

The Coins of GUATEMALA

1733 - 1963



by

Charles M. Robinson, III

A CATALOGUE
of
THE COINS OF GUATEMALA,
1733-1963

An Illustrated, Introductory Guide
to Guatemalan Coinage, with Pricing Aids

by
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INTRODUCTION

This is the newest, and one of the few, catalogues devoted exclusively to Guatemalan coinage. Those of you who are long-term collectors know that the cream has been skimmed from United States, Canadian, British, and Mexican coin collecting. The big bargain in the rare coin, picked up from the unwary, is almost a thing of the past. Some collectors are already evidencing an interest in Guatemala as a country whose coins are well worth concentration, particularly if one has any experience with the Mexican. Collectors who are branching out to world coins should also find Guatemala a fascinating study.

This catalogue is intended to be a simple introduction to Guatemalan numismatics, setting the stage for those of you who wish to go into it more fully. I have made it as complete and as accurate as possible for the present. However, I plan to bring out a new and fuller edition each year. So, if you will, begin your Guatemalan coin collection, or begin classifying more fully, if you have a few coins now, and go along with me as your collection grows.

As coin collectors, you know the many possibilities of error, and of variations in price, particularly. As I make annual revisions, write and point out any mistakes you may notice, and make suggestions, if you like.

My general plan of presentation is this. Of the coins before 1924 I have listed each type, along with the first and last date minted (for example, 1883-88). Coins of this type might not have been struck in each of these inclusive years, but in most of them. Since 1924 I have listed each date with the mintage of that year.

The prices indicated here are given only as a guide to the buying and selling of Guatemalan coins. This catalogue, I should like to make clear, is not intended to be a retail buying list. Sometimes there will be a blank space (___), instead of a quoted price. Where it was impossible to authenticate the price, I chose to leave it blank, rather than be misleading. The prices given are for coins in FINE to VERY FINE condition. There are enough nice coins of almost every type available at this time, so that this classification and pricing should be an adequate guide.

If you are an experienced coin collector, you know what is meant when one F-VF price is given. If you are a novice, study this illustration, and you will be able to come up with an adequate estimated price for a coin in GOOD-VERY GOOD, EXTRA FINE, or UNCIRCULATED condition, based on the price given for FINE-VERY FINE.

In 1928 there were 400,000 $\frac{1}{4}$ Quetzales struck. This entry will appear:

1928.....(400,000).....\$1.25

The \$1.25 means for F-VF. With this \$1.25 as a base, you can estimate the values of coins in other conditions like this:

GOOD-VERY GOOD	FINE-VERY FINE (given)	EXTRA-FINE	UNCIRCULATED
75¢	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.50

Of course, no coin need be sold for lower than face value.

You may find it helpful in general to know that many small coins of Guatemala before 1900 are most commonly found in GOOD to FINE condition and/or holed. Contrary to popular belief, a hole does not destroy the value of a coin. However, a holed coin should be sold at a discount. The copper coins before 1900 are sometimes corroded. The coins of 1900-1912 were made of nickel, and as a result, wear quickly. The coins after 1912 are very easy to obtain in VERY FINE or better, and after 1949, are very common in bright UNCIRCULATED.

And now, here is The Coins of Guatemala. I hope you enjoy it.

January, 1964

Charles M. Robinson, III
216 Corona Crescent
San Benito, Texas



Brief History of Guatemala

Guatemala has had a varied and interesting history. Like Mexico and the other countries of Central America, it has gone through three phases in its development: the early indigenous Indian, the Spanish colonial, and the modern republican.

The Mayan civilization flourished in Guatemala between 300 to 600 A. D. After the decline of their city, worship-center civilization, the area was inhabited by wandering Indian tribes until the time of the Spanish. Columbus may have touched the coast of Guatemala in his explorations in 1502, but it was Pedro de Alvarado, an officer of Cortés, who first clashed with the Guatemalan Indian tribes in 1524. It was he who established the first capital, Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala, in 1524. (Because of the frequency of earthquakes, the capital was moved to Guatemala City in 1776.) From 1524 to 1821 Guatemala was the center of government for the Spanish Captaincy General of Guatemala, which extended from Panama to Yucatán, and included modern Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and most of the Mexican state of Chiapas.

In 1821 all the Central American Spanish colonies declared their independence from Spain, and in 1822 were incorporated into the Mexican Empire by Augustín Iturbide. When Mexico became a republic in 1823, these provinces withdrew and formed the United Provinces of Central America. In 1839 Guatemala began to act independently of the United Provinces, and was declared a republic in 1847.

There was a period from 1847 to 1850 when there was fighting between Guatemala and the federalist forces of Honduras and El Salvador. In 1851 the constitution of Guatemala was adopted, which provided for a republican government headed by an elected president.

From this time on Guatemala has had a varied political life, much of which has affected the banking and monetary issues. I have inserted into the text information of historical import which concerns the coinage. In a brief scanning of its history, two things stand out: first, its attempts over the years to operate in an orderly manner under an elective government headed by a president, and, second, the question of federation with the other Central American countries, which has kept cropping up from time to time.

Here, listed briefly for convenient ready reference, are the Guatemalan leaders (presidents, or "presidential dictators") since its founding as a republic. You will notice that one is honored on the coinage, and that many of the commemoratives were struck on the occasion of an event of historical importance mentioned here.

1851-1865, Rafael Carrera. Carrera was the leader who helped form the independent republic of Guatemala in 1839. He was elected first president in 1851, and in 1854, was made president for life. He died in office in 1865.

- 1865-1871, Gen. Vicente Cerna. Deposed in 1871.
- 1873-1885, Justo Rufino Barrios. Fought to achieve Central American union when he couldn't bring it about peacefully. Killed in battle in El Salvador.
- 1885-1892, Gen. Manuel Lisandro Barillas. Made peace with the Central American countries.
- 1892-1898, Gen. José María Reyna Barrios. Assassinated in 1898.
- 1898-1920, Manuel Estrada Cabrera. Ruled by frequent reelections from 1898 to 1920, when he was forced to resign after a revolution in Guatemala City.
- 1920-1921, Carlos Herrera, a strong unionist. He signed a pact for the Central American Union with El Salvador and Honduras. Most outstanding work was the rebuilding of the capital from the ruins following the earthquake of 1917-18. Overthrown, 1921.
- 1922-1926, Gen. José María Orellana.
- 1926-1930, Gen. Lázaro Chacón, overthrown by Gen. Manuel Orellana's forces.
- 1930, Gen. Manuel Orellana. Resigned.
- 1931-1944, Gen. Jorge Ubico. Established a progressively rigid dictatorship and was overthrown by a revolt in 1944. In the same year his successor, Gen. Federico Ponce, was overthrown by a revolt.
- 1945-1951, Juan José Arévalo. Reopened Guatemala's claim to British Honduras.
- 1951-1954, Lieut. Col. Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán. Parts of his government came under Communist influence.
- 1954-1957, Carlos Castillo Armas, an anti-Communist. Under him the new Constitution of 1956, outlawing the Communist party, was put into effect. He was assassinated in 1957.
- 1957-1963, Miguel Ydígoras Fuentes. Elected president. 1962 was a year of revolt because of protested strong arm methods of the president in the national elections of 1961. In April a military coup, headed by Colonel Enrique Peraldo Azurdia took over the government and exiled Ydígoras.
- 1963- , Col. Peraldo, an anti-Communist and strong friend of the U. S., continued in control, and has recently announced that an election will be held before March 30, 1964, for delegates to a constitutional assembly.

Additional Information About Guatemala

Size: Second largest of the five Central American republics.

Population: 3,765,000 (1962), of whom 55% are pure-blooded Indians, descendants of the ancient Mayas. There is a small group of white people of Spanish descent. The rest are chiefly ladinos, people of mixed Spanish and Indian blood.

Official language: Spanish.

Chief products: Bananas, beans, coffee, cotton, rice, rubber, sugar, chicle, lumber, soap, furniture, textiles. Total exports of Latin America by Guatemala: 1%.



Flag:

The national flag consists of a white, vertical stripe, between two dark blue vertical stripes, with the national coat of arms on the white stripe.



National bird: The Quetzal assumes particular importance in Guatemalan history since the naming of the basic monetary unit for it in 1924. It is also on the national coat of arms.

The Quetzal has figured largely on the Mexican and Latin American scene since before the days of the Aztecs. Its brilliant, blue-green feathers were used by the early Indians to make their unbelievable woven capes, which were a part of the gift offered by Montezuma to Cortés. The famous quetzal-feathered headdress of Montezuma, whose original is now in a Vienna museum, is duplicated for display in the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico.

A professor at the University of Mexico tells the story of how it finally became possible, with "Yankee ingenuity and know-how" to keep the Quetzal alive in captivity, after years of failure. Someone at a New York zoo finally hit on the idea of having a captive bird of some other breed hatch the Quetzal eggs. Apparently the new hatchees never knew the difference, and now almost anyone who wants to follow the procedure can have a caged Quetzal.

Numismatics: As numismatists you will be interested to know that Guatemala has no national numismatic society. I am including (below) a note from the Bank of Guatemala with this information, and the expressed hope that Guatemalans may, in the near future, have enough interest in coin collecting to establish such an organization.

BANCO DE GUATEMALA

17925

Charles Robinson
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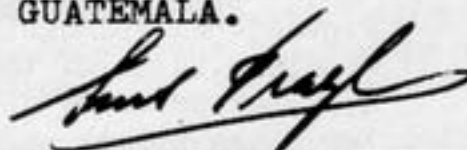
Guatemala, 13 de noviembre de 1963.

De nuestra consideración:

Tenemos el agrado de dirigirnos a usted para remitirle la información que indicamos al pie de la presente.

Nos suscribimos atentamente,

BANCO DE GUATEMALA.



En nuestro país no existe ninguna Sociedad Numismática, por lo que no podemos enviarles la información que nos solicita.-

Por nuestra parte le agradeceríamos nos enviara, el ejemplar de su libro que saldrá a publicación próximamente, pues nos sería de gran utilidad. Si le falta algún dato sobre nuestra moneda sírvase indicarlo y nosotros se lo proporcionaremos con gusto.-

eim.

Chronological Events in the Numismatic History of Guatemala

1699-1771	Private tokens issued because of coin shortage
1700-1747	Reign of Philip V
1731	Guatemalan Mint authorized, and established in first capital
1733	First coinage issued—cob type
1747-1759	Reign of Ferdinand VI
1747-1821	Era of the proclamation pieces
1753	Cobs discontinued
1754-1772	Pillar type coins issued (round)
1759-1788	Reign of Charles III
1771	Last of the tokens issued in Zambo, Costa Grande. Issued in $\frac{1}{4}$, 1, and 2 reales
1772	Pillars discontinued, bust type coins issued (through Reign of Ferdinand VII)
1773-1776	Mint moved to Guatemala City
1788-1808	Reign of Charles VI
1789	First commemorative medal struck in honor of the founding of the Institute of Fine Arts
1808-1821	Reign of Ferdinand VII
1821-1822	The Mexican Empire
1823-1847	Central American Federation
1859-1865	Coinage of Carrera
1866-1871	Carrera Fundador coinage
1869-1871	First decimal coinage attempted
1872	Decimal coins unpopular, reales restored
1881-1884	Second decimal attempt, 25 centavos struck until 1893
1882	Second restoration of the reales
1890	Unofficial bronze patterns were struck in both 27 mm. and 37 mm. sizes by Mennig Frères of Brussels, Belgium.
1894	Countermarked Chilean and Peruvian dollars
1900-1912	Reales coined in nickel
1915-1922	Provisional coinage
1920-1924	Monetary value of the peso collapsed
1924	Currency reforms: 100 centavos equals 1 Quetzal
1925	New coins struck under the Quetzal system. One Quetzal coins struck but discontinued because of production costs.
1926	Gold coins struck, then discontinued.
1926	Central Bank of Guatemala established
1926	Last commemorative medal struck in honor of the founding of the Central Bank.
1946	Bank of Guatemala established. Controls the mint issues.

The Coins of Guatemala, 1733-1963

Up until 1733 there was no such thing as the Guatemalan mint. Until that time Guatemalan tokens (town, hacienda or plantation, and merchant), coins from the other Spanish colonies, and barter were the only mediums of exchange in Central America. On January 17, 1731, King Philip V ordered the Guatemalan mint created. However, no coins were struck until 1733.

The Colonial Mints

Since New Spain was so widespread, one may correctly conclude that there were several mints. In order to identify the coinage of the different colonies, it is necessary to know the different mint marks.

CUM.....	Cuzco, Viceroyalty of Peru
ME, LM.....	Lima, Viceroyalty of Peru
S.....	Santiago (Chile), Viceroyalty of Peru
PT (Superimposed PTS).....	Potosi (Bolivia), Viceroyalty of Peru
NR.....	Nuevo Reino (Colombia), Viceroyalty of New Granada
P.....	Popayan (Colombia), Viceroyalty of New Granada
G, NG.....	Ciudad Guatemala (Guatemala), Viceroyalty of New Spain
M.....	Ciudad Mexico (Mexico), Viceroyalty of New Spain
G ^A	Guadalajara (Mexico), Viceroyalty of New Spain
G ^O	Guanajuato (Mexico), Viceroyalty of New Spain

There were, in addition, quite a few mints in Spain (Madrid, Valencia, among others), each with its identifying mint mark.

Pillar Type Coinage

The pillar type coins take their name from the Pillars of Hercules, flanking the two hemispheres on the reverse of these coins. They were struck during the reigns of Philip V, Ferdinand VI, and Charles III, beginning in 1733. The pillar coinage may be divided into two main types:

1. The cob type. This type takes its name from the Spanish phrase: "cabo de barra," cut end of a bar. In minting, the metal was cut from a bar, heated, and stamped with the arms of Spain. Many times the hammer would bounce, causing a double or triple striking.
2. The round type. This was struck in a perfect circle by machinery. The edges were milled by tremendous hydraulic pressure to discourage filing silver from the edges.

On all pillar types the name of the ruler appears at the left of the shield on the obverse.

Philip V, 1700-47
(cob type)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1733-44).....	\$8
1 real.....	(1733-46).....	\$5
2 reales.....	(1733-46).....	\$7
4 reales.....	(1734-46).....	\$50
8 reales.....	(1733-46).....	\$40



cob type 8 reales of Philip V

Colonial Coins--Pillar Type

Ferdinand VI, 1747-59 (cob type)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1747-53).....	\$5
1 real.....	(1747-53).....	\$5
2 reales.....	(1747-53).....	\$7
4 reales.....	(1747-53).....	\$35
8 reales.....	(1747-53).....	\$40

(round type)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1754-60).....	\$10
1 real.....	(1754-60).....	\$25
2 reales.....	(1755-59).....	\$35
4 reales.....	(1754-60).....	\$75
8 reales.....	(1754-60).....	\$100

Note: Ferdinand VI died in 1759, but news didn't reach Guatemala until early 1760, which accounts for the Ferdinand VI coins of 1760.

Both Ferdinand VI and Charles III issued proclamation pieces on their coronations. These are listed under their own heading on pages 10, 11, and 12.



round type 8 reales of Charles III

Charles III, 1759-88 (round type)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1760-72).....	\$3.50
1 real.....	(1760-72).....	\$5
2 reales.....	(1762-69).....	\$10
4 reales.....	(1761-71).....	\$30
8 reales.....	(1760-71).....	\$20

Bust Type Coins

In 1772 Charles III ordered production of the pillar type coinage to cease and coinage of the bust type to begin. Some collectors prefer to call this type "Pillars" because of the pillars flanking the arms. All bust types were struck in the round type.



Charles III, 1759-88

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1772-89).....	\$2
1 real.....	(1772-87).....	\$3
2 reales.....	(1772-87).....	\$5
4 reales.....	(1772-87).....	\$25
8 reales.....	(1772-89) (illus.)	\$15

Note: Charles III died in 1788, but, once again, the news was a year late.

Charles IV, 1788-1808



(Portrait of Charles III, 1789-90)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1789-90).....	\$5
1 real.....	(1789-90).....	\$5
2 reales.....	(1789-90).....	\$10
4 reales.....	(1789-90).....	\$35
8 reales.....	(1789-90) (illus.)	\$25

Colonial Coins--Bust Type



(Bust of Chas. IV. Legend: CAROLVS IIII)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1790-1807).....	\$1
1 real.....	(1790-1808).....	\$1.50
2 reales.....	(1790-1807).....	\$1.50
4 reales.....	(1790-1807).....	\$10
8 reales.....	(1791-1808) (illus.)	\$10

In 1793 a new denomination appeared in Guatemala, the $\frac{1}{4}$ real. The obverse showed the castle of the Spanish province of Castile, and the reverse showed the lion of the province of Leon.



$\frac{1}{4}$ real.....	(1793-1808).....	\$5
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Ferdinand VII, 1808-33
(Rule in Guatemala, 1808-21)



(Bust of Charles IV)

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1808-10).....	\$10
1 real.....	(1808-10).....	\$15
2 reales.....	(1808-10).....	\$25
4 reales.....	(1809-10).....	\$50
8 reales.....	(1808-10) (illus.)	\$45



(Bust of Ferdinand VII)

$\frac{1}{4}$ real (lion and castle)	(1808-22)...	\$5
$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	(1808-22).....	\$1.50
1 real.....	(1811-21).....	\$2.50
2 reales.....	(1812-21).....	\$2
4 reales.....	(1811-21).....	\$10
8 reales.....	(1811-22) (illus.)	\$12.50

Proclamation Pieces

Central Government

Ferdinand VI, 1747-59



Coronation year--1747

P1 1 real.....	_____
P2 2 reales.....	_____
P3 4 reales.....	(illustrated).....\$35

Charles III, 1759-88



Coronation year--1760

P4 $\frac{1}{2}$ real.....	\$15
P5 1 real.....	\$15
P6 4 reales (26.5mm. illustrated)	\$30
P7 4 reales (33mm.).....	_____

Colonial Coins--Proclamation Pieces

Charles IV, 1788-1808



Coronation year--1788

P8	1 real	\$15
P9	2 reales	\$15
P10	4 reales (illustrated)....	\$25

Ferdinand VII, 1808-21



Coronation year--1808

P11	1 real.....	_____
P12	2 reales (Legend: REYNA).....	\$15
P13	2 reales (Legend: REINA) (illustrated).....	\$12.50



Coronation year--1808

In 1808 there was a silver 16 reales (illustrated above), and a gold 16 escudos struck to commemorate the coronation of Ferdinand.

The 16 reales is rare, while the only known 16 escudos is in Santiago, Chile.

P14	16 reales.....	RARE
P15	16 escudos.....	UNIQUE



New Spanish Constitution--1812

P16	2 reales.....	\$15
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Proclamation Pieces of the Districts

Chiapas

Coronation year--1789 (Charles IV)

P17	1 real.....	_____
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Coronation year--1808 (Ferdinand VII)

P18	1 real	_____
P19	2 reales	_____

Leon de Nicaragua

Coronation year--1808



P20	1 real	\$10
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Quezaltenango

Coronation year--1808



P21	1 real..... (illustrated).....	_____
P22	2 reales.....	_____

Annexation to Mexico --1822
(For details, see the section on the Mexican Empire).



P23	1 real (illus., silver Iturbide).....	_____
P24	1 real (gold Iturbide).....	VERY RARE

Colonial Coins—Proclamation Pieces of the Districts

San Salvador

Coronation year—1808 (Ferdinand VII)
P25 1 real
P26 2 reales

Santa Ana

Coronation year—1808 (Ferdinand VII)



P27 1 real(illustrated).....\$10

Truxillo

Coronation year—1808



P28 2 reales(illustrated)....\$7.50

Gold Coins

Philip V, 1700-47

None issued.

Ferdinand VI, 1747-60



1 escudo(1751, 1757)..... \$75
8 escudos.....(1750-57)

(illustrated)..... \$175

Note: In the Spanish monetary system it took 16 reales to equal 1 escudo. The most popular name for the 8 escudos was "doubloon."

Charles III, 1759-88



2 escudos.....(1783,1785)..... \$50
4 escudos.....(1778-83)..... \$300
8 escudos.....(1761-68) no assayer initial (illustrated) \$400
8 escudos(1777-87) assayer initials..... \$200

Charles IV, 1788-1808

(Bust of Charles III)

1 escudo.....(1789-90)..... \$100
4 escudos.....(1789)..... \$400
8 escudos.....(1789-90)..... \$200



(Bust of Charles IV)

1 escudo.....(1794, 1797)..... \$75
2 escudos.....(1794)..... \$100
4 escudos...(1794, 1797, 1801).... \$150
8 escudos...(1794, 1797, 1801)
(illustrated)..... \$275

Ferdinand VII, 1808-21



1 escudo.....(1817)..... \$50
2 escudos.....(1817)..... \$50
4 escudos.....(1813, 1817).... \$350
8 escudos (1811, 1817) (illustrated)\$150

The Mexican Empire

In 1821 the Central American states declared independence. The Spaniards could not send soldiers, as they were trying to hold their more important colonies. The Spanish withdrew from Mexico in the summer of 1821, and the Mexicans set up an imperial government with General Augustine Iturbide as emperor. Shortly afterwards, Guatemala was annexed by Mexico, soon to be followed by El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In 1823 Iturbide was deposed and exiled to Europe. Soon after, the Central American states seceded from the Mexican Empire. In 1824 Iturbide, in another bid for power, returned to Mexico, and was executed in the town of Padilla, in the state of Tamaulipas.

Although the coins of the Mexican central government were struck in many places, they all bear the M mint mark of Mexico.

Proclamation Piece Commemorating Guatemalan Annexation



P29 1 real.....(1822).....\$12.50



8 reales (1822) long neck, upright eagle\$50

Regular Issues

$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....(1822-23).....\$7
1 real.....(1822-23).....\$15
2 reales.....(1822-23).....\$25



8 reales (1822) small head, upright eagle.....\$50



8 reales (1822-23) short neck and curved eagle.....\$45

Mexican Gold



8 escudos (1822) bust and eagle.\$250



4 escudos (1823) bust and coat of arms.....\$500
8 escudos (1823) same, (illus.).. \$350

Central America
The Federal Republic, 1823-1847

In 1823 when the Central American states seceded from Mexico, they formed a federal republic. The main mint was in Guatemala, the strongest state. In the 1830's the states began to quarrel among themselves, and in 1839 Guatemala began to act independently of the central government. The federation collapsed, and by the end of 1847, ceased to exist. In 1847 Guatemala declared itself a republic and started the formation of its own government, which became a reality with the adoption of its republican constitution in 1851.

There were four mints operating in Central America during the period of the Federal Republic.

N G.....Ciudad Guatemala, Guatemala
C R.....San Jose, Costa Rica

N R.....Managua, Nicaragua
T.....Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Guatemalan Coinage Issued During the Period of the Federal Republic

Trial by Jury



8 reales.....(1824-46)..... \$14



1/4 real.....(1824-25).....\$2.50
1/2 real.....(1824, 1846)..... \$10
1 real.....(1824, 1828)..... \$8
8 reales (1847) (illustrated).... \$15

The coin below commemorates the establishment of trial by jury. A rough translation of the legends: EL PUEBLO JUEZ--The Town Judge; IUCIO POR JURADOS--Judgment by Jury.



2 reales.....(1837).....__



1 real.....(1829)..... __
This is more crudely struck than the regular issues. It was a provisional issue of one of the revolutions of the period.

Central American Gold



1/2 escudo.....(1824-43)..... \$20
1 escudo.....(1824-25)..... \$25
2 escudos.....(1825-46)..... \$35
4 escudos.....(1824-25)..... \$1000
8 escudos.....(1824-25) (illustrated)..... \$1500

The Republic of Guatemala
1847 to Quetzal Coinage, 1924

The first two types struck by the Republic of Guatemala were commemorative.



The founding of the Republic--1847

1 real.....\$10



The Guatemalan Constitution--1851

1 real.....\$5.50

This coin was the last Guatemalan commemorative.

Regular Issues

On April 26, 1853 President Rafael Carrera issued a decree making the system of 8 reales equal to 1 peso the national currency. No coins were struck, however, until 1854.



8 reales(1854).....

This is the last 8 reales coin struck by Guatemala. The bust is of Columbus.

The next coins bore the portrait of President Rafael Carrera and the legend RAFAEL CARRERA P^a DE LA R^a DE GUATEMALA, which means "Rafael Carrera, President of the Republic of Guatemala." Many coins of each denomination of this type were, until 1862, countermarked with an "R" in a circle. Prober, along with other authorities, thinks that this countermark is the result of a war between Guatemala and El Salvador (1860-63), and that the "R" countermark converted the Guatemalan coins into legal Salvadoran coinage.



1/2 real.....(1859-65).....50¢-up
1 real.....(1859-65).....75¢-up
2 reales.....(1859-65).....\$1.00-up
4 reales.....(1859-65).....\$2.00-up
1 peso (1859-65) (illus.)...\$10.00-up



1/2 real.....(1860-69).....50¢-up

Carrera died in 1865, and the government was taken over by General Vicente Cerna, who ordered the legend on the coins changed to R. CARRERA FUNDADOR DE LA R^a DE GUATEMALA, which means "R. Carrera Founder of the Republic of Guatemala."



1/2 real.....(1867-69).....50¢-up
1 real.....(1866-69).....65¢-up
2 reales.....(1866-70).....75¢-up
4 reales.....(1867-68).....\$1.00-up
1 peso (1866-71) (illus.)...\$5.00-up

The Republic of Guatemala
1847 to Quetzal Coinage, 1924

Decimal Coinage

From 1869 to 1871 there was a brief attempt to reform the coinage from the complicated real to the simple decimal system. This proved unpopular with the people, who distrusted the decimal coins and took them only at discount. After three years, the government restored the reales.

Copper



1 centavo.....(1871).....\$1-up

Silver



25 centavos.....(1869-70).....\$1-up
This is another "Carrera Fundador" coin.



50 centavos.....(1870).....\$1-up

Reales, .900 Fine



1 real (1872-78) no mint mark...50¢-up
1 real (1878) (illustrated)
large G mint mark.....50¢-up



1 real.....(1872-79).....50¢-up
1 real.....(1872-78).....50¢-up
2 reales (1872-73, 1879)(illus.)75¢-up



1 peso, 1872-79



U. S. Trade Dollar, 1873-75

(By way of comparison, I have illustrated a U. S. oriental trade dollar under the peso. An interesting similitude.)

4 reales...(1872, 1878, 1879)....\$1-up
1 peso.....(1872-73, 1878-79)....\$5-up

.835 Fine

1/4 real.....(1879-86).....25¢-up
1/2 real.....(1879-81).....25¢-up
1 real.....(1879).....50¢-up
2 reales.....(1881).....75¢-up

Decimal Coinage

Here we have a second attempt at decimal coinage (1881). It again proved unpopular, and the reales were restored. Twenty-five centavos, however, were coined until 1893.

Copper



1 centavo.....(1881, 1884).....\$1-up

The Republic of Guatemala
1847 to Quetzal Coinage, 1924

Silver



5 centavos.....(1881).....\$1.50-up
10 centavos...(1881) (illus.)...\$2-up
25 centavos.....(1881-82).....\$3-up



25 centavos.....(1885-93).....50¢-up

Reales, .835 Fine



1/4 real.....(1887-95).....25¢-up



1/4 real.....(1890-91).....25¢-up



1/4 real.....(1894-99).....25¢-up



Assayer initials under wreath on all three listed below:

1/2 real.....(1889-93).....25¢-up
1 real.....(1883-93).....50¢-up
2 reales.....(1889).....75¢-up

No assayer initials on coins below:

1/2 real.....(1894-99).....50¢-up
1 real.....(1894-1900).....50¢-up
2 reales (1894-1900) (illus.)..50¢-up

.900 Fine



4 reales.....(1892-93).....\$1-up
There are two varieties of the above coin, large wreath, and small (illustrated.)



4 reales.....(1894-95).....\$2-up



1 peso.....(1882-89).....\$5-up



1 peso.....(1894-97).....\$5-up

Note: During the 1890's there was a coin shortage, because the Guatemalan mint was unable to meet demands on it. From 1894 through 1901 orders were submitted to the Heaton Mint in Birmingham, England for coins of all types except gold. All coins minted by Heaton bear the initial "H" under the wreath.

The Republic of Guatemala
1847 to Quetzal Coinage, 1924

Countermarked Coins

On July 10, 1894 an application was filed with the Guatemalan government for permission to countermark the silver coins of Chile and Peru, which saw more circulation in Guatemala than the domestic coinage. This application was approved with one alteration. Only the pesos of Chile and the soles of Peru were to be countermarked. The minor coins of the two countries were to be called in by the government. The coins were stamped with a $\frac{1}{2}$ real die of 1894.



1 peso, on Peruvian sol (1894)...\$3.50
1 peso, on Chilean peso (1894).....\$6

Nickel



$\frac{1}{2}$ real.....(1900-01).....25¢-up
 $\frac{1}{2}$ real.....(1900-01).....25¢-up
1 real.....(1900-12).....50¢-up

This is the last coinage of the real system.

Now we are approaching a period of revolution and inflation. The peso collapsed as a useful monetary unit, and, with fighting and coin shortages, there was a need for coinage of some sort.

This accounts for the Provisional issues, which are described on the next page.

Gold

Legend: RAFAEL CARRERA P^E DE LA R^A DE GUATEMALA, denomination in wreath.

4 reales.....(1860-64).....\$10
1 peso.....(1859-60).....\$10
2 pesos.....(1859).....\$20
4 pesos.....(1861-62).....\$75
8 pesos.....(1864).....\$200
16 pesos.....(1863-65).....\$1500

Legend: R. CARRERA FUNDADOR DE LA REP. DE GUATEMALA, denomination in wreath.

4 pesos.....(1868-69).....\$50
8 pesos.....(1868).....\$100
16 pesos.....(1869).....\$150

Legend: R. CARRERA FUNDADOR DE LA R^A DE GUATEMALA, shield on reverse.

5 pesos.....(1869).....\$25
10 pesos.....(1869).....\$50
20 pesos.....(1869).....\$200



5 pesos.....(1872-78).....\$50
20 pesos.....(1877-78).....\$1000



5 pesos.....(1894).....\$75
10 pesos.....(1894).....\$100

The Republic of Guatemala
1847 to Quetzal Coinage, 1924

Provisional Coinage, 1915-23

This series can be compared with Mexico's revolutionary coinage. On the assassination of President Barrios in 1898, a dictator, Manuel Estrada Cabrera, came to power. Estrada Cabrera ruled with an iron hand, and, as a result, was hated by the people. In 1915, having attempted several disorganized and unsuccessful revolts, they rose up as a body, and after several attempts, finally succeeded in 1920 in driving Estrada Cabrera from power. He died in exile in 1924.

These coins of the provisional period were issued to make up for the coin shortage of the revolutionary years. The central government coinage continued in circulation, when available, during this period.

Aluminum Bronze



12½ centavos.....(1915).....\$1.25
25 centavos.....(1915).....\$1.50



50 centavos.....(1922).....75¢



1 peso.....(1922-23).....75¢

Porcelain



2 pesos.....(1920)..... —

Aluminum Bronze



5 pesos.....(1923).....\$1.25

One silver 5 pesos of the same design as the copper is known to have existed in the collection of King Farouk of Egypt. The collection was sold in 1952, when Farouk was overthrown, and the fate of the coin is uncertain.

The Republic of Guatemala, 1924-

On November 26, 1924 a decree was issued causing a terrific monetary reform. First, the basic unit of the new coinage was made the Quetzal (named for the national bird, and represented by Q), and its value set at 100 centavos (c) to the Quetzal. Second, gold coins were valued at $\text{Q}5$, $\text{Q}10$, and $\text{Q}20$; silver was valued at $\text{Q}1$, $\text{Q}2$, and $\text{Q}5$. (Later in 1924, by an additional decree, $\text{Q}1$, $\text{Q}2$, $\text{Q}5$, and $\text{Q}10$ were instituted.) Third in the decree, the composition of gold coins was set at .900 gold, .100 copper. The composition of silver was set at .720 silver, .280 copper.

Half Centavo Type I



Weight 1.5 grams 16 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1932.....	(3,000,000)	.....	25¢
1933.....	(3,000,000)	.....	25¢
1946.....	(640,000)	.....	40¢

One Centavo Type I



Weight 3 grams 20.1 mm.
Pure copper (1000 Fine)

1925.....	(357,000)		50¢
-----------	-----------	-------	-----

Type II (Photo same as Type I)

Weight 3 grams 20.1 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1929.....	(500,000)	.....	40¢
1932.....	(3,000,000)	.....	25¢
1933.....	(1,500,000)	.....	30¢
1934.....	(1,000,000)	.....	35¢
1936.....	(500,000)	.....	40¢
1937.....	(1,000,000)	.....	35¢
1938.....	(1,000,000)	.....	35¢
1939.....	(1,500,000)	.....	30¢
1946.....	(539,000)	.....	40¢
1947.....	(1,121,000)	.....	35¢
1948.....	(1,620,000)	.....	30¢

Type III



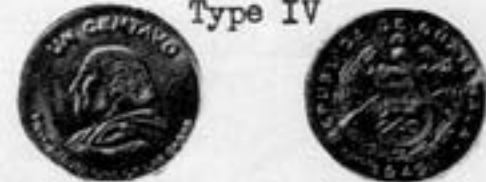
Weight 3 grams 21 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1943.....	(450,000)	.....	50¢
1944.....	(2,050,000)	.....	35¢

This coin attempted a drastic change in the national emblem of Guatemala. The original emblem showed a profile of the quetzal, standing on a scroll, surrounded by laurel leaves, with crossed swords and rifles. The new emblem showed the quetzal in a spread-eagle design, with its long tail curved almost all the way around the coin. The change caused a mass protest, and after two years of issue, the emblem on the coins was changed back to the original.

It is interesting to note that the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia struck the one and two centavos in 1943, and the San Francisco Mint, in 1944. There are no distinguishing marks on these coins.

Type IV



Weight 3 grams 21 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1949.....	(2,113,047)	.....	20¢
1950.....	(3,663,427)	.....	15¢
1951.....	(3,586,436)	.....	15¢
1952.....	(1,445,180)	.....	25¢
1953.....	(2,214,478)	.....	20¢

The Republic of Guatemala, 1924-

(One Centavo) Type V



Weight 3 grams 21 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1954.....	(1,454,000)	.....	25¢
1955.....	(3,400,974)	.....	15¢
1956.....	(3,300,000)	.....	15¢
1957.....	(3,900,000)	.....	10¢

Type VI



Weight 3 grams 21 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1958.....	(3,000,000)	.....	15¢
1959.....	(2,001,000)	.....	20¢
1960.....	(3,100,000)	.....	15¢
1961.....	(3,000,000)	.....	15¢
1962.....	(1,900,000)	.....	25¢
1963.....		.....	10¢

Types IV, V, and VI show the portrait of Fray Bartolome' de las Casas, a Spanish priest who fought against the cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards. Casas was in Mexico with Cortés, and in Peru with Pizarro, and finally settled in Guatemala.

Two Centavos Type I



Weight 6 grams 27 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1932.....	(3,000,000)		35¢
-----------	-------------	-------	-----

Type II



Weight 6 grams 27 mm.
.700 copper .300 zinc

1943.....	(150,000)	.....	75¢
1944.....	(1,100,000)	.....	60¢
1945.....	(1,100,000)	.....	60¢

See note under 1¢, Type III.

Five Centavos Type I



Weight 1.6 grams 15.5 mm.
.720 silver .280 zinc

1925.....	(1,103,700)	.....	30¢
1928.....	(1,000,000)	.....	30¢
1929.....	(1,000,000)	.....	30¢
1932.....	(2,000,000)	.....	25¢
1933.....	(300,000)	.....	50¢
1934.....	(1,500,000)	.....	25¢
1937.....	(400,000)	.....	50¢
1938.....	(300,000)	.....	50¢
1943.....	(900,000)	.....	30¢
1944.....	(1,026,000)	.....	30¢
1945.....	(1,306,000)	.....	30¢
1946.....	(1,714,000)	.....	25¢
1947.....	(1,834,000)	.....	25¢
1948.....	(1,102,661)	.....	30¢
1949.....	(included below)	.....	50¢

Type II



Weight 1.6 grams 16 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1949.....	(809,250, I and II)	.....	50¢
1950.....	(253,422)	.....	75¢
1951.....	(1,031,500)	.....	30¢
1952.....	(912,926)	.....	35¢

The Republic of Guatemala, 1924-

(Five Centavos) (Type II)

1953.....	(446,514).....	50¢
1954.....	(519,952).....	45¢
1956.....	(130,072).....	\$1
1957.....	(2,869,197).....	25¢
1958.....	(1,829,332).....	30¢
1959.....	(706,000).....	45¢

Type III



Weight 1.6 grams 16 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1960.....	(2,394,000).....	25¢
1961.....	(919,908).....	35¢
1962.....	(460,000).....	50¢
1963.....		10¢

Ten Centavos Type I



Weight 3.3 grams 20.5 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1925.....	(572,600).....	65¢
1928.....	(500,000).....	75¢
1929.....	(500,000).....	75¢
1932.....	(500,000).....	75¢
1933.....	(500,000).....	75¢
1934.....	(450,000).....	85¢
1937.....	(200,000).....	\$1.25
1938.....	(150,000).....	\$1.65
1943.....	(600,000).....	50¢
1944.....	(155,000).....	\$1.45
1945.....	(935,000).....	25¢
1946.....	(564,000).....	50¢
1947.....	(471,000).....	85¢
1948.....	(324,376).....	\$1

Type II



Weight 3.3 grams 21 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

(Ten Centavos) (Type II)

1949.....	(425,005).....	85¢
1950.....	(550,341).....	65¢
1951.....	(222,964).....	\$1.15
1952.....	(307,139).....	\$1
1953.....	(388,196).....	\$1
1954.....	(615,715).....	50¢
1955.....	(896,105).....	35¢
1956.....	(501,495).....	75¢
1957.....	(1,227,500).....	15¢
1958.....	(1,149,026).....	15¢
1959.....	(253,000).....	\$1.15

Type III



Weight 3.3 grams 21 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1960.....	(1,437,000).....	15¢
1961.....	(459,954).....	65¢
1962.....	(230,000).....	\$1
1963.....		15¢

Quarter Quetzal Type I

Lettered edge: REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA
AMERICA CENTRAL



Weight 8.333 grams 27 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1925.....	(1,160,000).....	75¢
1926.....	(2,000,000).....	75¢
1928.....	(400,000).....	\$1.25
1929.....	(400,000).....	\$1.25

Type II

Milled edge. Photo same as Type I.

1946.....	(188,800).....	\$2
1947.....	(134,000).....	\$2.25
1948.....	(129,200).....	\$2.35
1949.....	(25,020).....	\$5

The Republic of Guatemala, 1924-

Twenty-five Centavos Type I



Weight 8.333 grams 25 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1943.....	(900,000).....	\$3
1944.....	(900,000).....	\$3
1945.....	(14,000).....	\$5
1946.....	(included with 1945)*.....	\$2
1947.....	(included with 1946)*.....	\$2.25
1948.....	(64,613).....	\$3.50
1949.....	(24,994).....	\$5

* In the report from the Bank of Guatemala there was no break-down between the 25¢ of 1946 and 1947 and the 1947 of 1946 and 1947.

Type II



Weight 8.333 grams 27 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1950.....	(79,488).....	\$1.75
1951.....	(12,494).....	\$5
1952.....	(112,337).....	\$1.50
1954.....	(246,000).....	\$1.35
1955.....	(191,209).....	\$1.50
1956.....	(325,651).....	\$1.25
1957.....	(491,000).....	\$1.15
1958.....	(365,961).....	\$1.35
1959.....	(151,200).....	\$1.50

Type III



Weight 8.333 grams 27 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

(Twenty-five Centavos) (Type III)

1960.....	(544,400).....	\$1
1961.....	(202,750).....	\$1.25
1962.....	(220,000).....	\$1.50
1963.....	.....	.75¢

Half Quetzal



Weight 16.666 grams 34 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1925.....	(400,000).....	\$5
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Fifty Centavos Type I



Weight 11.994 grams 31 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

1962.....	(1,231,486).....	\$1.50
1963.....	.....	\$1.25

One Quetzal Type I



Weight 33.333 grams 39 mm.
.720 silver .280 copper

The Republic of Guatemala, 1924-

(One Quetzal)
(Type I)

1925.....(10,000).....\$35

So far there is a bigger demand for this than for any other modern Guatemalan coin. Prices range from \$20.00 to \$200.00.

1925 is the only year of issue. A letter from the Banco de Guatemala explains:

"The coins of silver of one Quetzal were not struck after 1925 because of their large size, which made them inconvenient with the public for circulation, and were demonitized, according to the Decree of the Legislative Assembly No. 1824, of the fourth of May of 1932."

Paper Q1 are now in circulation.

Guatemalan Coins Struck at Foreign Mints

In 1917 a terrific earthquake almost totally destroyed the city of Guatemala. Because of this, in the years following, many coins were struck in foreign mints. There were no identifying marks on these coins.

Royal Mint, London

5 centavos - 1928, 1929, 1932, 1933,
1934, 1938, and 1943

10 centavos - 1928, 1929, 1932, 1933,
1934, 1937, 1938, and
1943

$\frac{1}{4}$ Quetzal - 1926, 1928, 1929

5 centavos - 1943
10 centavos - 1943
 $\frac{1}{4}$ Quetzal - 1925
25 centavos - 1943
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Quetzal - 1925
1 Quetzal - 1925
5 Quetzales - 1926
10 Quetzales - 1926
20 Quetzales - 1926

United States Mint, Philadelphia

1 centavo - 1943
2 centavos - 1943

United States Mint, San Francisco

1 centavo - 1944
2 centavos - 1944

The Republic of Guatemala, 1924-

Gold Coins

All modern Guatemalan gold coins are .900 fine gold, and .100 fine copper. Since the exchange is Q1 to \$1 American, the gold exchange is about the same thing. The Q5 is about the size of the American gold Half-Eagle (\$5.00), the Q10, about the size of the American gold Eagle (\$10.00), and the Q20, about the same as the Double Eagle.

As established coin collectors know very well, there is a law in the United States that no gold coins dated after 1933 may be imported into the United States. However, ALL gold coins imported BEFORE May 5, 1960, may be legally held. This has no effect on Guatemalan gold, however, as none has been coined since 1926. The only three issues are listed below. Prices are for uncirculated pieces.



Five Quetzales

Weight 8.39592 grams	22 mm.
.900 gold	.100 copper
1926.....(48,000).....	\$45

Ten Quetzales

Weight 16.7185 grams	27 mm.
.900 gold	.100 copper
1926.....(18,000).....	\$50

Twenty Quetzales

Weight 33.437 grams	34 mm.
.900 gold	.100 copper
1926.....(49,000).....	\$150

Commemorative Medals

This covers the period between 1789 and 1926. The first Guatemalan medal commemorated the founding of the Academy of Fine Arts in 1789. Since then there have been medals to commemorate the founding of the Postal Administration in 1808, the Independence of 1821, military victories, cultural events, World Fairs, and even a Masonic convention in 1874. The last medal commemorated the founding of the Central Bank of Guatemala in 1926.

The medals pictured below do not present a complete list, but simply selections from the medalllic history of Guatemala. Sr. Prober lists 36 medals, but I have seen two Guatemalan medals which do not appear on his list.



The Academy of Fine Arts
1789



The Indians of Guatemala
1809



Coronation of Ferdinand VII, 1808

Struck for the "Batalion of the District of Olancho"



Independence
1821



Military Medal
1812



Masonic Medal
1874

Commemorative Medals



Central Railway
1884

The Central Railway medals were struck in silver and gold.



Pact of Union
1897



Central American
Pact of Union
1890

In honor of the re-establishment of the federation. It never occurred.



Second National Exposition
1905



Columbus statue
1894

At the time of the erection of a statue of Columbus honoring the Italians of Guatemala, a medal was also struck commemorating the event.



The Bank of Guatemala
1926

EMISIONES DE MONEDAS POR AÑOS

EMITIDAS POR EL ANTIGUO BANCO CENTRAL.

	Q. 0.005	Q.0.01	Q.0.02
1925	---	3,570.00	---
1926	---	---	---
1928	---	---	---
1929	---	5,000.00	---
1932	15,000.00	30,000.00	60,000.00
1933	15,000.00	15,000.00	---
1934	---	10,000.00	---
1936	---	5,000.00	---
1937	---	10,000.00	---
1938	---	10,000.00	---
1939	---	15,000.00	---
1943	---	4,500.00	3,000.00
1944	---	---	---
1945	---	20,500.00	22,000.00
al 30 junio 1946	270.00	940.00	---
			<u>EMITIDAS POR</u>
julio al 31/Dic.1946	50.00	4,450.00	---
1947	---	11,210.00	---
1948	---	16,290.00	---
1949	---	21,130.47	---
1950	---	36,634.27	---
1951	---	55,864.36	---
1952	---	14,451.80	---
1953	---	22,144.78	---
1954	---	14,540.00	---
1955	---	34,009.74	---
1956	---	35,000.00	---
1957	---	39,000.00	---
1958	---	30,000.00	---
1959	---	20,010.00	---
1960	---	31,000.00	---
1961	---	30,000.00	---
1962	---	19,000.00	---

BANCO DE GUATEMALA

[Signature]
JEFE SECCION DE EMISION

Q.0.05	Q.0.10	Q.0.25	Q.0.50
55,185.00	57,260.00	290,000.00	---
---	---	500,000.00	---
50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	---
50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	---
100,000.00	50,000.00	---	---
15,000.00	50,000.00	---	---
75,000.00	45,000.00	---	---
---	---	---	---
20,000.00	20,000.00	---	---
15,000.00	15,000.00	---	---
---	---	---	---
45,000.00	60,000.00	---	---
51,300.00	15,500.00	225,000.00	---
115,300.00	93,500.00	3,500.00	---
41,500.00	32,000.00	24,500.00	---
<u>EL BANCO DE GUATEMALA</u>			
44,200.00	24,400.00	22,700.00	---
91,700.00	47,100.00	33,500.00	---
52,800.00	32,400.00	32,300.00	---
42,795.55	42,538.10	6,255.00	---
22,671.10	55,034.10	19,872.75	---
51,575.00	26,296.40	3,123.50	---
45,646.30	30,713.90	28,084.25	---
22,325.70	38,819.60	---	---
25,997.60	---	61,500.00	---
88,152.70	55,309.50	47,802.25	---
79,993.75	83,301.00	81,412.75	---
143,459.85	113,429.10	122,750.00	---
91,466.65	114,902.60	91,490.25	---
35,300.00	25,300.00	50,300.00	---
119,700.00	143,700.00	136,100.00	---
40,839.90	45,995.40	50,687.50	---
60,733.45	23,000.00	51,000.00	615,743.00

On facing pages is a CHART OF DATES AND MINTAGES of the Bank of Guatemala since 1925, $\frac{1}{2}$ through 50 centavos.

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I also used the sale catalogue of the Prober-Noronha collection of the coins of Guatemala. This collection was presented by Mr. Henry Christensen on December 6, 1963.

I should like to make particular reference here to Sr. Prober's Historia Numismatica de Guatemala. Sr. Prober is undoubtedly the outstanding authority on Guatemalan coinage. His work, published originally in Portuguese, as he is himself a Brazilian, was translated into Spanish by invitation of the Bank of Guatemala and published to mark the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the establishment of the Bank. It is a scholarly work, which includes reprints of the official documents having to do with the coinage, charts showing the coinage since 1733, lists of commemorative coins and medals, tokens, and military decorations and orders of Guatemala. No one is likely to approach Sr. Prober's work in wealth of information.

It was Sr. Prober's personal collection of Guatemalan coins which formed a part of that auctioned by Mr. Henry Christensen in New Jersey in December, 1963. The prices realized for these coins are being listed and should be available from Christensen shortly.

Here I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Bank of Guatemala for its letters of information. I know I must have made a nuisance of myself with all my questions. Without its help, this project would have ended in the idea stage.

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