, one has a star to the left of the eagle, and one has the star to the right.

There was one, Lot No. 1863, Pradeau-Bothamley sale by Superior Stamp & Coin in 1971, that catalogs the counterstamp as having small man-like figures at each side of the eagle and the initials M.L.N. below. This was on an 1811 8 reales from Zacatecas. The NORTE counterstamp is known on the half and 2 reales of 1813 Chihuahua, 1813 Guanajuato and the 1811 and 1812 Zacatecas.

OSORNO: The monogram counterstamp for Jose Francisco Osorno, general of the Insurgent forces around Puebla, has a monogram of his name which looks like a 0 superimposed on an N with the end of the N formed into an R. These are known to be counterstruck on half real coins of Mexico City dated 1798, 1802, 1806, 1807 and 1809. On 1-real coins of Mexico City dated 1803 and on Potosi reales. This is seen on cast 2 reales dated 1809 from Mexico City and 1813 of Zacatlan. One is known on a 1782 4-real coin from Mexico City. The counterstamp can be found on 8

reales dated 1809-11 for Mexico City and on an 1811 Lima 8 reales.

VILLA-GRAM: This counterstamp for Julian Villagram is found in a circle with the two line name of VILLAGRAM and a border of dots. This is known on a cast 1799 2 reales from Mexico City and on cast 1796 and 1806 8 reales from Mexico City.

Gen. Vicente Guerrero: This counterstamp with an eagle is thought to be of Guerrero, southern Insurgent leader from 1816-21. This circular stamp has the center of a Mexican eagle with head to the left. This is found on half, 1 and 2 reales Bust type coins of Charles III and on a 2 reales of Charles IV (Numeral is expressed as IIII on coins). The 8 reales of 1811 Zacatecas is known to have this counterstamp.

ZMY: This counterstamp with a radially milled border has the monogram of a bar over ZM. This monogram is contained within a wreath. This has never been attributed to a person or government by Gibbs, Pradeau, Utberg, Vogt or Bruce. This unclassified counterstamp is known on an 1811 LVO 8 reales and an 1812 8 reales of Zacatecas.

During the War of Independence some coins of both factions came into the control of each other. These were then counterstamped again to show they could circulate. Most of the Royalist and Insurgent counterstamps were on cast copies of the Chihuahua and Mexico City Mints as well as the provisional Mint issues.

The multiple counterstamped coins has resulted in some very interesting pieces of which a few will be discussed below.

Chilpanzingo: The Chilpanzingo counterstamped coins can be found with numerous other counterstamps. These include a crown and flag stamp, L.V.A., L.V.S., P.D.V., S.J.N.G. and the Morelos monogram counterstamps.

C.M.S./S.C.M.: These counterstamps are for the Comandancia Militar Suriana and the Soberano Congreso Mexicano.

VTIL This Royalist counterstamp can be found with the counterstamp for Ensaie, J.M.L., and S.J.N.G..

L.C.M.: This counterstamp can be found with either Morelos or MVA 1812 counterstamp.

Morelos: This can be found with double Morelos 'counterstamps and with L.V.A.

M.d.s./S.C.M.: These counterstamps are for the Militar del Sur' and the Soberno Congreso Mexicano.

Osorno/Villagram: This double counterstamped 1809 OM, T.H. 8 reales is interesting in that the counterstamps are both for Insurgent leaders. This apparently was done so that it would circulate freely in their areas of authority.

The War of Independence is an interesting period and is an area numismatists could really get into. This whole series cannot only be collected as the earlier coinage series by date and type, but also by the counterstamps, multiple counterstamps and is only limited by the collector's imagination. The collector should be cautious on the counterstamped coins and become knowledgeable before getting into an area that so little is really known about and even some of the current Mexican numismatists are not too sure of.

The War of Independence brought to a close the Spanish Colonial era of Mexico's history and opened the door to many other areas that followed identified that would be of numismatic as well as historical interest to collectors. You have the two empires, Iturbide and Maximilian, the vast Republic series, the state coppers, the many tokens, both local and private, paper currency, counterstamped trade dollars, the medals and decoration area, the revolution period and the modern coinage series that runs from the coinage reform of 1905 to date.

The vast area of Mexican numismatics is only limited by the collector's imagination and their pocket book. I do not say "his" as there have been and still are women involved in Mexican numismatics that have made a lasting imprint in this area. To name a few, the late Erma C. Stevens, mother Azteca, and Anna Maria Cross de Torres, the past president of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico. In the ever-changing world in Mexico, you see a good percentage of women owning and running coin, shops and manning tables at the Mexico coin conventions.

There are two major international numismatic conventions in Mexico each year. The main convention is the Mexico City convention in May conducted by the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico and the smaller but just as good Guadalajara convention put on by Numismatics de Guadalajara. The Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico has corresponding membership and their quarterly bulletins are informative. The Guadalajara Society does not have outside membership at this time.

The collector has available to them, either through the American Numismatic Association library or direct purchase from numismatic book dealers, books about Mexican numismatics such as *The Standard Catalog of Mexican Coins*, by, Colin R. Bruce II and Dr. George W. Vogt, *A Guide Book of Mexican Coins* by Theodore V. Buttrey, Jr. and Clyde Hubbard, and a number of books that cover the numerous areas of Mexican numismatics.

This author's advice to a beginning collector or one looking at Mexico as an area to collect is to buy the book first, read some of the history and decide what area is of interest to them. Find a dealer through the trade publications or at coin shows that you feel, comfortable working with and that you feel is not overgrading or over pricing and then sit back and enjoy the romantic world of Mexican numismatics.

References:

A Guide Book of Mexican Coins, Theodore V. Buttrey Jr. and Clyde Hubbard.

Standard Catalog of Mexican Coins, Paper Money, Stocks, Bonds and Medals, Colin R. Bruce II and Dr. George W. Vogt.

The Coins of Mexico 1536-1963, by Neil S. Utberg and Dr. George W. Vogt.

Pradeau-Bothamley Auctions, Superior Stamp and Coin Inc.

A History of Mexico, by Henry B. Parkes.

About the author:

Don Bailey of Tekonsha, Mich., has been a student of Mexican numismatics for 25 years. He is best known for his interest in the Maximillian Era of Mexico.

He has been a coin and antique dealer for several years, specializing in Mexican coins, medals, decorations and other items pertaining to Mexico's history. He operates Don Bailey Numismatic Services with his wife, Lois. He has done work with the Casa de Moneda de Mexico and served as the official representative of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico in the United States.

He has written several articles for *Coin World* and other numismatic publications over the years, and has reported the numismatic happenings of Mexico. He is a contributor to many numismatic catalogs pertaining to Mexican numismatics.

Bailey was appointed to the 1974 Annual Assay Commission. He is a recipient of Krause Publications' Numismatic Ambassador Award, the "Jose Tamborrel Jr." award from the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico and the Tidwell Literary Award from the Texas Numismatic Association. He is a member of the Numismatic Literary Guild.