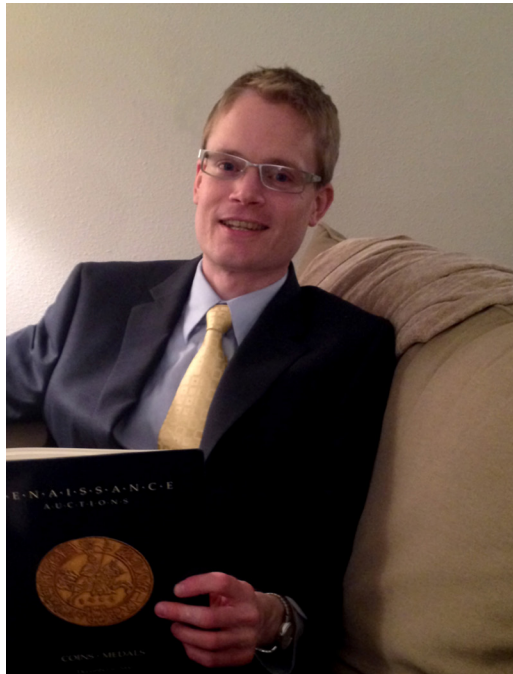


# WORLD NUMISMATICS NEWSLETTER

March / April 2016

## WORLD NUMISMATICS ANNOUNCES A NEW PARTNER OF THE COMPANY



World Numismatics is pleased to announce that Benjamin Bell has joined our team as a full partner in the company. Ben is well known throughout the numismatics community. We take great pride in making this announcement and enthusiastically welcome Ben to our firm. He will be a key component as we continue to expand the company. He comes to us with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Museum Studies and a Master's in Ethnography from the University of London: University College, London. Ben has worked as a numismatist at Classical Numismatic Group and was the co-founder, co-owner and President of Civitas Galleries, Ltd.

Ben has had a life-long passion for coins and proclaimed that he would collect coins at the age of 4. At 12, he brokered his first major deal which was a massive hoard of silver dollars, large-size paper money and world coins. He feels one of the greatest aspects of coin collecting is the fellowship enjoyed with kindred spirits sharing interests, spreading appreciation and knowledge of bygone times through education, and providing a service to those outside of the field by helping them gain an understanding of the coins they have or helping them convert their collections into modern money.

His experience, education and passion for numismatics make Ben an ideal addition to World Numismatics. He will be making numerous trips to Europe and will greatly contribute to our goal of becoming a full service world numismatics firm.

## VALIDATION STAMPS OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, PART 1

By Max A. Keech

The Mexican War for Independence coinage is one of the most fascinating, diverse and complex series in all of Latin American numismatics. This short series is rich in history and can provide a rewarding experience for collectors at all levels. Unfortunately, many otherwise interested collectors are discouraged by a lack of reliable information. With respect to validation stamps, they are also confronted with organizational difficulties in classifying the coinage and the large number of counterfeits in the marketplace. Let's take a closer look at these issues and see if we can unravel some of their mysteries.



*Crown, flag and bridge- unique and unattributed War for Independence counterstamp*

Prior to the start of the War for Independence in September of 1810, provincial capitals shipped bullion to Mexico City, which was coined and then returned. From late 1810 on, Insurgents controlled large parts of Mexico, effectively severing these local mining centers from the Royal Mint. Out of necessity, local authorities resorted to casting or striking provisional coinage for commerce and to pay the troops. Most branch mints started by either (1) striking a provisional coinage of local design or (2) casting coins from Mexico City hosts and then applying a validation stamp. Near the end of 1812 it appears that the authorities in Mexico City forbid the use of provisional designs. To comply, the branch mints of Durango, Guadalajara, Guanajuato and Zacatecas

Continues on page2

## IN THIS ISSUE

Benjamin Bell joins World Numismatics .....	1
Validation Stamps of the War of Independence - Part 1..	1-6
Historical Momento from the Gran Colombia War of Independence .....	7
Zacatecas LVO Coinage .....	8-10



began coining the Ferdinand VII draped bust design. The rarity of all these draped bust issues dated 1812 attests to this timing. Chihuahua was the laggard, making the transition after 1813.

In 1811 Insurgent groups also began producing their own coinage for commerce. Coined silver was much more useful than silver bars for purchasing supplies or paying soldiers. Like the Royalists, the Insurgents both struck and cast necessity issues in silver, although casting was the more common method of Insurgent production. Both the Royalist and Insurgent necessity issues of this early period were crudely produced and of generally poor quality. Both weight and fineness could vary considerably.

Because of this poor quality, the local inhabitants, who for generations had been accustomed to the excellent Mexico City coinage with its reliable silver content, were reluctant to accept these necessity issues. This led Royalist and Insurgent authorities to counterstamp the necessity issues as official verification of their value.

There is only one substantive numismatic reference on the War for Independence series, Dr. Alberto F. Pradeau's indispensable *"Numismatic History of Mexico"*. Pradeau offers relevant background on most of the issuers but his book was published in 1938 and is in need of updating. Pradeau and later catalogues have tended to classify the coinage first as Royalist or Insurgent and then catalog it in alphabetical order. This alphabetical classification does not offer much insight into the series and is confusing in many areas. I believe an understanding of the geographical location and connected issuing authority of the validation stamps is necessary to structure and simplify the series.

Let's look at this series by considering the purpose for an issue along with the interrelated geography, issuing authority and time. Before we do let's start with three rules that I believe create the foundation for simplifying this complex series.

The rules we will examine are;

- **Rule#1: All validation stamps were used as either casting stamps or counterstamps and, with the exception of Morelos, never for both.**

- **Rule#2: All validation stamps were applied between 1811 and 1814, and**

- **Rule#3: Only provisional/necessity coinage was counterstamped.**

I have deliberately used the term "validation" stamp in this introduction rather than the more common phrase of "counterstamp" or "countermark". This is because the series comprises two distinctly different types of stamps and it is important to separate them by their purpose. For this we need a new term for stamps applied as part of the manufacturing process associated with cast coinage. I'm stuck between the choices of casting stamp and minting stamp so, for now, let's refer to them as mint casting stamps. The important point is that we clearly subdivide the validation stamps into those associated with the manufacture of new coinage and those associated with validating coinage that already circulates.

#### **"Mint casting stamps" versus "counterstamps"**

In considering the purpose of a validation stamp we should

draw a clear distinction between a "mint casting stamp" and a "counterstamp".

- A "mint casting stamp" is applied as part of the manufacturing process of a coin. It is the final step taken after casting a provisional/necessity issue before releasing the coinage into circulation. Cast coinage was easily counterfeited by casting fakes of lower fineness or silver content. The addition of a mint casting stamp (and sometimes an edge) during manufacture discouraged cast counterfeits. Both Royalists (always) and Insurgents (often) utilized mint casting stamps in the process of manufacturing cast necessity coinage.



*Mint casting stamp-Chilpancingo on cast Supreme Junta 8 Reales*

- A "counterstamp" is a stamp applied after manufacture to validate an already circulating provisional/necessity issue. It could be applied to a cast or struck coin but it was always applied to an already circulating coinage and not as a part of the manufacturing process

This distinction helps us to identify the who, where and when of a particular issue. For a mint casting stamp you have a casting process and that requires some sort of foundry. Only in major towns and encampments were there foundries, generally used to cast armaments such as cannon and cannonballs etc, and it is in these locations that coinage was cast using mint casting stamps. On the other hand, counterstamps could occur anywhere it was necessary to validate a provisional issue for local use.



*Counterstamp- Supreme Junta and GR on struck Go 1813 8 Reales*

As with all coinage it is imperative to understand how a coin is manufactured to avoid counterfeits. A counterfeiter often does not adhere to the same manufacturing process as the original coinage and, in so doing, exposes his product to detection. For example, a mint casting stamp can only occur on a cast coin and since the cast and stamp were produced at the same time, each should show identical wear. Every one of the mint casting stamps and counterstamps of the War for Independence has been counterfeited so confirming the proper method of manufacture is step 1 in authenticating a coin.

With the exception of the Morelos stamps virtually none of the validation stamps were used as both a mint casting stamp and as a counterstamp. Therefore, excluding Morelos the "rule" is that a particular type of stamp is either a mint casting stamp or a counterstamp. It does not occur as both. The few (and very rare) exceptions are unlikely to be encountered by all but the most advanced collectors of these issues. Hence this "rule" provides the collector with a reliable way of determining what host coins and which stamps can legitimately occur together.

Continues on page 3

- Rule#1: All validation stamps, with the exception of Morelos, were used as either casting stamps or counterstamps and never for both.

### Validation Stamps used from 1811-1814 only

Another "rule" is that all mint casting stamps and counterstamps were applied between 1811 and early 1814. By 1814 the Royalist army had subdued and scattered the Insurgents. The Insurgents no longer controlled any population centers and with no significant territory under their control no longer produced or counterstamped coinage. The last Insurgent necessity coinage occurred in 1814 and both Supreme Junta and Morelos issues of this date are quite scarce. By this time the provisional Royalist mints had improved their coinage processes and, as previously mentioned, were issuing the standardized Ferdinand VII draped bust design. To my knowledge no Insurgent counterstamps or



Ca 1817 8 Reales struck over an 1812 Monclova 8 Reales with LCM counterstamp

mint casting stamps occur after 1813 and the few Royalist issues of 1814 are quite rare. This leads to our next rule:

- Rule#2: All mint casting stamps and counterstamps occur on 1814 and earlier coinage.

When you encounter a mint validation stamp on a post 1814 host, you either have (i) a coin struck over an 1811- 1814 validation stamp or (ii) a counterfeit.

### Only provisional/necessity coinage was counterstamped

As previously mentioned, counterstamps were used to validate coinage already in circulation for use within an authority's jurisdiction. The early necessity issues were not of the standard draped bust type and they were not trusted by the population that was accustomed to high quality Mexico City mint coinage for generations. These early provisional issues (both cast and struck) were crude and clearly not a struck and trusted Mexico City coinage. It is these necessity/provisional issues that required validation. If the host coin appears to you like proper Mexico City struck coinage, it would have looked that way in 1814 and there would be no reason to validate it. I have never seen evidence that good Mexico City coinage was overstruck to "mark territory", "fly the flag" or any similar secondary purpose. While there are a few (very rare) exceptions to this "rule", non-experts should stay away from counterstamps on struck Mexico City issues.

-Rule#3: Counterstamps were only used on provisional/necessity coinage and not on struck Mexico City coins.

I can almost hear a reader or two whispering "what about the famous counterstamps of Manuel Salcedo, Governor of Texas and the subject of numerous articles?" The full explanation of these fantasy issues demands an article unto itself but suffice to say that in this author's opinion these are all imaginary fantasies. I base this claim on what I believe is overwhelming evidence



Fantasy issue of Manuel Salcedo

offered by the coins themselves and not just their violation of rules #1 and #3 above. Stay tuned.....

### Cataloging challenges

The primary reference for most collectors is the Krause catalog and in the case of War for Independence validation stamps it is quite confusing and in many cases incorrect. In general it classifies Royalist mint casting stamps as non-countermarked provisional mint coinage while listing Insurgent mint casting stamps as counterstamps. It mistakenly lists a number of post-1814 counterstamps and counterstamps on struck Mexico City coins, along with a few counterfeits, as genuine issues. Auction catalogs of Mexican specialists such as Ponterio, Long, Douglas and Hidalgo do a better job of identifying this series but they are all handicapped by the same underlying reference problems.

If you follow the three rules above (all non-Morelos stamps can be classified as mint casting stamps **or** counterstamps and were only struck on provisional/necessity issues from 1811-1814), you can quickly overcome the cataloging challenges. We'll now take a quick survey of the most often encountered Royalist and Insurgent issues along with a few rare issues of special interest. I think you will find that the Royalist issues are straightforward while the Insurgent series is more complex and challenging.

### ROYALIST MINT CASTING STAMPS

Royalist mint casting issues include coinage from Chihuahua and Monclova in the north and from Oaxaca in the south. As previously described, the Royalist authorities needed coinage to pay for troops and supplies but could not get silver to and coinage back from Mexico City because Insurgents held the roads. Therefore, with Mexico City's authority, they cast their own coinage.

### Chihuahua 1811 – 1813



The cast 1811-1813 Chihuahua coinage is based on a Mexico City host, altered for date and mint mark. It has two applied mint casting stamps: a "T" for Treasurer and one depicting the crowned pillars of Hercules with a pomegranate between them.

Unlike Monclova and Oaxaca, the Chihuahua mint continued to operate in the post-1814 period by striking coins of the proper draped bust variety. The 1815-1822 coinage was struck over earlier cast issues of Chihuahua and Monclova as these cast coins were withdrawn from circulation. Evidence of the earlier mint casting stamps of Chihuahua and Monclova will normally show through on the overstruck coins. Sometimes the underlying stamp can be quite bold giving the impression that the stamp is on a post 1814 issue. Don't be fooled. Krause lists Chihuahua

Continues on page 4



counterstamps from 1815-1822 by misinterpreting the Chihuahua overstruck issues where the underlying mint casting stamp is clearly visible.

### Monclova 1811 – 1812

The Monclova mint produced a cast coin, using Mexico City hosts and applying a mint casting stamp with the initials "MVA" and date. Krause catalogs this issue as a counterstamp even though it is a mint issue with a mint casting stamp applied before the coinage entered circulation. This issue has a plain edge.



*Monclova 1812 cast 8 Reales*

After 1814 the Monclova issues were recalled and often used as planchets for striking coins in Chihuahua. Hopefully it is clear to the reader at this point that any post-1812 issues showing an MVA stamp are overstruck on a Monclova host... Ignore KM#201 which miscatalogs these overstrikes as a Chihuahua coin with a Monclova counterstamp.

### Oaxaca 1812



*Oaxaca 1812 cast 8 Reales*

In Oaxaca the Royalists created their own 'madre' (mother coin used to cast molds) with a cross on one side and a shield and lion on the other. This had two mint stamps: a crowned "O" between two columns on the obverse and an initial above the shield on the reverse. An edge was placed on the coin after casting.

This is a well-executed cast coinage that virtually all catalogs and collectors recognize as a provisional issue rather than a counterstamp. It should also be recognized as a mint casting stamp with the same fundamentals as the 1811-1813 cast issues of Chihuahua and Monclova.

### ROYALIST COUNTERSTAMPS

#### La Comandancia Militar (L.C.M.), 1811 – 1814

The best known and most commonly encountered of the Royalist counterstamps is that of La Comandancia Militar (L.C.M.), used in Northern Mexico (Chihuahua and Monclova). These counterstamps were used from 1811 to 1814: The LCM counterstamp is quite rare on 1814 hosts, strongly indicating the counterstamp was discontinued early in that year. In fact, the few Royalist counterstamps of 1814 are all rare and Insurgent stamps are nonexistent.

Pradeau believed that these initials stood for La Comandancia Militar but there is no documentary evidence to support that and there have been other suggestions. There has even been some debate as to whether this was a Royalist or Insurgent counterstamp. My studies indicate that 85% of the host coins are from Chihuahua or Monclova and this counterstamp was used through early-1814. These northern cities were outside of Insurgent control from late 1811 on, and so I believe that Pradeau was right that this was a Royalist stamp of the northern military command. There are at least 17 different LCM dies, which suggests that these were used in many locations in northern Mexico. Given the high percentage of post-1813 struck Chihuahua 8 Reales that shows traces of the LCM counterstamp, its use must have been extensive before the recall of the cast Chihuahua and Monclova coinage.



*L.C.M. counterstamp*

#### Antonio Linares, Valladolid, 1811 – 1814



*LINARES counterstamp on Chihuahua 1811 8 Reales*

Pradeau assigns the LINARES counterstamp to the Insurgents under Don (José) María Chico de Linares, Hidalgo's paymaster general in the early days of the War for Independence. Pradeau stated that the counterstamp was first used by Insurgent forces in November, 1810 in Guadalajara. This is a mistaken assignment which carries to this day in Krause as Insurgent KM#261. Rather than an Insurgent issue this counterstamp should be assigned to the Royalists under Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Linares in Valladolid.

The LINARES counterstamp is rare and underrated. The majority of the hosts known to me are from Zacatecas and are dated 1812-1813 (with single outliers dated 1811 and 1814). The assignment to José María Chico de Linares is not valid for a couple of reasons. First, I would expect any countermark from this paymaster to carry his father's surname "Chico" rather than Linares and more importantly, Chico de Linares was captured with Hidalgo at Bajan and executed on 27 June 1811. The unfortunate Chico de Linares was not around to counterstamp these pieces in 1812-1814. As for alternatives to Antonio Linares, there were no significant Insurgent leaders (or towns) named Linares during this period. Even if there were, Antonio Linares fits perfectly! The timing and host coins correspond with the LCM issues and certainly point to the Valladolid-Zacatecas area. A Royalist assignment, however, raises the question of why a Royalist commander would not use the LCM stamp so prevalent further north during this period? I believe it is due to Valladolid's unique isolation for much of the war between 1811 and 1814. Pradeau recognized this error in a 1962 *Numismatist* article but the mistake has not been corrected in current day catalogs.

Antonio Linares was an important Royalist commander who served with distinction throughout the War for Independence. He began the War for Independence as a Captain under Calleja

Continues on page 5



in late 1810. By May of 1811 Linares commanded the troops in Valladolid under Trujillo. Valladolid was in the vortex of Insurgent activity from 1810-1813. The Insurgents under Junta leaders Rayón, Liceaga, and Verduzco, and sub-commanders Muñiz and Albino García were encamped around Valladolid for much of the war and kept it under constant attack. On at least three separate occasions they nearly took her. In fact, Valladolid was the only major city under such duress after early 1812, often cut off from communication with other Royalist commands for much of the period until early 1814. Linares figures prominently in frustrating many Insurgent campaigns and dreams. In February 1812, then Colonel Linares repelled a major attack on Valladolid by Muñiz, Albino García and Father Navarrette, pursuing Muñiz as far as his Tacámbaro headquarters where he burned the town and destroyed Muñiz's foundry. On 30 January 1813 the now Lieutenant-Colonel Linares routed 15,000 Insurgents attacking Valladolid under the combined leadership of Verduzco and Muñiz. This single engagement that I refer to as "THE BIG EVENT" is probably responsible for more Insurgent counterstamps and mint casting stamps than any other. We'll explore this when we examine the Insurgent issues in the next newsletter. Linares went on to defeat Minas near Guanajuato in October 1817 and finished the war as Comandante-General of Celaya which fell to Iturbide in May 1821. The ever loyal Linares refused to submit to the revolution when Celaya fell. Out of respect for his long and brave service, Iturbide granted Antonio Linares safe passage to Mexico City.

#### Las Cajas de Veracruz, Dec. 1812 – early 1813



Zs 1812 8 Reales with LCV counterstamp



Stamp indicating value of 7 3/4 Reales

By late 1812 there was a large amount of provisional money, especially of Zacatecas, flowing through the port city of Veracruz. A decree of 19 December 1812 ordered that all the provisional coins circulating in Veracruz should be weighed and stamped as to the value at which they should be accepted. These carry the monogram "LCV" on one side and an indication of weight on the other. Four dies were made to stamp the short-weight coins, one for seven reales, another for seven and a quarter, another for seven and a half, and a fourth for seven and three quarters. However, since most provisional Zacatecas issues were of proper weight, few counterstamped coins indicated a weight as few were found to be short.

This is probably the most counterfeited counterstamp in the entire War for Independence series and should be approached with caution. The real counterstamps are quite rare. As an example the plate coin for KM#198 is not genuine. A starting place for the evaluation of this issue is to ensure that the coin weighs true to its indicated value. When reviewing past auctions, I've found another reliable method of separating the false counterstamps from those

that are valid. Where the price realized is below \$1,000 you have found a fake!

#### Armijo, mid January 1814



SUD 1813 8 reales with Armijo counterstamp

This is one of the few counterstamps that occur after 1813. General José Armijo chased the Insurgents from Chilpancingo in January 1814 and captured their papers, their baggage and their silver, including a large number of 1813 Morelos SUD 8 reales. Armijo had these stamped with his monogram and crossed palms. I presume this counterstamp was to "mark" the King's booty and prevent theft. Armijo brought this silver back to Mexico City, where it was almost certainly melted. Luckily a few of the counterstamps survive.

#### Valladolid, 1814 or 1815



Valladolid 1813 8 reales with P.D.V. and F.VII counterstamps

This is another of the rare Royalist counterstamps applied after 1813 and, like the Armijo issue, it served a somewhat unique purpose.

In 1813 Valladolid, in the heart of Insurgent activity and under constant attack since 1811, asked for permission to mint its own coins. The Royalist authority in Mexico City gave permission but did not dictate the design of the coins. Valladolid first produced the 'shield' design which was recalled after the Mexico City authorities objected to an issue that did not adhere to standardized draped bust design. A draped bust issue was then prepared which was very poorly executed and is quite rare.

By 1814 the mint workshop was closed. Shortly after its closure, a neighbor reported seeing the cleaning lady and a companion entering the workshop at night. The authorities investigated and found that she had been admitting a local jeweler, who was utilizing the dies to strike debased Valladolid coinage. The jeweler was jailed. The Valladolid coinage was recalled and the unauthorized issues with their debased silver were destroyed.

Continues on page 6



Two counterstamps were applied to those found to be of proper fineness. The two counterstamps: were "P.D.V." on one side indicating Provisional de Valladolid in a rectangle and "F.VII" (Ferdinando VII) on the other. These stamps are only known on extremely rare Valladolid hosts as should be expected.

#### To be continued.....

In the next issue of the Newsletter, I will complete this article by focusing on the Insurgent validation stamps. There is virtually no contemporary documentation to support assignment of these issues and what we know today is primarily Pradeau's speculation based on his observations first published in 1938. I will humbly attempt to update some of that work.



**PHOENICIA, TYRE  
AR SHEKEL  
126/5 BC - 67/8 AD  
NGC AU  
SKU# 31681**

Obverse: Laureate head of Melkart right. Reverse: Eagle standing on prow of ship. Nicely struck on a rather large and oversized planchet that allows for most aspects of both obverse and reverse dies. Particularly nice in this aspect as the planchet size is quite imposing. A nice original piece with light tone and good metal quality. The shekel of Tyre is believed to be the type of coin referenced in the bible as one of the 30 pieces of silver Judas Iscariot was paid to betray Jesus.

Price is \$3,500.-



**PORTUGAL  
500 ESCUDOS  
(1922)  
Sim. P129  
SKU# 33093**

Artist's mock-up including front and back elements, both printed and hand drawn, with grey mat featuring Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd. "Designed by" label in lower left corner. Hand dated 27/12/21, with signature in upper margin. An interesting and unique item.

Price is \$2,450.-



**MEXICO - 1742 Mo MF  
8 ESCUDOS  
NGC AU58 - KM#148  
SKU# 32800**

Lustrous light golden surfaces. Very scarce in this level of preservation.

Price is \$6,500.-

## ABOUT US

World Numismatics is located in Carefree, Arizona and owned by Kent Ponterio, Benjamin Bell, Cory Frampton and Max Keech. Scott Drummond manages the office which is open from 8 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Carlos Jara manages our Latin American operations and lives in Chile. Carlos travels throughout Central and South America and attends the major shows here. We are a leading buyer and seller of Mexican, Latin American coins and currency along with World and Ancient coins, and we stock one of the largest inventories in North America. Our primary focus is on quality material and rarities dated prior to 1930. Our inventory consists of hundreds of certified coins along with thousands of raw coins and thousands of notes. We are the publishers of "Mexican Paper Money", a 424 page color reference book on Mexican currency which is available directly from our website. We attend many of the major shows, including Mexico City, Long Beach, New York International, and the Money Show of the Southwest and others.

## BUY FROM US

Our website contains thousands of items priced from \$20 to over \$20,000. Coins and currency can be purchased directly on our website or you can give us a call. We do not have a printed price list, but are happy to discuss your needs in person. We regularly acquire coin and currency collections and new items are first offered to individuals who have provided us with their want lists.

**LAYAWAYS** - Layaways are welcome. Terms are 25% down with the balance in three monthly payments of 25%. If you need to purchase on other terms, give us a call.

**PAYMENT** - You can pay online with a major credit card, PayPal, Personal checks or Bank Transfers are welcome. Simply give us a call, place your order over the phone, and mail us a check.

## SELL TO US

We believe we pay the highest prices for Mexican, Latin American, World and Ancient coins and currency and over 90% of the people who ship us their collections accept our offers. Selling privately to us has many advantages over selling through public auctions. Among them are privacy, immediate payment, potentially higher net proceeds to you and our ability to exchange your collection for precious metals.

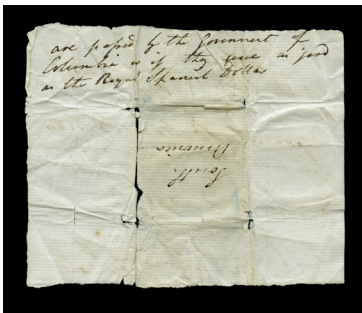
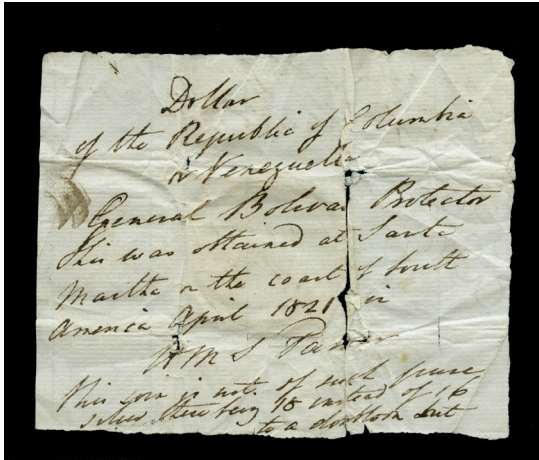
If you are interested in selling, give us a call. If you decide to ship us your coins or currency, we will call you within 48 hours after receiving them with an offer. If you do not like our offer, we will pay the cost of immediately returning your items by insured mail. If you accept our offer, we will mail a check within 48 hours. Wire transfer payment is available on transactions over \$10,000. We are also happy to travel to view substantial collections.

We recommend that you ship your coins and currency by USPS registered mail and insure it. The maximum insurance per box is \$25,000, so be sure to divide the material up into more than one package if it is over that level. For larger value shipments, please call for instructions.

**A SUPERBLY PRESERVED AND HIGHLY INTERESTING HISTORICAL MEMENTO  
FROM THE GRAN COLOMBIA WAR OF INDEPENDENCE,  
THE FINEST CERTIFIED FOR THE DATE AND TYPE (KM-C6).**

World Numismatics has in stock an unusually well preserved example of the Colombia Republic 8 Reales 1820-JF (KM-C6), certified MS62 by NGC. This is an absolutely fabulous specimen of this issue, fully Brilliant Uncirculated with remarkably clean surfaces and only the slight (and typical) strike weakness preventing the still higher "Choice Mint State" technical grade.

Extremely rare in this handsome quality, it is the single finest specimen currently certified by either NGC or PCGS and the finest example seen by us. This coin's desirability as an essentially unimprovable representative of this historical type is only enhanced with its unusually early provenance, stated in the accompanying description written on the contemporary piece of paper folded around the coin as a proto coin envelope that carefully housed it from shortly after it was minted. The description reads as follows:



**Dollar Of the Republic of Columbia  
& Venezuela**

**General Bolivar Protector**  
This was obtained at Santa  
Marta on the coast of South  
America April 1821  
HMS Parker

This coin is not of real pure  
silver these being 18 instead of 16  
to a doblon but  
are paid by the Government of  
Columbia as if they were as good  
as the Royal Spanish Dollar



**COLOMBIA - 1820 JF  
8 REALES**

**NGC MS62 - KM#C6  
SKU# 33246**

The finest certified for date and type. An absolutely fabulous coin that is bright and flashy with wonderful luster. Some weakness of strike in the portrait as normally encountered with this issue. Coin comes with a contemporary piece of paper which was folded around the coin as a proto coin envelope.

Call for Price

This remarkable document not only pedigrees this coin to the beginning of the year after it was struck (undoubtedly making it the earliest provenance known for a Cundinamarca 8 Reales), but also shows that as early as April of 1821 the recipient of this coin was aware of the debased nature of its metallic content. A few further comments on the inscription are due:

- The indicated date of April 1821 bears a high historical significance since the 6-month truce of Santa Ana - signed by Bolivar and Royalist General Pablo Morillo on November 26, 1820 - effectively ended on the 18<sup>th</sup> of that month, which in turn marked the beginning of the final phase of the independence conflict for Gran Colombia.
- The mention of "General Bolivar Protector" should prove of interest to the collector of Bolivariana.
- The indicated contemporary exchange ratio of 18 of these "dollars" to the gold doblon of 8 Escudos instead of the usual 16 (a gold Escudo was nominally worth 16 Reales or two coins of the "Royal Spanish Dollar" or 8 Reales) is a consequence of the slightly reduced weight of this issue. The reduction in intrinsic value would only increase by the issuance in the following years of coins with 0.666 fineness and the frozen date of 1821, but without assayer initials. This combined with its extensive circulation - since it provided the backbone of the circulating media of the nascent Republic of Gran Colombia (read for example the wonderfully instructive article by F. Barriga del Diestro: "La Moneda que vio nacer, crecer y morir a Colombia 1813-1836" in the Colombian Boletin de Historia y Antiguedades vol. of December 2005) - makes it the hardest early Latin American Republican crown to locate in Mint State.

On a more personal note, this coin is a real pleasure to hold and the contemporary paper help it transcend the realm of traditional numismatic collectible to historic relic from the era of Latin America's Independence from Spain. When reading the document with coin in hand, one can't help but fantasize and romance about those turbulent times.

Call for Price.



# ZACATECAS LVO COINAGE: DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN INSURGENT AND ROYALIST ISSUES AND THE ATTRIBUTION OF MEXICO'S FIRST INDEPENDENT COINAGE.

By Carlos Jara

Instructions regarding the forbiddance of circulation of the coins issued by the insurgents and others that are not from the Mexico City Mint. Valladolid, 1812<sup>1</sup>

Manuel Merino y Moreno, Councilman and Intendent by H. M. of this town and its Province.

By Order of the Legitimate authorities established in the city of Zacatecas and capital of the Province of the same name, coins of 8 Reales and minor denominations [doble = 8 Reales, menuda = minor denominations from 2 Reales to ½ Real] were minted to cover the needs [the functioning costs] of the Royal and Public Service starting on February of this present year when the insurgent troops were expelled by the ones of H. M. our King.

I ignore whether this coinage is still being issued in that city



**MEXICO - 1811 ZAC  
ZACATECAS - 8 REALES**  
NGC VF35 - KM#189  
SKU# 30657

Rare type with local arms.

Price is \$3,250.-

but it is (well) known in it, its province, and the surrounding ones of Nueva Galicia and Nueva Viscaya. It is my understanding that it not only has circulated in those locales, and still does so under the name of *Moneda Provisional de Zacatecas*, but has also been used in the district formed by those three [provinces] to pay the Royal troops alongside with coins from the Mexico City Mint. The same is being done with the troops of the *Ejercito del Centro*, since the mentioned provisional coinage of Zacatecas has a weight, fineness and value similar to that which is minted in the capital of the *Reyno* [the aforementioned Mexico City Mint].

Although I had already been informed of this matter from private communications given to me before my arrival here

at the beginning of June of the current year, such was confirmed beyond any doubt by a paragraph in the proclamation issued in Zacatecas on May 3 by the General of the aforementioned *Ejercito del Centro* don Felix Calleja and published in the *Gaceta del Gobierno de Mexico* on the 14<sup>th</sup> of that same month, which reads as follows:

"In order not to hinder the payments and trades in the commerce, I hereby declare as current and legal tender the provisional coinage which was minted in that city [of Zacatecas] under that (provisional) designation by disposition of the legitimate authorities that governed it due to the lack of circulating media and the fact that said coinage has a greater intrinsic value than the one with the bust of the King [the one minted at the Mexico City Mint], meaning that its recalling will be easy at any time after the

situation has calmed down and the corresponding dispositions on this matter are taken. All of this has been informed to the most excellent Viceroy of these Kingdoms. However, this authorization must be understood as concerning only the mentioned provisional coinage, and not the one issued by the insurgents since all of that coinage [of the insurgents] - which is well known - will have to be recalled in accordance with the article 13 of the Proclamation dated March 20 and deposited in these *Reales Cajas* with notice of the amounts that are being handed over and their owners so that in time, they are given the corresponding superior resolution. And in order for everyone to become aware of these dispositions, I order that it is proclaimed and published in this Capital, and in all of the locales of the district of its Intendancy, for its exact observance."

The article 13 of the referred decree mentioned in the previous paragraph and included in the cited *Gaceta del Gobierno*, is as follows:

"All persons which possess coins of any denomination of those

Continues on page 9

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[WorldNumismatics.com](http://WorldNumismatics.com)  
[MexicanCoinCompany.com](http://MexicanCoinCompany.com)

E-Mail: [info@worldnumismatics.com](mailto:info@worldnumismatics.com)

Telephone: (480) 921-2562

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minted by the insurgents in Zacatecas or in another locale of the Kingdom, will present them immediately either to the corresponding authorities or the Reales Cajas in the district of the locale where said coins are in circulation. Those who fail to obey shall face the sentence given to counterfeiters."

In consequence, and considering that some of the coinage provisionally minted in Zacatecas has been introduced here since the arrival at Acambaro of the aforementioned *Ejercito* [army] and it is being rejected in the local trade and payments because it is believed that its weight and fineness are inferior to those of the coinage from the Mexico Mint or because it is doubted whether it will be accepted in payments to the Royal Exchequer or because there is no [official] proclamation authorizing it,

In order to prevent the damages that would occur from preventing its circulation, and those which would be faced by the troops and those individuals who received payments in said coinage in the locales where its circulation had been authorized,

I order that it is accepted as legal tender in this Province until an ordinance is given by the Superior Government on this matter in the same form and terms as the paragraph from the decree that has been inserted in the present proclamation. (On the other hand), it is warned to everyone that the circulation of the coinage minted in that same locale [of Zacatecas] by the insurgents - which is well known and can be distinguished by the fact that it bears a kind of nopal or branch instead of lions in the Royal Coat of Arms - is hereby prohibited.

And in order for this disposition to be known to everyone, I order it to be proclaimed and published by *Edict* and that it is fixed in the customary places of this city.

Given in Valladolid on December 23, 1811

Manuel Merino. By mandate of His Honour.

Most Excellent Sire Viceroy D. Francisco Javier Venegas.

Most Excellent Sir:

After some coins of the provisional type that was minted in Zacatecas were introduced in this locale, and considering that no disposition had been given regarding its acceptance and circulation, I was forced to authorize its circulation by the proclamation of which I am enclosing a copy for your superior consideration in order to receive the approval of my providence, or any decision that you consider pertinent on the matter.

To [reach the decision to] authorize the mentioned coinage, I have taken into consideration that this coinage had been introduced by the troops that guarded the effects belonging to the *Ejercito Real del Centro*, sent here by its General Don Felix Calleja when deemed unnecessary for the expedition to Zitacuaro, and also the effects from this locale that belonged to H. M. and to particulars or the mentioned troops, and that the mule drivers would directly benefit from its circulation and acceptance since the man charged with the payment of these mule drivers had some of this coinage in his possession to make said payment, and that said coinage was not being accepted in circulation at face value but only with a penalty of 1/4<sup>th</sup> or more, which I considered to be unjust.

In the city of Valladolid, on June 16 1812:

At the Provincial Council of Exchequer, in presence of Messrs. Manuel Merino and Moreno, Mayor [Governor] of this Province, Agustin Lopete, Lieutenant Attorney and temporary counselor of this Intendancy, Antonio Medina Principal Minister Treasurer of Exchequer - representing both himself and his absent companion, and Licensee Pedro Jose Navarro Public Prosecutor,

Having read the proclamation published by said Governor in this Capital on October 23, 1811 which forbade the circulation of the provisional coinage that was minted by the most Excellent Government in the city of Zacatecas and the communication with which said Intendent notified the mentioned proclamation to the Most Excellent Viceroy of this Province on the 23 of the same month,

Wishing to conveniently resolve this matter,

And considering that a greater amount of the aforementioned coinage than the amount minted, duly authorized and allowed into circulation by our most Excellent Government in the mentioned (city of) Zacatecas,

Either by means of the troop regiments that venture outside the city to the towns controlled by the insurgents to pursue and punish these insurgents, or of the peasants that accompany them in order to sell a few commercial items in those towns such as cigarettes and cigars that they buy in the local market or kiosks or because the same insurgents have minted and cast in different locales coins in imitation and counterfeits of the mentioned provisional coinage of Zacatecas from which they are very difficult to distinguish, or through other means,

Said Mr. Intendent has manifested that considering all these antecedents and having received verbal communications informing that many tenants



Continues on page 10

of the local clothing and food stores and other individuals were refusing to receive the mentioned coins for their full face value of 1 Peso, not distinguishing between the ones [legally] minted in Zacatecas and those that have been counterfeited by the insurgents, he considered it necessary to either allow the circulation of all of these coins or to forbade the circulation of any coins that have not been minted in the Royal Mint of Mexico.

Having profoundly considered the above matter, and after hearing at my request the thoughts from all the representatives which aimed for the rightness and for the benefit of the Royal Service and the Public Cause, it has been agreed:

- Firstly, that it is convenient, urgent and necessary to absolutely forbid the use, acceptance and circulation of any kind and type of coinage that is not the one minted at the Royal Mint of Mexico, due to the difficulty to distinguish and differentiate the one that was [legitimately] provisionally minted [by Royalist authorities] in Zacatecas from the one that has been cast and also struck in imitation by the insurgents in different locales, because the differentiating points of these various coins [from the legitimate ones] lie in its size [diameter], thickness and darkish [similar to lead] color of its silver, proving that these [counterfeit or illegitimate] coins do not possess the corresponding and correct fineness nor weight, and that both these coins and the ones struck by our Government are subject to having their weight reduced by clipping them, as has been seen in several of them, since they do not have an edge design.

- Secondly, that in order to recall the existing [in circulation] coinage of this type [the provisional Zacatecas type], a proclamation should be issued informing of this forbiddance [to circulate] and giving a time limit of 8 days during which every man having said coinage in his possession will be able to present it to the Royal *Cajas* to weigh it and exchange it for coins minted at the Royal Mexico Mint at the rate of 5 pesos per mark while the authorities allow it, after which any one passing this coinage into circulation or having it in their possession (because they did not present it for its exchange) will be punished by the sentences established by law.

- Thirdly, that a detailed and separate account of the quantities of the recalled coins will be made upon their reception with indication of the corresponding weight [of the coins] and individuals who present them.

- Fourthly, that the coinage brought from the city of Pascuaro,

and handed over by Mr. Ignacio Solorzano due to the scarcity of funds for the payment of the troops shall be accounted for, and that in the event of some of this coinage [brought from Pascuaro] having not been released into circulation yet, those coins that are of the type mentioned in this ordinance [meaning the provisional coinage of Zacatecas issued by royalists or insurgents, or the outright counterfeit coinage imitating the Zacatecas coins issued (presumably) by the insurgents] shall be retained and exchanged to its owner [Solorzano] at the rate of 5 pesos per mark, as has been indicated previously.

- Fifthly, that a detailed receipt shall be issued to those individuals who remit the forbidden coinage in order to account them for should this be made necessary by any [subsequent] provision that the Most Excellent Sire Viceroy of N. E. [Nueva Espana = New Spain = Mexico] might instruct, to whom this whole expedient shall be sent immediately.

- And finally, that the mentioned Mr. Intendent Mayor shall communicate the present determination by a proclamation to the Royal Offices of this city for the corresponding purposes.

And the above was accorded and signed before me, to which I testify.

Manuel Merino.  
D. Agustin Lopete.  
Don Antonio Medina.  
Lic. Pedro Jose Navarro.  
Jose Maria Aguilar.



**MEXICO - 1822 Mo JM  
8 REALES  
NGC MS62 - KM#304  
SKU# 33615**

Deep gold toning with rose/blue highlights over lustrous surfaces. Fully detailed, exceptional strike for type that show the seldom present leg on the eagles breast.

Price is \$4,000.-



**ROMAN EMPIRE  
AR DENARIUS  
27 BC - 14 AD  
NGC Ch MS  
SKU# 33092**

Obverse: Laureate bust of Augustus facing right.  
Reverse: Gaius & Lucius.  
A remarkably well preserved example with fabulous metal quality. A sharp struck sparkling gem.

Price is \$3,500.-



**PERU - 1712 L M  
8 ESCUDOS  
NGC MS62 - KM#38.2  
SKU# 33591**

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