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#UNAN NUMISMÁTICA



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Thomas Jefferson and the establishing of the Spanish dollar as the US monetary standard by Pedro Damián Cano Borrego



Puerto Rico's Peso Coin and "Billete de Canje" by Eliseo Ramos Feliciano

Saint Eloy: Patron Saint of Numismatists by Dámaris Mercado-Martínez

Program of the UNAN Virtual School of Numismatics year 2022 - 2023

A medal currency by Jonathan Moscoso.

Medal award design for soldiers in Cuba for capturing maroon slaves (1820) by Dr. Ángel O. Navarro Zayas



Bi-monthly, online, non-indexed, free and freely distributed journal.

Editorial

Dear Readers,

I have the honor to present to you the 51st issue of the digital magazine of the American Numismatic Union, in acronym UNAN, which to celebrate this anniversary is published for the first time entirely in English. The main reason for this is its vocation to integrate the entire continent within the umbrella of this Union, thus promoting brotherhood not only with those countries that speak Spanish and Portuguese, but also with those that have English as their official or main language.

To this end, some articles from previous issues have been rescued and translated into English. This is the case of the first of them, signed by the unfortunately deceased distinguished numismatic researcher Arnaldo J Cunietti-Ferrando, and dedicated to the always exciting topic of the issues of cape bar coins, cobs or macuquinas of the first centuries of Spanish rule in America.

The second of the articles, also previously published in English and Spanish in a previous issue of the magazine, is dedicated to the important role played by the Father of the American Nation, Thomas Jefferson, in the adoption of the eight-real peso or dollar as the currency of the nascent United States of America.

From Peru, Mr. Jonathan Moscoso informs us about the curious issue of a medal that was legal tender, authorized in May 1965 by the British Royal Mint in honor of Sir Winston Churchill, a great man of the United Kingdom. No less interesting is the article signed by the eminent researcher Roberto Jovel dedicated to the origins of the 1909 Salvadoran issue of ¼ real face value.

Very important in this issue is the contribution of several distinguished Puerto Rican collaborators and researchers. The first of these, signed by Eliseo Ramos, is dedicated to the exchange bills used to replace the currency in circulation with the new pesos in the twilight of the Spanish government on the island. Damaris Mercado includes a careful and very interesting study on Saint Eloy, patron saint of numismatists, among other guilds.

There is also information on UNAN's training activities, as well as on the new members who have joined our association. The management and editorial staff of UNAN hope that this issue will be the beginning of a long series of other publications in the future using the English language for the dissemination of numismatic culture.

Best regards.

Pedro Cano



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The kechwa "MACUQUINA" voice applied to cob coins from Potosí and Lima

By Arnaldo J. Cunietti-Ferrando (Argentina)



In 1982, that is more than thirty years ago, we unveiled the key that had allowed us to elucidate the hitherto enigmatic meaning of the word "macuquina", a subject that had long fascinated prominent practitioners of South American numismatics.

Let us remember that Burzio in his Dictionary defines the macuquina as an Spanish-American silver or gold colonial coin, struck in irregular coin blanks without ribbing, with cut edges, variable thickness and modulus, and crude minting that circulated in the world

under the name of "current", in America with a lower value compared to that of the cord of the pillar and bust types, called "strong", and adds: "the origin of the word macuquina or macuquino has not been found, its etymological attribution being varied".

Burzio also points out that some authors make it derive from the Arabic "mahcuc" which means recognized, verified. In turn, José Toribio Medina notes that the word could derive from the adjective "macuco" which in Chile, Peru and Argentina, is equivalent to concealed,

cunning, with a view to deceit for one's own benefit, like those coins that displaying the characters of the legitimate involved a deception. He then adds "it would remain to be known if things did not happen in the reverse way, that is, if "macuquino" would not be a derivation of macuco"¹.

"Any vocabulary of the Quichua language corroborates this version, including that of Fray Juan Martínez, of the Order of the Hermits of San Agustín (Lima 1604), which brings catu for "fair" or "market" and catacuni for "sell in the market". In the same way, Father Diego González Holguín, S.J., in his (Ciudad de los Reyes, 1608) gives katu for "market of things to eat" and Katuni, Katacuni, for "selling or reselling small items".

For his part, Kurt Prober affirms that when the first coins were made in Guatemala, they were officially called cortadas, which we know as macuquinas, but the people

later called them macacos in a more significant way, which is equivalent to ugly or deformed. Despite their similarity to the Peruvian macuquinas, the Guatemalan pieces have a special type of their own ².

The most important attempt to clarify in a scientific and documented way the origin of the word, is due to the illustrious Argentine historian Monsignor Pablo Cabrera. In his book "Data on coinage in Córdoba and Mendoza", published in 1934, he suggests the kechwa catuquina voice as a probable antecedent of macuquina. For this, Cabrera begins his work by transcribing a paragraph from the Royal Commentaries of the Inca Garcilaso: "At that time (year of 1555), there was no use of coinage minted in the City of Los Reyes (Lima), nor was it minted in the twenty years later, it was as a fair or market that the Indians call catu"³.

"For his part, the philosopher Mossi in his Quichua-Castellano Dictionary (Sucre,

1. José T. Medina, "Monedas coloniales hispanoamericanas" Santiago de Chile, 1919, Pág. 16.

2. Kurt Prober. "Historia Numismática de Guatemala". Guatemala, 1947.

3. This paragraph quoted by Cabrera appears somewhat incongruous due to the clipping of the quote. This is the chapter in which Garcilaso describes the neighborhoods and houses of Cuzco and the complete text reads as follows: "*Following the same north-south journey, Cusipata square happens, which today is called Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes; In it are the Indian men and women who, with their miseries, did the trade of merchants in my time, bartering one thing for another; because at that time there was no use of mined currency, nor was it mined in the twenty years after: it was like a fair or market that the Indians call catu*" (Book 7 of the Royal Commentaries, chapter XI). Elsewhere and with the same meaning, we find that King Pachacutec "wanted the markets to be daily, which they call catu."

1860) consigns for this purpose the following Quichua words with their respective meanings: ccatuni or ccatucuni, "merchant of food". Now then, stopping at the suffix cuni of the last of the preceding words and pronouncing the vowel u constituting it, in the manner of the French in the words vu and du, we find an approximation to quini or also, corrupt word to quina; and for the purposes of the agglutination of the two-syllable in reference to the prefix catu, we find, in turn, the term catuquina, which we have been dealing with".

Cabrera ends his presentation by pointing out, 1) That the word catu meant fair or market place, before currency was known in Peru, and 2) that "once the cut or resealed coin was introduced, the indigenous population, whether it was out of contempt for a circulating medium like that, whether it was because they took the continent for the content, applied to such a strange currency the name of catacuna or catuquina, the latter designation that prevailed in the popular lexicon and, ultimately, in that of our collectors of yesteryear and today. Until here, Father Cabrera.

For our part, we will point out that in the work of Inca Garcilaso, published in 1609, the word catuquina does not appear, not even the most widespread word macuquina to refer to coins cut and beaten with hammer blows. Furthermore, the only specific reference to currency in all his work appears in the Warning" that precedes the First Book and reads as follows:

"...it is noteworthy that in my time, which was up to the year one thousand five hundred and sixty, not even twenty years later, there was no mint in my land. Instead of it, the Spaniards understood themselves in buying and selling, weighing silver and gold by marks and ounces, and as in Spain they said in Peru, pesos or castellanos. Each silver or gold peso reduced to good law was worth four hundred and fifty maravedis; so that when the pesos are reduced to Castilian ducats, every five pesos is six ducats. We say this because it does not cause confusion to count in this story by pesos and ducats. From the amount of the weight of silver to the weight of gold there was a great difference, as in Spain there is, plus the value was all one. By exchanging gold for silver, they gave their interest of so much for one. When exchanging gold for silver,

they gave their percentage interest. There was also interest in exchanging the tested silver for the silver they call current, which was the one to be tested."



That the word macuquina is not of Spanish origin, is corroborated by the Inca Garcilaso, the ship captain Burzio when in his *Dictionary* he points out: "the expression macuquina does not appear in the monetary documents that ordered the production of the first coins in the Mints of Mexico, Lima and Potosí, at the time of their foundations in the 16th century". In Prober's opinion, it also had no Central American origin. There is no doubt, however, that although the word is not Spanish, it has been adopted in all the dictionaries of our language to mention the Peruvian cut pieces.

Father Cabrera's reasoning when assigning it a Quichua or

Kechwa origin is correct and although the Cordovan numismatic scholar was not correct in its etymological attribution, although he was very close to achieving it. But before getting into the subject, it is essential to give some brief notions of the morphology of this widespread indigenous language, which is still spoken today by millions of people in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Argentina.

The kechwa alphabet is made up of sixteen simple letters and eleven double letters, the most important and widespread letter being K or Q. Since it did not have a script, its phonetic transcription was adopted in Latin characters, so both letters have equal value and the

words are usually used. be written, according to the authors with k or q.

In this language, the specific article (the, etc.: el, la, los, las, etc.) is not known, but it is included in the expression of the word. The indefinite article is made up of the word UJ (one: un, uno, una) that adding the ending KUNA (quna) gives us the plural. Thus, for example, RUNA means man; UJ RUNAKUNA, some men; HUAINA is young; HUAINA KUNA, the youth; SACHA, tree; SACHAKUNA, the trees.

Let's apply this to the numismatic field and we'll see how the picture becomes much clearer. We will start from a key word: MAKKA which means *to hit, to beat, to punish, etc.*, and it corresponds to the verb MAKKAY: *hit, hurt, damage, punish, etc.* There are many kechwa words that recognize this initial voice, always related to hitting. Serve as an example as derived from it, the word MAKKANA: *mace or club to hit that was used with both hands.*

Well then, let's go back to remember that we are studying a type of imperfect coin, cut and whose manufacture was done with irregular blows of hammers.

We are now at the moment of the appearance of these new pieces of exchange between the natives that, as the Inca Garcilaso points out, were not known in the Inca commercial system. It was logical that apart from its official Spanish name, the new currency would receive some autochthonous and characteristic name that would define it. Thus, to name these pieces minted with hammer blows, the word MAKKAKUNA arose, that is, those struck, and with greater idiomatic expressiveness in translation, *coins made by blows.*

This Peruvian language, the language of the Incas, which many describe as harmonious and beautiful, suffered corruptions and distortions in its contacts with the language of the conquerors, which made it easily derive from *macaquina to macuquina*. Take into account here the validity of what was expressed by Father Cabrera regarding the pronouncement of the U kechwa as a French guttural l.

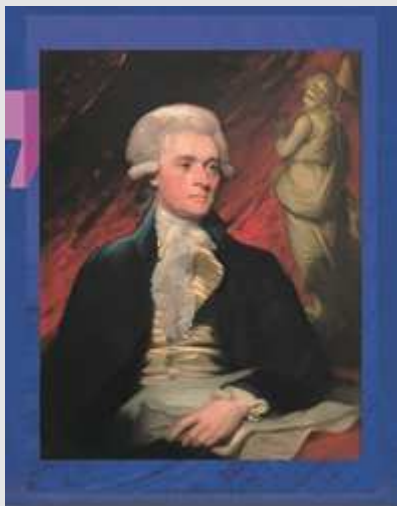
The recognition of this popular word from macuquina only appeared in official Spanish documents from the beginning of the 18th century, by then

already in common and widespread use among the people and coinciding with the increasingly defective coinage that characterized the coinage of Fernando VI and Carlos III, which are the ones that give the greatest testimony of its imperfect manufacturing technique with hammer blows.

Thomas Jefferson and the establishing of the Spanish dollar as the US monetary standard

Thomas Jefferson y el establecimiento del peso español como patrón monetario

By Pedro Damián Cano Borrego



Thomas Jefferson, por Mather Brown en 1786

No hay duda de la importancia de Thomas Jefferson en la historia de los nacientes Estados Unidos. Unánimemente considerado uno de los padres fundadores, fue el principal autor de la Declaración de Independencia de 1776 y su tercer presidente, además de un reconocido científico, diplomático y estudioso. También fue el principal

defensor del establecimiento del sistema monetario estadounidense en vigor y de la adopción del sistema métrico.

El sistema británico de medidas, incluidas las monetarias, no relacionaba matemáticamente sus unidades. A ello se unía la crónica escasez de moneda metálica en circulación, suplida como hemos visto en anteriores artículos por los reales de a ocho o peso principalmente, pero también con presencia en menor medida de otras monedas foráneas, como los Joes o Johannes portugueses de oro, los ducados de oro alemanes o los propios escudos de oro españoles.

Como también hemos visto, el problema se agravaba con el hecho de que cada una de las colonias tenía su propia moneda de cuenta y valoración de los pesos españoles, convertidos a guineas, libras y chelines. El problema de la complejidad en los cálculos desaparecía al llegar a las libras,

donde las operaciones se elevaban a la decena, por lo que abogaba por el uso del cálculo decimal para hacer frente a dicho caos monetario. Con ello buscaba, además de racionalizar los cambios, cortar los lazos con el pasado británico el nuevo país.

There is no doubt about Thomas Jefferson's importance in the history of the nascent United States. Unanimously considered one of the founding fathers, he was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence of 1776 and its third president, as well as a renowned scientist, diplomat and scholar. He was also the main advocate of the establishment of the U.S. monetary system in force and the adoption of the metric system.

The British system of measures, including monetary ones, did not mathematically link its units. This was joined with the chronic scarcity of metal currency in circulation, mainly supplemented as we have seen in previous articles by the Spanish dollar or peso, but also with a lesser presence of other foreign coins, such as the Portuguese Joes or Johannes of gold, the German gold ducats or the Spanish gold escudos.

As we have also seen, the problem was compounded by the fact that each of the colonies had its own account currency and valuation of Spanish pesos, converted to guineas, pounds and shillings. The problem of complexity in calculations disappeared when it reached the pounds, where operations rose to the ten, so he advocated the use



6400 Reis, Brasil, José I de Portugal, 1762

of decimal calculation to deal with such monetary chaos. In doing so, he sought, in addition to streamlining the changes, to cut ties with the British past of the new country.

Ya en 1776 elaboró un Informe para el Congreso sobre el valor de la moneda en los diferentes estados, que como es sabido tenían la potestad de emitir papel moneda. Asimismo, durante la guerra la situación se agravó al inundar los británicos el territorio con circulante continental falso, y abogó por la unificación monetaria. Nuevamente se manifestó contra la propuesta de Robert Morris de 1782 de la utilización como unidad monetaria de la 1.440 parte de un peso de cuño español.

Es en estas circunstancias en las que redactó su famosa obra Sobre el establecimiento de una unidad monetaria y de una acuñación para los Estados Unidos, fechada el 5 de marzo de 1784. Comenzaba su disertación con las características que a su entender debía cumplir la unidad monetaria: de tamaño conveniente para ser utilizada en las transacciones diarias, con sus fracciones y múltiplos

de fácil proporción, y que tanto la unidad como sus divisiones fuesen similares a alguna de las monedas conocidas, para que fuesen de fácil adopción para el público.

As far as 1776 he produced a Report for the Congress on the value of the currency in the different states, which as it is known had the power to issue paper currency. During the war the situation was also aggravated by flooding the British with false continental currency, and advocated monetary unification. He again spoke out against Robert Morris's 1782 proposal to use the 1,440 part of a Spanish milled dollar as a monetary unit.

It is in these circumstances that he wrote his famous On the Establishment of a Money Unit, and of a Coinage for the United States, dated March 5, 1784. He began his dissertation with the characteristics that he believed the monetary unit had to fulfil: of convenient size to be used in daily transactions, with its fractions and multiples of easy proportion, and that both the unit and its divisions were similar to some of the known currencies in circulation, so

that they were easily adopted for the public.

Para Jefferson, el real de a ocho de cuño español cumplía todos esos requisitos, a diferencia de otros sistemas, como el francés de libras, sueldos y dineros, el neerlandés con los gilden, stivers y frenings o el británico con sus libras, chelines, peniques y farthings. Con su propuesta de adopción del peso, en su opinión se deberían acuñar cuatro monedas:

1. Una pieza de oro, con valor de diez dólares.
2. La Unidad o Dólar, de plata:
3. La décima parte de un dólar, de plata también.
4. La centésima parte de un dólar, en cobre.

En cuanto a la tercera de las premisas, que la unidad, sus múltiplos y divisores coincidiesen con monedas conocidas por la población, entendía que:

1. La moneda de oro debía ser de un valor $1/5$ superior a los medios Johannes o joes, o $1/15$ superior a una doble guinea, con un valor de diez reales de a ocho.
2. La unidad, el real de a ocho, era según sus palabras una

moneda conocida y la más familiar para la población, reconocida como medida de valor tanto como las respectivas libras provinciales.

3. La décima parte sería un bit, real español o media peseta provincial o pistareen, también una moneda familiar para todos.

4. En cuanto a la moneda de cobre, debía ser similar a los cobres de los cuatro estados del Este, que equivalían a $1/108$ de dólar, al centavo de Nueva York o Carolina del Norte, con un valor de $1/96$, o al centavo o cobre de Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware y Maryland, con valor de $1/90$ de un dólar.

También defendía la utilidad de batir numerario de plata de varios módulos, con lo que las cinco monedas acuñadas en plata que proponía eran:

1. La unidad o dólar.
2. El medio dólar, o cinco décimos.
3. La décima doble, quinta parte del dólar, equivalente a la peseta provincial española.
4. El décimo, igual que el bit o real español.
5. Las cinco piezas de cobre, vigésima parte del dólar, equivalente a medio real o bit.



8 reales México 1784-Mo FF 8 reales

For Jefferson, the Spanish dollar met all those requirements, unlike other systems, such as French livre, sous and deniers, Dutch with gildens, stivers and frenings, or the British with his pounds, shillings, pennies and farthings. With his proposal for the adoption of the Spanish dollar, four coins should be minted in his view:

1. A piece of gold, worth ten dollars.
2. The Silver Unit or Dollar:
3. One-tenth of a dollar, silver as well.
4. One hundredth of a dollar, in copper.

As for the third of the premises, that unity, its multiples and dividers coincide with coins known to the population, he understood that:

1. The gold coin was to be 1/5 higher than the Johannes or joes, or 1/15 higher than a double guinea, with a value of ten dollars.
2. The unity, the dollar, was in its words a known currency and the most familiar to the population, recognized as a measure of value as much as the respective provincial pounds.
3. The tenth would be a bit, an Spanish real or half provincial peseta or pistareen, also a family currency for all.
4. With regard to the copper currency, it was to be similar to coppers from the four East States, which amounted to \$1/108, to the New York or North Carolina cent, with a value of 1/96, or to the penny or copper of Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, worth 1/90 of a dollar.

He also defended the usefulness of beating silver currency of several modules, so that the five coins minted in silver he proposed were:

1. The unit or dollar.
2. Half a dollar, or five tenths.
3. The tenth double, one-fifth of the dollar, equivalent to the Spanish provincial peseta.
4. The tenth, same as the Spanish bit or real.
5. The five pieces of copper, twenty-one part of the dollar, equivalent to half Spanish real or bit.



Billete con facial de veinte pesos españoles

Después de desaconsejar la propuesta de Morris antes mencionada, delimitaba lo que se debía entender por dólar, una moneda acuñada en diferentes momentos, con diferentes pesos y fino y, por tanto, con diferente valoración –obviamente por las devaluaciones llevadas a cabo por Carlos III-, recogiendo los ensayos de sir Isaac Newton de 1717. Por ello, si se mantenían en circulación las piezas de todas

las fechas, debería hacerse un promedio de su valor para aplicarlo a dicha unidad.

Defendía que se utilizase el fino de la moneda española para la moneda, permitiendo mantener el británico de la vajilla, y con ello evitar la fundición del circulante. En cuanto al fino de la moneda áurea, proponía el estudio de la ratio de su cambio con la plata en los países con los que se tuviese más comercio,

mostrando su preferencia por el patrón británico de una onza por libra.

Daba igualmente una serie de consejos para el Congreso, consistentes en designar personas adecuadas para que ensayaran y examinaran los pesos de cuño español de diferentes fechas de emisión en circulación y las otras monedas en circulación en los Estados, así como de la ratio oroplatea, para con ello informar al Comité de los Estados de los resultados, para ser presentados al Congreso. Tras ello, se debería preparar una Ordenanza para la emisión de moneda de oro, plata y cobre, siendo la unidad el real de a ocho español acuñado a volante, y fijando el valor con respecto a ella de las distintas monedas extranjeras en circulación.

After discouraging Morris's above-mentioned proposal, he delimited what was to be understood by dollar, a currency minted at different times, with different weights and fine and therefore with different valuation - obviously by the devaluations carried out by Charles III of Spain - collecting essays from Sir Isaac Newton of 1717.

Therefore, if the pieces of all dates were kept in circulation, an average of their value should be made to apply it to that unit.

He argued that the fine of the Spanish currency should be used for the coin, allowing the British for silver dishes to be maintained, thereby preventing the melting of the coins. As for the fine of the golden currency, he proposed the study of the ratio of his exchange with silver in the countries with which he had the most trade, showing his preference for the British value of one ounce per pound.

He also gave advises for Congress, consisting of appointing suitable persons to assay and examine the Spanish milled dollars of different issue dates in circulation and the other coins in circulation in the States, as well as the gold-silver ratio, in order to inform the Committee, to be presented to Congress. After that, an Ordinance should be prepared for the issuance of gold, silver and copper, with the unit being the real unit of the Spanish milled dollar, and setting the value with respect to it of the different foreign currencies in circulation.

Como consideraciones adicionales, y con los comentarios recibidos, se decantaba por fijar la ratio oro y plata en 15 a 1, y obviaba los ensayos de los pesos más antiguos por haber sido realizados como antes indicábamos por Isaac Newton. No le quedaba duda de la adopción de dólar como unidad, toda vez que afirma que la población ya lo había adoptado, entre la valoración de cada estado en su libra propia y la común del real de a ocho español. Y, en cuanto a la moneda menuda, entendía que, de hacer falta una moneda más pequeña, recomendaba que se hiciese.

En 1785 Jefferson presentó un plan revisado para ayudar a conciliar su propuesta con la de Morris, y ese mismo año o un año después, esta propuesta finalmente se llevó a cabo, debido al acuerdo entre las principales figuras del Congreso con el mismo. El 2 de abril de 1792 se aprobó la Coinage Act o Mint Act, estableciendo el dólar de plata como unidad del sistema y el establecimiento de una ceca, declarando expresamente que la misma sería el valor de un peso de cuño español al mismo valor al que en ese momento estaba circulando.

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As additional considerations, and with the comments received, he opted to set the gold and silver ratio at 15 to 1, and ignored the essay of the oldest Spanish dollars because they had been performed as indicated by Isaac Newton. He had no doubt about the adoption of dollars as a unit, since he claims that the population had already adopted it, in the valuation of each state in its own pound and the common of the dollar. And, as for the small currency, he understood that, if a smaller currency was needed, he recommended that it must be made.

In 1785 Jefferson presented a revised plan to help reconcile his proposal with Morris's, and that same year or a year later, this proposal was finally adopted, due to agreement between the main figures of Congress. On April 2, 1792, the Coinage Act or Mint Act was approved, establishing the silver dollar as the unit of the monetary system and establishing a mint, expressly declaring that it would be the value of a Spanish dollar at the same value to which it was circulating at the time.



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April 24 - Arturo Villagra (Argentina) - Medallística Argentina.



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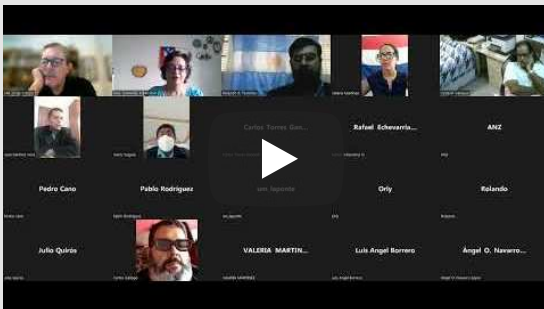
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September 25 - Jorge L. Crespo Armáiz (Puerto Rico) - Monetary and Numismatic Panorama of Puerto Rico.



October 30 - Miguel Estrella (Dominican Republic) - Santo Domingo Mint.



Fig. 4. Tokens con el sistema monetario de centavos y pesos.

November 27 - Jorge Emilio González (Cuba) - Sugar Token in Cuba.



March 26, 2022 Roberto Jovel- Site Coins in Latin America



26 March 2022 Raúl Olazar Cristaldo -History of the "El Guaraní" coin



23 April 2022 Eliseo Ramos Feliciano -The Patron Coin of Puerto Rico of 1890: A Centennial Numismatic Puzzle



May 28, 2023 Pedro Damian Cano Borrego - Projects for the Issuance of Copper Coinage for Spanish America



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A medal currency

By Lic. Jonathan Isaac Moscoso Briceño *,**
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A "British crown" is a coin minted in the United Kingdom. When England and Scotland in 1707 were unified, in what is now known as the United Kingdom, their currencies, the English crown and the Scottish dollar, were merged into a new currency called the "**British crown**"(1).

The Royal Mint in May 1965 authorized the issuance of a sterling currency series in 16 denominations. One of which was the "**British Crown**" coin in honor of Sir Winston Churchill who died on January 24, 1965.



Obverse:

Queen Elizabeth II in profile, year of issue 1965 and Latin phrase "ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA F.D. (fidei defensor)".

In the translation, the phrase proclaims: "Elizabeth II by the grace of God, queen and defender of the faith".

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** Founding member of the American Numismatic Union

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<http://winstonchurchill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/A-MEDAL-CURRENCY-Winston-Churchill-Jonathan-Moscoso.pdf>

Published in Spanish in the Revista **Eco filatelico numismatico** de España in November 2020.



Photo. Mary Gillick(2)

The youthful portrait of Her Majesty without crown(3), was made in 1952 by engraver Mary Gaskell Gillick(2), this was selected among seventeen proposals, is the first portrait that marked the coins of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mary Gillick's design did not have sufficient relief in the facial features, and the folds of the dress on the shoulder were not noticeable. The problem was solved by highlighting the punches. This chiseling work was done by Cecil Thomas, an experienced medalist, who had initially been rejected for British currency in place of Mary Gillick(10).

Characteristics: **"Medal currency"**

Year: 1965 Face value: absent.

Assigned value: 5 shillings / 25 pence Composition: Copper and Nickel (75% Cu and 25% Ni)

Weight: 28,28 g

Diameter: 38.7 mm

Thickness: 3 mm Orientation: Medal Alignment † †

KM # 910

En # 4144



Reverse:

Portrait of Sir Winston Churchill. Taken from the bronze statue by his favorite sculptor, Oscar Nemon(4).

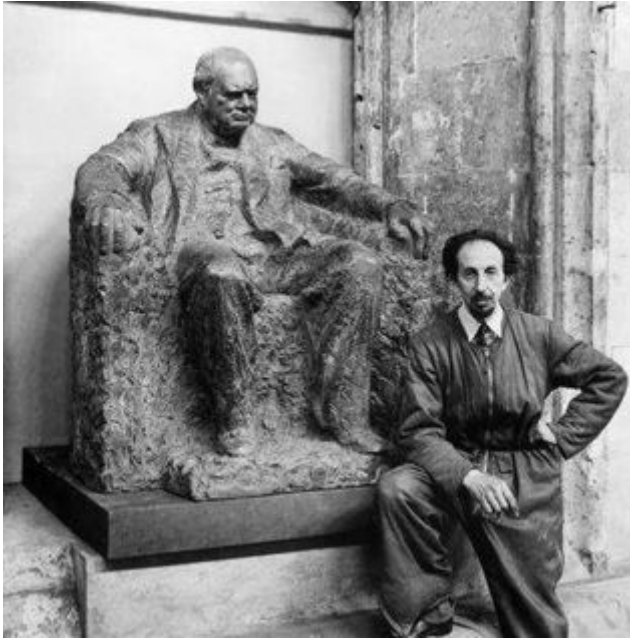
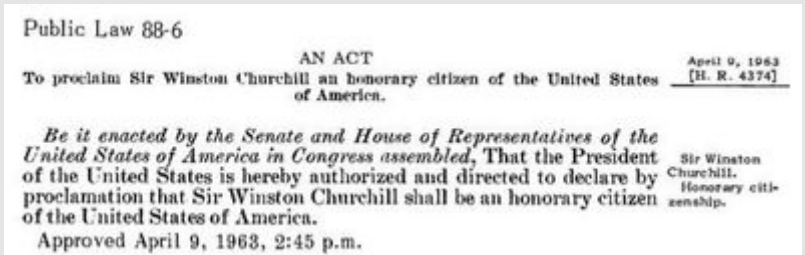


Photo. Oscar Nemon(4)

Sir Winston Churchill was considered the greatest prime minister in British history. He is recognized: as a **statesman**, for leading his country through the tumultuous Second World War(1); as an **army officer**, and was **prime minister of the United Kingdom** twice, rebuilding the United Kingdom in the post war period. After his political career, he was a writer and an eloquent speaker, nicknamed "The Bulldog" by the British press(5).

He was a member of the British aristocracy. For the Spencer branch he was related to the Dukes of Marlborough, born in 1874 at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, and baptized **Winston** Leonard Spencer **Churchill**. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was also a politician and served as Chancellor of the Exchequer and his mother was Jennie Jerome, an American socialite.

He was awarded the 1953 Nobel Prize in Literature and was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the United States of America(6)



With such an impressive record, it is not surprising that Queen Elizabeth II decreed a great State funeral, which lasted 4 days. Because she believed that the funeral should be proportionate to her position in history.

In early September 1965, Sir Winston's widow, Lady Spencer-Churchill, visited the London Mint in Tower Hill, to witness the minting of the first coin in tribute to her husband, without imagining that it would start a very high coinage(7).

In July 1966 the coinage was completed with a record of 19'640,000(8) pieces, this was three times more than the 1953 coinage celebrating the coronation of Her Majesty Elizabeth II.

The coinage was very high due to the high demand that it had in the United States for having been an allied country in the Second World War, in addition Winston Churchill's mother was born in the United States of America(7).

This currency was not included in the demonetization legislation when decimalization was introduced in 1971. Royal Mint has confirmed that the currency is still legal tender, having been remonetized with a value of 25 pence.

It is the first British coin to feature someone who is not a member of Her Majesty Elizabeth II's family.

It is basically the first coinage since 1902 of a "**British crown**", which does not have a face value, showing itself as an unusual coin called "**medal currency**".

The London mint assigned it the value of 5 shillings (crown), and an equivalent in decimalization to a quarter of a pound sterling (25 pence), so this "**medal currency**" met the requirements demanded by the monetary law for its circulation(9).

In the "**medal currency**", both characters Elizabeth II and Winston Churchill look in the same direction, as if it were a message from the constitutional monarchy to the British people.

On the obverse side, the feminine, graceful, classic and delicate design, on the one hand, and on the reverse side, the opposite, are details that rediscover it as an interesting piece for collectors and numismatists.

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He wrote: Secret Oaths of the Essayers, article published in the magazine UNAN N° 21 Nov 2017.

The origins of the El Salvador 1909 ¼-real coin

by J. Roberto Jovel

Background

In 1883 El Salvador passed its first fiscal law that involved the adoption of the Decimal system for its official coinage. The Central American Mint Limited (CAM) – a British enterprise under a government contract – produced the first official coinage for the country during the period 1892 through 1896. In early 1896, the government did not renew the contract of the CAM alleging that the cost of producing coins was excessive.¹

Since then, El Salvador relied on foreign facilities for the minting of circulation coins for use in its domestic markets. To meet domestic coinage demands, the Salvadorian government usually authorized private banks to mint coins abroad, and coins from neighboring Guatemala were also imported for local circulation. The demand for fractional coinage, however, remained unmet due to the non-acceptance by the population of Copper-based and low-content Silver pieces coins.²

The following are images of the coins circulating in El Salvador at the end of 1908, with an indication of where they had been minted.



Figure 1. Enlarged image (150%) of Copper-Nickel coin with 1-Cent denomination minted in 1889 at Heaton, England

1. Jovel, Roberto, *Historia numismática de El Salvador en el siglo XIX; Desde la Independencia hasta 1896*, Second Edition, Imprenta Ricaldone, San Salvador, El Salvador, 2014.

2. The latter were fractional coins with 0.835 fine Silver content, which complied with existing legal standards.



Figure 2. Enlarged image (150%) of Copper-Nickel coin with 3-Cent denomination minted in 1889 at Heaton, England



Figure 3. Enlarge image (150%) of Copper coin with 1-Cent denomination minted in 1892 at CAM, San Salvador



Figure 4. Enlarged image (150%) of .835 Silver coin with 5-Cent denomination minted in 1892 and 1893 at CAM, San Salvador



Figure 5. Enlarged image (150%) of .835 Silver coin with 10-Cent denomination minted in 1892 at CAM, San Salvador



Figure 6. Enlarged image (150%) of .835 Silver coin with 20-Cent denomination minted in 1892 at CAM, San Salvador



Figure 7. Enlarged image (150%) of 0.900 Silver coin with 50-Cent denomination minted between 1892 and 1894 at CAM, San Salvador



Figure 8. Enlarged image (150%) of 0.900 Silver coin with 1-Peso (1 Colón) denomination minted between 1892 and 1896 at CAM, San Salvador



Figure 9. Enlarged image (150%) of 0.900 Silver coin with 1-Peso (1 Colón) denomination minted between 1904 and 1908 at European mints



Figure 10. Enlarged image (150%) of 0.900 Silver coin with 1-Peso (1 Colón) denomination minted in 1904 at San Francisco 3



Figure 11. Enlarged image (150%) of 0.835 Silver, fractional coins with denomination of ½, 1 and 2 Reales, minted at Guatemala

Even though the Decimal system had been adopted nearly thirty years ago, Salvadorian citizens and private enterprises were still in fact using prices expressed in the old Spanish Colonial Real system, both in the Capital city and elsewhere in the country.

Scarcity of fractional coinage under the Fernando Figueroa Administration

When Fernando Figueroa assumed the presidency of El Salvador in 1907, he inherited a compromised fiscal position from his predecessor, was forced to acquire a foreign loan to be able to pay

3.The issues made in San Francisco show a more mature portrait of Columbus vis a vis that of European mints; different width of the shoulder, and a different relative location of the legend in the obverse of the coin.

civil servant salaries, and to increased taxes. Combined with a good agricultural crop, those measures enabled the stabilization of the Salvadorian economy by the following year. The Figueroa Administration authorized local banks to mint coins abroad in relatively ample amounts to facilitate trade, but no fractional coins were acquired for use in the local markets. As a result, the public resorted to use wax candles as a means of exchange.⁴ To find a solution, in 1908 a campaign was initiated by the government, commercial establishments and the press that prohibited the use of wax candles and fostering the use of available fractional coinage, which yielded positive results. In rural areas farm tokens were used extensively as circulation media.

In early 1909, however, popular discontent with scarcity and diversity of coinage issues surfaced again. To deflate this crisis, the San Salvador City authorities issued a local notice (*bando*) in mid-January to all its inhabitants reiterating the need to accept existing, "Sebastian Narvaez, acting mayor of San Salvador, informs all inhabitants that as of today the use of low-silver content Silver and Nikel (sic) coins is to be enforced. Government, bank and other offices shall accept them in any amount. Any individuals refusing to accept them will be fined in accordance to the law".

The *bando* referred to the utilization of the fractional Copper and Copper-Nickel coins that had been minted at Heaton and in San Salvador by the Central American Mint (CAM), in denominations of 1 and 3 Cents, which the population did not yet readily accept.

The problem, however, did not only reside in the acceptance of such coins by the local people. Those coins were also not accepted readily by the tramways that provided transit services in the Capital city of San Salvador, as will be explained later.

The San Salvador tramway system

Only partial information is available today regarding the tramway system that served the inhabitants of San Salvador at that time. However, it is well documented that a private enterprise named *Tranvías de San Salvador y Santa Tecla* ran horse-drawn street cars between the Capital City and neighboring Santa Tecla, as well as within San Salvador proper.⁶

4. Jovel, Roberto, *La Administración del general Fernando Figueroa 1907-1910*, in *Historia numismática de El Salvador en el Siglo Veinte: Del nacimiento hasta la desaparición del Colón*, pages 78 to 91, San Salvador, El Salvador, 2014.

5. *Diario Oficial*, Volume 66, San Salvador, El Salvador, 27 February 1909.

6. Morrison, Allen, *The Tramways of El Salvador*, in <http://www.tramz.com/sv/sv00.html>

The following is a map of the tramway lines run by this company within the municipal boundaries of San Salvador around 1908.

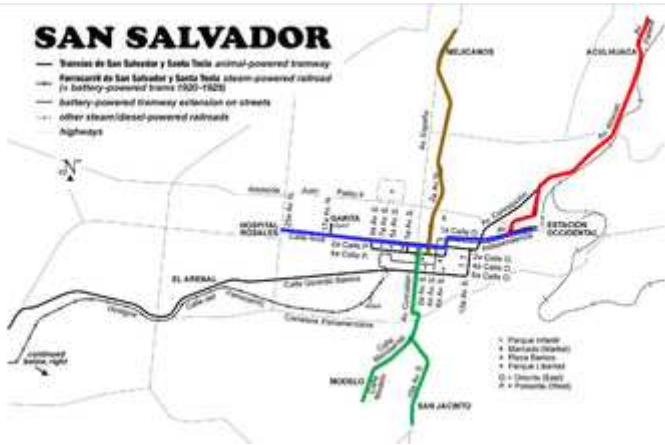


Figure 12. Map showing tramway lines serving the capital City of San Salvador

As shown in Figure 12, in addition to the line connecting San Salvador and Santa Tecla, four tramway lines served the main neighborhoods of the Capital City: a line running from Rosales Hospital to the railway Station in the East (blue line); a line from downtown to Mejicanos in the North (brown line); a line running South from downtown to the suburbs of San Jacinto and Modelo (green line); and another line connecting downtown to the Aculhuaca suburb in the Northeast (red line). The tramways used wide rail tracks laid over cobble streets, as may be seen in old post cards shown below, whereby the destination of the street cars may be noticed in both the front and back ends of the cars (Figures 13 and 14).



Figure 13. Tramway car in the line to Hospital Rosales



Figure 14. Tramway car in the line to Aculhuaca

Tramway rates and tokens, and available coinage

The normal urban tramway rate in San Salvador set by the *Tranvias de San Salvador and Santa Tecla* enterprise since 1876 was “medio Real” per person. Since 1 Real was equivalent to 12½ Cents in the Decimal system; medio Real was equivalent to 6¼ Cents.

The tramway enterprise issued tokens for the transportation in its different routes. The tokens were made of bronze and had a diameter of 20.5 millimeters and weighed 3.0 grams.

The obverse of the token had a legend in Spanish that read “*TRAMVIA*” between two stars, and the letters “*S.S. Y S.T.*” in its center; the legend in the reverse read “*VALE*” between stars, a letter “*A*”, and “*UN PASAJE*” at the bottom. The English translation of the legend in the obverse would read “San Salvador and Santa Tecla Tramway”; the translation of the legend in the reverse would read “Worth One Fare”; the letter A at the center probably denoted the route of the tramway, as there exist tokens with different letters, from A to H. 7



Figure 15. Enlarged image of tramway token

These tramway tokens had been manufactured in San Francisco, California, by the Moise enterprise, as may be seen in small letters shown in the lower part of the token obverse. This fact explains the misspelling in Spanish of the words “Tranvia” and “Pasaje” in the tokens, where the spelling resembles that of the English language (See Figure 15). The L.H. Moise company operated during the period 1893-1897 manufacturing telephone and other tokens; in 1897 it merged with the C.A. Klinkner enterprise, becoming the Moise-Klinkner Company until 1930. 8

7. Cabrera-Arevalo, Jose Luis, *Las controversiales fichas de fincas salvadoreñas; Antecedentes, origen y final*, Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador (UTECS), San Salvador, El Salvador, 2018.

8. *Moise-Klinkner Company Catalog*, 369 Market Street, San Francisco, California, 1923.

Users of the tramway lines were able to purchase these tokens from the enterprise, but non-frequent travelers were also allowed to pay their fare directly to the drivers using circulating coins.

The problem in the payment of tramway fares using coins was clearly expressed by a concerned local citizen in a letter to the private newspaper *Diario del Salvador* in late-March 1909: 9

“Taking the tramway line leading to Concepción, I paid the driver with a 1-Real Silver coin; as change I received one 5-Cent and one 1-Cent coins. Keeping in mind the recent Bando issued by the Mayor’s Office, I accepted those coins. However, when I transferred to the tramway leading towards San Jacinto, the driver did not accept the same coins, and indicated that his supervisor had instructed him to collect seven Cents instead. I consider this to be unjust, and kindly request the Mayor to be duly informed.”

Upon reading such statement it may seem that the tramway enterprise had either given conflicting instructions to its drivers and/or that it wished to avoid the loss of the fractions of Cents that resulted from the difference in use of the Real and Decimal systems. It is also possible that the tramway drivers had devised a way to make a small profit of their own.

In any case, the situation arose many times in subsequent months, and the complaints continued.

A solution adopted: issue of the ¼ Real Copper coins

Pressured by the continuing complaints of the citizenry, the minting abroad of ¼-Real Copper coins was ordered in 1909. This decision was based solely on practical considerations and disregarded the fact that the Salvadorian fiscal law of 1883 had eliminated the Real and authorized the use of the Decimal system only. The use of such fractional coinage would solve the problem of the payment of tramway rates faced by the local citizens and at the same time enable the tramway enterprise not to lose money in its books.

In early May 1910, after the ¼-Real coins were received in San Salvador, the government requested the National

9. See *Fractional coins in the Tramway: A Citizen’s complaint*, in *Diario del Salvador*, 29 March 1909, San Salvador, El Salvador.

Assembly to authorize the circulation of the Copper pieces to “facilitate small market transactions”. The National Assembly approved the following decree, which was published and enacted on 30 May: 10

“Article 1. The Executive Branch is hereby authorized to place in circulation, as legal means of exchange in the country, the amount of fifty thousand Copper coins with denomination of $\frac{1}{4}$ Real, with a value of One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Two Pesos and Fifty Cents in Silver, with the following characteristics: in its obverse, “Republica del Salvador”, with the national coat of arms; in the reverse, “ $\frac{1}{4}$ Real – 1909.”

The above decree authorized the circulation of the $\frac{1}{4}$ Real Copper coin, with 20.4 millimeters in diameter and 3.0 grams in weight, as shown below in Figure 16.



Figure 16. Enlarged image (200%) of Copper coin with denomination of $\frac{1}{4}$ Real minted in 1909 for El Salvador

This anachronistic issue circulated widely in San Salvador – to pay tramway fares and other small purchases – and possibly in other locations of the country. Later, after they were retired from circulation, they were also used as farm tokens, after adding special farm countermarks, as shown in a token of the Author’s collection (See Figure 17).



Figure 17. Enlarged image (200%) of countermarked $\frac{1}{4}$ -Real Copper coin with countermark from a farm located at Jucuapa Province in Eastern El Salvador

The following year, with a view to eliminate the shortage of fractional coinage, the Salvadorian government requested the Birmingham mint to strike Silver coins with 5, 10 and 25 Cent denominations.

Concluding remarks

Until the information described and analyzed herein, the reasons for introducing the Salvadorian $\frac{1}{4}$ Real copper coin dated 1909 had not been clearly identified. Several numismatic authors had believed that this coin had been introduced as circulating media for rural areas in El Salvador, 17 where – it was alleged – the Decimal system of coinage was still not accepted or known; furthermore, it was believed that these coins were promptly recalled because of their unpopularity. 12

The new information analyzed in this paper enables to realize several facts. First, that despite the adoption of the Decimal system for coinage was introduced in the Salvadorian fiscal law in 1883, and that the Central American Mint – established in San Salvador in 1892 – had produced many coins under such system, most of the Salvadorians still used the Spanish Colonial Real system in the first decade of the twentieth Century.

The lack of enough fractional coinage in the Decimal system was hampering trade at that time. Partial solutions had been found in the adoption of farm and other tokens, since the late 1870s, in both rural and city environs. Use was also common of Real coinage from neighboring Guatemala.

The Salvadorian government had not tackled such problems in a comprehensive manner yet, and public service enterprises – established in the late part of the nineteenth Century – still maintained their fare prices in the Real system. People in urban areas faced problems when reconciling prices of goods and services set in the Real system and having only Decimal coinage in their pockets.

11. Almanzar, Alcedo and Stickney, Brian, *The Coinage and Paper Money of El Salvador*, Almanzar's Coins of the World, San Antonio, Texas, 1973; Stickney, Brian, *Mystery of El Salvador's $\frac{1}{4}$ Real, 1909: The Case of the Missing Mint*, in *World Coins*, Sidney, Ohio, 1974; Rulau, Russell, *Latin American Tokens*, 2nd Edition, Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, 2000.

12. Wallace, Holland, *Central American Coinage since 1821*, Weslaco, Texas, 1966.

The Salvadorian $\frac{1}{4}$ Real copper coin was in fact introduced in 1910 – albeit for a relative brief period – as a stopgap necessity coin to reduce such daily problems for the population. This happened even though existing fiscal laws prohibited the use of the Spanish Colonial Real coinage: it was an issue of practicality only.

Shortly after, the Salvadorian government imported and put into circulation a set of Silver coins dated 1911 with Decimal system characteristics.

This partially overcame the scarcity for coinage in urban areas, but the extensive utilization of farm tokens continued in the countryside.

It is felt that the foregoing analysis, based on recently obtained historical information, provides the reasons for the adoption of the $\frac{1}{4}$ Real Copper coin in El Salvador. However, the question of where this necessity coin was minted remains a mystery as no information has yet to be found.

Puerto Rico's Peso Coin and "Billete de Canje"

by Eliseo Ramos Feliciano | 2022

For 400 years since its discovery in 1493, coins from many countries circulated freely in Puerto Rico. It was not until 1895 that Spain issued coins with the inscription Isla de Puerto Rico (Island of Puerto Rico). In this article we will review some items that are not alien to the Puerto Rican numismatist, given they are among the first

numismatic pieces that we get to know when we begin to study the Puerto Rican numismatic heritage. Notwithstanding, the two one-peso pieces reviewed here are generally, and rightfully, presented in the numismatic literature as two separate entities, nonetheless few realize they are closely related.



Figure 1: Puerto Rico 1 Peso (5 Pesetas) coin, 1895. Mintage: 8,500,021 coins. Weight: 25 grams. Module: 37 millimeters. Composition: Silver, 0.7234 oz ASW. (Mintage figures as reported in 1917 by Adolfo Plañol in his book "Casa de Moneda: Legislación – Sistemas Monetarios", page 75.)



Figure 2: Puerto Rico 40 centavos (two pesetas) coin, 1896. Mintage: 725,002 coins. Weight: 10 grams. Module: 27 millimeters. Composition: Silver, 0.2892 oz ASW.

The provincial coinage of Puerto Rico was minted at the Casa de Moneda y Timbre in Madrid (Royal Mint of Spain). Those in charge of creating these coins were the assayers Félix Pieró and Antonio García; the engraver Bartolomé Maura; and the judge of balance, Remigio Vega. Four of the five coins share a common design, with

the bust of young Alfonso XIII, King of Spain, facing left on one side of the coin and the crowned shield between the Pillars of Hercules and the inscription corresponding to the Island of Puerto Rico on the other. In the fifth coin, the bust of the king is replaced by an entirely alphanumeric design, most likely due to its reduced size of 16 millimeters.



Figure 3: Puerto Rico 20 centavos (one peseta) coin, 1895. Mintage: 3,350,006 coins. Weight: 5 grams. Module: 23 millimeters. Composition: Silver, 0.1446 oz ASW. (Note: Plañol reports 967,364 coins minted in 1895, plus 2,382,642 more minted in 1896; all dated 1895).



Figure 4: Puerto Rico 10 centavos (half peseta) coin, 1896. Mintage: 700,006 coins. Weight: 2.5 grams. Module: 18 millimeters. Composition: Silver, 0.0723 oz ASW.

Let us consider the case of the 1 Peso coin. This coin exhibits the figure of Alfonso XIII on the obverse and the king's coat of arms on the reverse. In addition, the reverse reads in part ISLA DE PUERTO

RICO. And it is such characteristic which perhaps first catches the attention of the collector because this is in fact the first coin for general circulation, along with the 20 centavos, which bear the name of the island, "Isla de Puerto Rico".



Figure 5: Puerto Rico 5 centavos (quarter of a peseta) coin, 1896. Mintage: 600,006 coins. Weight: 1.25 grams. Module: 16 millimeters. Composition: Silver, 0.0361 oz ASW.



Figure 6: Billeto de Canje de Puerto Rico, 1895. Mintage: 5,000,000. Dimensions: 2 3/4" x 7" (with counterfoil).

(Photos courtesy of Benjamín Martínez).

Next let us take the case of the Billete de Canje (exchange note), which although not prominently featuring the name of Puerto Rico, does exhibit a design that, despite simple, is attractive and pleasing to the eye. In general, the already described 1 Peso coin is presented in the

context of that very thing, the coins of Puerto Rico. While the Billete de Canje is normally included under the section of Puerto Rican bills. The two do not typically come together in the same line of thought and this is where we wish to address the issue.



Figure 7: Detail of the embossed seal on the Billete de Canje. Note it reads "Canje de Puerto Rico".

It turns out that the new coinage for Puerto Rico would replace the Mexican silver coinage that was in wide circulation at the time. To expedite the currency exchange process, it was proposed to use the subject note which quite properly reads CANJE (exchange). Accordingly, we can appreciate how the paper bill becomes a substitute for its metal counterpart and vice versa. All of this happening during the course of 1895. For which, appropriately, both the

Billete de Canje and the 1 Peso coin bear such year.

Another commonality is the fact that both pieces show the image of a person on the obverse and a coat of arms on the reverse. None of this is unusual because it follows the iconographic tradition of the Spanish currency of the time where it had to display the king's coat of arms that authorized its use.

Additionally, both pieces clearly indicate the face value

of UN PESO (one peso), either including the "1" numerically, as in the reverse side of both, or alphabetically, as in the obverse of the bill. Another interesting fact is that the Billete de Canje indicates its function as a VALE (good for), which it is. Yet this shall not mean its utility as a trading instrument should be minimized in any way, shape or form, since the note has the same importance as its counterpart in Puerto Rican monetary history.

But where does the Billete de Canje actually say Puerto Rico? It turns out that it has an embossed seal on the right side of the obverse that reads "Canje de Puerto Rico" on its periphery. The question as to why this was done so discreetly remains for future study, but the fact is that this is how it was done.

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Saint Eloy: Patron saint of numismatists

by Dr. Dámaris Mercado-Martínez, SNPR * **



Saint Eligius (Eloy) in his workshop by Master of Balaam - Rijksmuseum Amsterdam. (Public domain.)

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this work is to present who St. Eloy was and why he is considered the patron saint of numismatists. We will support this presentation with his historical work, his iconography in the art of symbolic painting, the related coins he minted and the medallistics that represent him.

Eloy was a prominent saint of medieval Gaul of the Western Christian Church of the seventh century A.D. What made his evangelizing and diplomatic work transcend the kingdom of France, to become an important reference.

The iconography of Eloy is varied, according to the stages and episodes of his life. In the pictographic works he is presented

with diversity in the clothing that characterizes him according to his role. For example, in one play, he appears in palatine garb in his shop as a goldsmith; in another, as a blacksmith with his leather apron and hat; and the most widespread, that of bishop with mitre, cloak and crozier. The allegorical attributes are also different: the pastoral crozier, the tools of the goldsmith and blacksmith with the hammer, the anvil, the forge, and the horseshoe. Among the known legends attributable to him is one about a very nervous horse that did not allow itself to be shoed. Therefore, Eloy separated the animal's leg, shoed it patiently and then placed it in place, without it suffering.[1]

The feast of San Eloy is celebrated every first of December and he is considered the patron saint of silversmiths, goldsmiths, numismatists, coiners, jewelers, watchmakers, blacksmiths, metallurgists, and veterinarians, who usually invoke him in the case of having sick horses.

LIFE OF ST. ELOY

Saint Eloy was a famous medieval character born ca. 588 of our era, in the town of Chaptelat, near Limoges in France. The Franks were a Germanic people who inhabited the banks of the lower Rhine River, which gradually occupied the region of Gaul. The Frankish territories belonged to the dynasty of the Merovingians, being Meroveus their first king (ca. 448-457AD). At the beginning of the Middle Ages, his son Clovis I, came to the throne (481). He consolidated the power of the Merovingians after overcoming Roman resistance and managed to establish the capital in Paris. It is said that Clovis was the one who abandoned paganism for Christianity, invoking God during combat (496). On the death of Clovis (511), the territory was divided among his sons, but it was his grandson Chlothar II, who managed to reunite the dominions (558).

For the period of the division of

2 Idem. (Audeno. *Life and death of Saint Eloy*. Madrid: Imprenta de Antonio Pérez Soto. 1773, pp. 7-11.)

3 Idem.

the Frankish territories was that Merovingian numismatics acquired relevance, since the Frankish monarchs Chlothar II, Dagobert I and Clovis II, had Eloy (Elici) mint their respective names and busts in the monetary production of their mints of Paris and Marseilla, replacing the image of the Roman emperor. They will be described later.

The priests Eucherius and Terrigia baptized their son with the Latin name of Eligius, (Castilian Eloy, Eloi) also called Elici, which proves his Gallo-Roman origin. His name would mean "chosen or predestined by God", in response to a premonitory dream that his mother had, as attested in the scenes depicted in the Duomo of Milan where 'his *mother dreamed of the appearance of an eagle announcing his conception and birth*'. His family, although of noble ancestry, was diminished because his father Eucherius worked as an artisan.

As a child, Eloy's father recognized his aptitude for metal engraving. He managed to place him as an assistant and apprentice, first as a blacksmith and then as a goldsmith with Abdon, the person in charge of minting the currency in Limoges. Because of his intelligence and abilities, he soon became an apprentice silversmith, "of those who hammer



metal to get out of the bowels the figure that the artist has in his mind :[3]

Once he learned the trade, Eloy crossed the Loire River and headed for Paris. There he advanced in his studies and works by the hand of Bobbo, the treasurer of King Clotaire II, who granted him the job of purse.[4]

At the beginning of the sixth century, the Frankish king Chlothar II, entrusted Eloy with the manufacture of a throne adorned with gold and precious stones. But Eligius built two thrones perfectly laminated in

gold inlaid with precious stones. The monarch admired the skill, honesty, and intelligence of the young man, so he appointed Eloy, Head of the Mint. Eloy did not let the dishonesty of the court reach his soul, so it is said that in these days of corruption it would be convenient to remember more of San Eloy.

By 629 Dagobert I ascended the throne, and had as advisors Eloy, Ouen and Didier in administrative, public, political, justice of the kingdom and even episcopal matters.



He then appointed Eloy ambassador to [Judacael of Brittany](#), which claimed the throne from his brother [Solomon II](#). Eloy made peace among the Bretons, getting Solomon to reign and Judacael to take the monastic life, although he would return to the throne later. In 632, Dagobert gave Eloy some land in Solignac de Limousin in Limoges, being founder and benefactor of a monastery. Dagobert also gave him a house and land in Paris to find a convent of nuns. It is narrated that the surface slightly exceeded what the king had granted, and Eloy, as soon as he realized it, went to ask for forgiveness. Dagobert, surprised at such honesty, said: "Some of my subjects have not the slightest scruple about stealing whole possessions from me, and Eligius is distressed by a few inches of land which do not belong to him." [5]

From his time as a goldsmith are preserved some valuable works in history, devotion and cost, in addition to coins, the reliquaries of several [saints: Crispin, Crispinian, Quintin and Martin of Tours](#). Therefore, it can be said that they were doubly reliquaries because they were made by the hand of another saint.

BISHOP AND EVANGELIZER:

Eloy became treasurer to Dagobert I, before beginning his religious life. In 639 Eloy decided to resign his position as royal councilor and devoted himself entirely to the church. He was consecrated Bishop of Noyon in 641, by Pope John IV. He consecrated himself as an evangelizer of the region of Tournai and Noyon: he converted pagan shrines into Christians, organized teaching, and charity. He preached for himself and as an apostle, sending missionaries to the present Netherlands, in Ghent and Antwerp. Of San Eloy it is conserve fifteen of his sermons in which he took out the superstition, the belief in curses, the readings of the deck and hand. He recommended prayer and attending Mass. He insisted on the duty to make the sign of the Cross every day, to pray to the Creed and the Our Father, and to be generous to the needy and the poor. As an advisor to the queen regent Bethylids he managed to

[5]Audeno. *Life and death of Saint Eloy*. Madrid: Imprenta de Antonio Pérez Soto. 1773, pp. 7-11.

prohibit the slave trade and imposed the obligatory Sunday rest for them, (Council of Chalon in 647).

By the summer of 659, Eloy had the premonition of his death and communicated it to his clergy. At the end of November, he fell ill with fevers. He died on December 1, 660, after 19 years as bishop. Queen Bethylids took care of his funeral. The remains of St. Eloy were transferred to the church of St. Mary in Paris. Devotion to St. Eloy, is more for his goldsmith skills, than for his apostolic action, has spread throughout the known world. The associations and guilds of forgers, silversmiths, and goldsmiths, and numismatists, have him as their patron especially in France, Spain and countries of America.



ICONOGRAPHY OF ST. ELOY IN NUMISMATICS:

In a journey through the treatment of the theme in the art of painting and numismatics, highlights a very characteristic painting entitled *San Eloy working*

in goldsmithing, by the Swiss Niklaus Manuel (1515)[7], Altarpiece of the Preachers of Bern, Switzerland). It shows the young apprentice goldsmith Eloy with two other goldsmiths around a table working.

[7] Sanz M. J." *Iconografía de San Eligio*". Estudios de Orfebrería. San Eloy 2001. Universidad de Murcia, p. 261.

(Sanz M. J." *Iconography of San Eligio*". Goldsmith studies. San Eloy 2001. University of Murcia. p. 261.)



But the most famous plastic work in which San Eloy is portrayed is an oil on panel of the fifteenth century, by the Flemish painter Petrus Christus (inset), which is preserved in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, representing *A goldsmith in his workshop* (1449)[8]. It is one of the most outstanding works of the [pre-Renaissance](#) period in northern [Europe](#).

The oil depicts him as a goldsmith, his true trade, and by virtue of which he encountered the court of France. San Eloy has a couple of [bourgeois](#) customers who dress elegantly. Affectionately, the groom passes his arm behind his bride's back. The realism in the faces of these characters suggests that they are [portraits](#). Saint Eloy appears weighing the gold on a scale to make a wedding ring. The

store is full of objects represented with great [realism](#) and [symbolism](#).

To the left of the table there is a belt (girdle) typical of wedding ceremonies that seems to come out of the picture (*trompe l'oeil*). On the shelves in the background there are objects related to his profession as a goldsmith (weights, beads, coral, pearls, rings, precious stones, and crystal) along with other elements. Also, the transparent glass jar with a gold lid to preserve the [hosts](#). Its gold cap has a reliquary and a pelican, representing Christ because he gave his blood for the born-again.

At the far right of the painting there is a [convex mirror](#), which is not an element of [decoration](#) but of surveillance. With the safety guide mirror you can see what happens outside the workshop: there are two idle nobles, one of them carrying a [bird of prey](#), as a contrast to the goldsmith's industriousness. Behind them is the market square of Bruges and some houses.

On the edge of the table appears an inscription, which is the signature of the painter and date: *m petruxpi me ... Fecit. a° 1449* (*magister Petrus Christi me fecitanno 1449*), with the emblem of the artist. (Public domain work of art.)

8 Cirlot, Lourdes (dir.): Christus, «Un orfebre en su taller», pp. 102-103 de *Metropolitan M• MoMA*, Col. «Museos del Mundo», Tomo 5, España: Espasa, 2007. [ISBN 978-84-674-3808-6](#). Recovered: Rynck, Patrick from: Petrus Christus, «A goldsmith in his workshop», pp. 52-53.

9 Sanz M. J. «*Iconography of San Eligio*». *Goldsmith studies*. San Eloy 2001. University of Murcia. pp. 261-262.

THE COINAGE OF ELOY. COINS, MEDALS, AND OTHER CURIOSITIES:



Of all the purses of the Frankish monarchs Chlotharius II, Dagobert I and Clovis II the most outstanding and who motivated this work was Eloy. For twenty years he placed his name in the monetary units of gold of that time, the solid of gold and the triente (submultiple that was equivalent to one third of the solid), already as assayer or engraver or intendant of the mint under *ELI CI*. Each coin of Eloy, in addition to his name, bore on the reverse an anchored Latin cross anchored or chrispada (top topped with an inverted anchor), very common

in the trientes of Dagobert and Clovis.

Each obverse contains the bust corresponding to each king. A very interesting coin credited with the bust of Eloy. Below are copies of coins of Dagobert I and Clovis II by Eloy. [12][13]

MEROVINGIAN DYNASTY: DAGOBERT I, MINTED COINS BY ELOY[14]

Solid from Marseille to Paris. Triente (gold) by Eloy. Paris. (1.35 gr.); diameter 1.4 cm. Obverse: Bust of Dagobertus, with pearls diadem. with pearls (623-629). Mint of Paris.



11 Digital Magazine. *San Eloy* by Carlos A. Graziado. Digital Numismatic. Recovered, 22 October 2014.

12 Ditto. Merovingian coin with a value of one-third of solid gold. It has the effigy of Eloy (c. 588 – 660). Museum of Art and History of Toul, Paris.

13 Recobrado: Available freely at Project Gutenberg, Public Domain. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index> and

14 <http://images.bnf.fr/jsp/index.jsp> destination=afficherListeCliches.jsp&origine=rechercherListeCliches.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index> http://www.fapage.com/saint_eloï_01.htm.(Public Domain, Public Domain.)

Triente (gold) by Eloy. Paris. (623-639) Obverse: Bust of Dagobertvs with pearls diadem. Reverse: Dagobertvs. Latin cross anchored (chrismada) without steps. Bounded: *ELI CI*. Atelier of Paris.



Triente (gold) by Eloy. Paris. Obverse: Draped bust of Dagobertvs. Reverse: Latin cross anchored with three steps. Bounded: *ELI CI*. Atelier of Paris.



Triente (gold) of Marseille. Credited to Eloy. Obverse: Bust with diadem of Dagobertvs. Reverse: Cross with a step between M and A, on a globe.



CLODOVEO II (Son of Dogobert), MINTED COIN BY ELOY [15]

Triente (gold) (1.35g.) by Eloy.

Obverse: Bust of Clothovs (639-657): with head and nape adorned with pearls. Reverse: Latin cross anchored (chrismada) with three steps.

Bounded: ELI CI. Atelier of Paris. National Library of France.
http://www.fapage.com/saint_eloï_01.htm, (PublicDomain.)



CLOTARIO II (First Son of Clovis), MINTED COIN BY ELOY

Clothaire II (584-628).
British Museum.



15 <http://images.bnf.fr/jsp/index.jsp?destination=afficherListeCliches.jsp&origine=rechercherListeCliches.jsp&contexte=resultatRechercheAvancee>, (Public Domain.) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.y>
http://www.fapage.com/saint_eloï_01.htm. (Public Domain.)

Description: Tiers de sous de Clothavivs Rex minted in Paris (657-673).
Obverse: Diadem bust on the right.
Reverse: Cross anchored.
(Unkown author.)
(<http://images.bnf.fr/jsp/index.jsp?destination=afficherL>)



SAN ELOY: MEDALS AND CURIOSITIES OF EXONUMIA



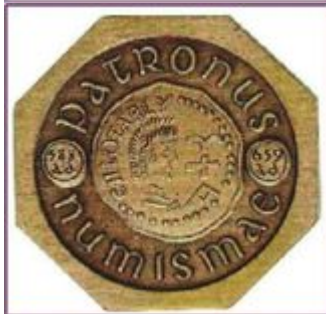
Eloy was never painted a portrait in person, so there are numerous images of him that are the result of the creation of each of the artists who represented him. Very curious is the reverse of a French token or account token from 1751 with a chair in reference to the honesty of St. Eloy. The engraver Roettiers conceives it with attributes of bishop and craftsman simultaneously. On the obverse is the portrait of Louis XV. Similar comment deserves the Canadian payment card of 1998, for a value of 5 dollars, which bears the figure of Eloy on the obverse and the name of the issuer and the

16 <http://images.bnf.fr/jsp/index.jsp?destination=afficherListeCliches.jsp&origine=rechercherListeCliches.jsp&contexte=resultatRechercheSimple>

17 Revista Digital. *San Eloy* por Carlos A. Graziado. Numismático Digital. Recuperado, 22 de octubre de 2014.

18 Ídem.

circumstance that motivated it on the reverse, being in this case the Municipality of Saint Eloi in Quebec, (Canada), on its sesquicentennial (1848-1998), as indicated by Graziado (2014). He also comments on a medal that has the years of birth and death are also expressed on the reverse of an octagonal bronze medal minted in 1966, by the American artist Don Turano and containing on its obverse another figure of Saint Eloy. Of these last three examples we do not find a visual reference.



Below, the official medal of the great numismatic event San Eloy 2016 of the Philatelic and Numismatic Center of the City of San Francisco (Córdoba, Buenos Aires-Argentina). In November 2016, the second national classic edition was held. This is an octagonal medal. On the obverse San Eloy sitting at the workshop table minting coins. On the tablecloth appears his symbol of the stepped Latin cross. On the reverse is a copy of a coin with the effigy of King Chlothar II with the cross anchored. On each side appear, on the left the date of birth, and on the right the premonition of his death. The legend *Petronus Numismatae* (Patron of Numismatists).



As a curiosity a stamp of the *Incorporation of Hammermen* in Dundee, Scotland (*metalworkers*) is shown. It shows the patron Saint Eloi (Eloy) in the center and on both sides has a vase with Dundee lily flowers. Exhibition at the *National Museum of Scotland*.



On November 26, 2016, at the culmination of the day, the medal commemorating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Philatelic and Numismatic Center of San Francisco was presented. Coined in homage to the Bicentennial of the Independence of the Republic of Argentina (1816-2016), on the obverse.

Centralized appears the building that houses the Philatelic and Numismatic Center, flanked to the north by the sun of the coming and to the south with the date of July 6 adorned with laurels. On the reverse has the external legend the name of San Eloy and the date of the event, bordered by laurel leaves. In the center appears a carrier pigeon with the legend, San Francisco Philatelic and Numismatic Center. Piece of great beauty, made of Florentine copper, 60 mm in diameter and weighing 96 gr.

Another: San Francisco Philatelic and Numismatic Center. San Eloy 2017.



HARACTERISTICS OF THE SAN ELOY MEDAL OF PUERTO RICO

SAN ELOY MEDAL SANTO DOMINGO & PUERTO RICO 2019. CELEBRATION OF NUMIEXPO AMERICAS.

SAN ELOY MEDAL PUERTO RICO 2023. CELEBRATION OF IV CONVENCION DE HISTORIADORES Y NUMISMATICOS, SANTO DOMINGO 28 JUNIO-7 JULIO 2023.

The medal of St. Eloy was minted by the Jostens Co. of Puerto Rico, designed and sent to do by the writer of this article, Dr. Dámaris Mercado-Martínez for the first time in 2019, when she was a member of the Board of Directors of the Numismatic Society of Puerto Rico, to be given to the numismatic speakers and leaders of the Numiexpo Caribe and First Congress held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and a few pieces were given away in the IV Central American and Caribbean Numismatics Congress 2019 held in Honduras. A second coinage was made for December 2021 at the III International Convention of Historians and Numismatists in Cartagena, Colombia. A recent minting of the San Eloy medal was made with the year 2023 under the country of origin of this piece PUERTO RICO. Some of these pieces were given away in December 2022 at the V Central American Numismatic Congress

held in Costa Rica. For the IV International

Convention of Historians and Numismatists will also be gifts in Santo Domingo 2023.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDAL OF ST. ELOY:

Minted: 150 pieces (date 2019: 100 medals and 2023: 50 medals)

Material and style: Antique brass. Octagonal medal with chamfered corners
Measurements: 1.5 inch (height) per 1 inch (wide)



OBVERSE: SAINT ELOY BISHOP with mitre, sceptor, and crozier - symbol of holiness. His right hand has a hammer that represents his trade as a goldsmith and on this a crown. His name is written in Latin and Spanish: San Eligius/San Eloy. It has the lily flower symbol of virginity. PATRONUS NUMISMATICA/PATRONUS NUMISMAE is the legend.



REVERSE: It has part of the numismatist's prayer as a legend /[^] NUMISMATICS: Instrument to preserve and admire human work[^]. In the center is the representation of the Latin cross anchored chrismada on three steps (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), in remembrance of its coinage. Plower art: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC/PUERTO RICO and exergo, 2019. PUERTO RICO and the exergo, 2023.

FINAL WORDS:
The first issue of this medal was made by Dr. Mercado for the First Numismatic

Congress held in Santo Domingo, in unconditional support of Puerto Rico, and Cuba as a special guest. An identical second issuance of the medal was made in 2020 for the Second Numismatic Congress in

Santo Domingo. For 2022, Dr. Mercado made a third broadcast, with the legend Puerto Rico 2023 for the IV Convention of Historians and Numismatists in Santo Domingo (June 28 to July 2, 2023).

As a closing to this work, we present the reflection of Dr. Carlos Abel Amaya Guerra, in his book "The Bible through its coins", Numismatic Society of Monterrey (2006):

PRAYER OF THE NUMISMATIST

Lord God, you who created all things for our benefit and encouraged Noah to be the first collector, thus helping you to save and glorify part of your creation; make our numismatic collection an instrument to preserve and admire the work of man, (*human being*) the inspiration of the artist and the beauty of the materials you created.

Give us the wisdom and patience to share what little we know, the sensitivity of the Good Samaritan to help those in need, and the sagacity of the administrator to invest in the true treasure. Help us to overcome our greed with the generosity of the poor widow to give up our last two coins; And so, free, let us strive to find the drachma of your will.

Do not allow us to betray you for a few coins, but make us, like your servant Saint Eligius, double the talents you gave us to joyfully receive the denarius of your righteousness. Preserve our collection for future generations; like our soul, cover it with the patina of your protection and show us the way to the place where neither the thief arrives, nor the mold corrodes. AMEN.



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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index>.

http://www.fapage.com/saint_eloï_01.htm. (Public Domain.)

UNION AMERICANA DE NUMISMATICA "UNAN"



Foundational Headquarters: Tacna, Peru
Promotional headquarters: Chimbote, Peru
Administrative headquarters: Córdoba, Argentina.

NUMISMATIC POLES

The numismatic pacific pole is constituted by:



Chile Colombia Bolivia Ecuador Perú

The Atlantic numismatic pole is constituted by:



Argentina Brasil Guyana Paraguay Uruguay Venezuela

The Central American numismatic pole is constituted by:



Costa Rica El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Nicaragua Panamá

The Caribbean numismatic pole is constituted by:



Cuba Puerto Rico República Dominicana

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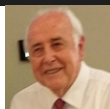
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Medal award design for soldiers in Cuba for capturing maroon slaves (1820)

by Dr. Ángel O. Navarro Zayas
Historian and Numismatist



Abstract

A discovery has been made of a design of a medal award at the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain. The medal was awarded to soldiers who captured runaway slaves during the early 19th Century. The medal design is an important addition to numismatics and medal designs in the history of Cuba and the Caribbean.

Introduction

The history of Cuba began with the arrival of Christopher Columbus on his first trip to the "New World" in 1492. When Columbus arrived on the Island of Cuba, he claimed it for Queen Isabel "La Católica" of Castile. He baptized the Island with the name

of Joanna (Juana) in honor of the daughter of Queen Isabel and King Fernando of Aragon. In the early days of colonization, the so-called Moneda de Tierra "Land Currency" was used for commercial transactions in Cuba, consisting of native products. A specific value was assigned as a commercial unit; examples of this

[1] Library of Congress. A map of the isle of Cuba, with the Bahama Islands, Gulf of Florida, and Windward Passage: Drawn from English and Spanish surveys. Contributor Name: Jefferys, Thomas, -1771. Created / Published: [London, 1762]. Recovered from the internet on November 12, 2021 from the site: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4920.ar178102/> retrieved from the internet by Ángel O. Navarro Zayas.

were cocoa beans and cotton threads.[2]

In Cuba, at the beginning of the 16th Century, when trade began, there was no circulation in the country, nor was it even commented on the existence of minted coins. At that time, molten and tested gold was used as a fixed value, which was calculated as an imaginary or bead coin called "peso de minas", whose approximate value was 450 Spanish maravedis. The remains found in certain shipwrecks, which revealed the existence of gold and silver ingots, generally provided with crude marks, were used at the beginning of the colonization of America as a means of payment (Rodríguez, 2018).

Gold sources in Cuba began to decline early during 16th Century.

This coincided with founding the first mints in America (mints): Mexico in 1535 and Santo Domingo in 1542, by the Royal Order of Emperor Carlos I of Spain. During the reign of Felipe II, when by Royal Decree of 1556, the Spanish vessels arrived on the Island with the first monetary remittances in cash from the Viceroyalty of Mexico known as the Situado Mexicano. (Rodríguez, 2018).

The monetary history of Cuba, as in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean,

was marked by coins scarcity.[3]

The Spanish Government prohibited coins minted on the peninsula in its American colonies. In the particular case of Cuba, the lack of precious metals that justified the creation of a mint forced the money in circulation to depend on the remittances of coins that arrived annually in sailboats from the Viceroyalty of Mexico. The end of the shipments of the Situado Mexicano was a consequence of the War of Independence of Mexico. The monetary shortage became more critical, both on the Island of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Subsequently, from 1823 on, Spanish vessels began to smuggle Iberian pesetas on the Island. In Cuba, they were baptized with the name of "Sevillanas" since the trade of Spain with Cuba was mainly through the Casa de Contratación of Sevilla. The Sevillanas was received with approval by the people of Cuba. The design of Sevillanas was very similar to that of the "columnar" pesetas, which came from the Spanish-American mints (Rodríguez, 2018).

Since the early 16th Century, almost to the end of the 19th Century, the horrible slavery of black Africans was practiced throughout all of the Americas. In both Cuba,

[2] Rodríguez Escandell, Ramón (2018). *Surgimiento de la Moneda en Cuba*. Numiscuba. Enero-Marzo, págs. 8-9.

[3] Navarro Zayas, Ángel O. (2020). El Nuevo Día Newspaper, Wednesday, July 15, 2020. **"La escasez monetaria en la historia de Puerto Rico"**. <https://www.elnuevodia.com/opinion/punto-de-vista/la-escasez-monetaria-en-la-historia-de-puerto-rico/>

as in all of America (Puerto Rico included), it was part of a large part of the infamous transatlantic slave trade. Black African slavery began in the New World at the beginning of the 16th Century. It would become part of the backbone of the economy of the Spanish sugar plantations in the Caribbean whose owners were dedicated to the trade of the said agricultural product. Slavery was practiced on the Island of Cuba from the beginning of the 16th Century until a Spanish royal decree was abolished it on October 7, 1886. In addition, black African slavery played an essential role in developing the economy, mainly in the south, from the British North American colonies, to what would later become the United States of America. The infamous slavery played a crucial role in the economic development of the American continent.

Discussion

During the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic in 2020, for the conducted research, I used the catalog of the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain. I came across a description of what seemed to be a medal design from Cuba from 1820; I wrote an email to the staff at the archive. Almost a year later, I had the opportunity to obtain the documents reprography and the medal design. To my

surprise, I found a design of a medal that was to be awarded to the Spanish Commanders in Cuba in 1820 for chasing and capturing runaway black slaves. It is a known fact that medals and awards have had their origin in need of different civilizations to honor particulars or give distinction to individuals for their actions. Medals are generally metallic pieces, hence their name that comes from Italian, *medaglia*[4], and this one from the latin, *medalia*; medals are usually of manipulable dimensions and diverse ornamental shapes. According to numismatist Carlos Berenguer, during the Spanish Empire in the Island of Cuba, from 1492 until 1898, after the Spanish American War, different medals and awards were given. The first Spanish Cuban medal is the one made upon the ascension of Luis I to the throne of Spain and successively the one of Philip V, Carlos III, Fernando VII, and his daughter Isabel II; these were called medals of jubilee. The Spanish Government in Cuba awarded other honors during that period, such as the medal of the Order of Isabel la Católica or the Campaña Medal for contributing with the Spanish Government, and others before and after the end of the War of Independence of Cuba (1895), medals for different purposes.

[4] *Medal* etymology retrieved from the internet and translated by Ángel O. Navarro Zayas on June 23, 2021 from: <https://dle.rae.es/medalla>

The medallions from the town hall [Ayuntamiento] awarded to majors and municipality members were medal pieces that had Royal Spanish Crown. [5]

runaway slaves who only wanted for themselves what all humanity consciously and subconsciously pursued over history: the inalienable right of life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness.



[6]

According to Berenguer, the Spanish authorities gave medals to groups of people who did the "dirty work" at times, insisting on recognizing the aid. Incredibly many of these despicable people were Cubans of birth. It seems to be the case this medal found in the archive of the Indies in Seville. This medal was given to despicable people for doing the inhumane work of chasing

The following text is a translation by the manuscript's author next to the prize medal design in the document written in Spanish. I have not located any actual medal and do not know if it was actually awarded, but it is a rare piece of a prize medal design. Yet, the reviewed literature seems to be an unknown medal design in the numismatic community of the Caribbean.

[5] Berenguer, Carlos. (2020) *Medallas Cubanas: Siglo XIX y Siglo XX*. Amazon books. Miami, Florida.

PRIZE MEDAL for those who acquire a merit indicated in the brigades against the runaway black slaves of the Country, raised by the current Governor of Cuba, Brigadier D. Eusebio Escudero.

This medal, which represents being all gold with a smooth back, is intended for the Commanders, and those who act as Officers in the rural expeditions of the Fields of Cuba and the entire jurisdiction of their Government; the soldiers who are likewise meritorious will wear it in silver: those who are military will also carry on their arms a shield of the regular size and of the same design as the medal; the one that is symbolized with the arms of this city, by the four shells, star, and half moon, alluding to Santiago and La Concepción. Year 1820.

The following two letters are a translation of the primary documents included with the prize medal design to be awarded to the Spanish Commanders for chasing and capturing the runaway black slaves in Cuba.

Número 11.

El Gobernador de La Habana: Ynforma los que se le ofrece sobre la propuesta distinción de una medalla por el Gobernador de la Plaza de

Cuba para los Comandantes de partidas contra los Cimarrones de aquel Palenque.

Excelentísimo Señor

Habiendo participado a Vuestra Excelencia en oficio de 17 de Diciembre último número 7 lo que ocurría entonces acerca del Palenque de negros cimarrones del distrito de la Ciudad de Cuba, y de lo que contesté a aquel Gobernador en cuanto a que me propusiese la distinción que creyese conveniente y oportuna para las partidas destinadas a la persecución de dichos Cimarrones a fin de dar Cuenta a S.M. acompañó a Vuestra Excelencia con tal motivo copia de lo que me ha escrito sobre esto el mismo Gobernador con fecha de 9 de Enero próximo, incluyendo el diseño que se cita de la medalla de premio e informando a Vuestra Excelencia para la determinación que sea del agrado del Rey Nuestro Señor que no considero conveniente el establecimiento de esta distinción para la clase de los militares que se empleen en esta operación, porque siendo su instituto hacerlo en todas las ocasiones y objetos que sean del Real Servicio podrán optar a la que merezcan de la piedad de S.M. mediante la calificación que resulte por los informes de sus respectivos Gefes; y por que

[6] General Archive of the Indies, MP-MONEDAS, 24. ***"Medalla de premio para los que contraigan un mérito señalado en las partidas contra los negros foragidos del país, levantados por el gobernador de Cuba, brigadier don Eusebio Escudero."***

de otro modo resultarían quizás abusos en la distribución de dicho premio: añadiendo a V.E. que por lo tocante a los Comandantes no militares de las expresadas partidas contra los cimarrones que se hiciesen acreedores a algunas compensación podría señalárseles pecuniaria, o de otra clase que no fuese la medalla de que se trata.

Dios guarde a Vuestra Excelencia muchos años. La Habana 1º de Febrero de 1820.

Excelentísimo

Señor



Excelentísimo Señor Marqués de Mataflorida.[7]

CARTA 2

Excelentísimo Señor =
Consecuente á las prevenciones de Vuestra Excelencia sobre proponerle la señal de distinción que conviniese para premio y

estímulo de los perseguidores de los negros apalencados, acompaño a Vuestra Excelencia el adjunto diseño que me ha formado el ingeniero de esta plaza para los Comandantes de las partidas y sus segundos cuando recaigan estas Comisiones en personas blancas. = Como es

preciso que se haga una distinción de los Comandantes blancos, a los de color, entiendo que para los Comandantes de estos se use la misma medalla sin la Corona cambiando los colores de la Cinta con el centro azul, y orlas encarnadas con el óbalo en que ba el dilema de oro y el resto de plata, y en los cuadrilleros todo de plata y sin Corona; que la insignia de los Comandantes o sus segundos sea colocada por la primera autoridad o sus tenientes con la concurrencia del Síndico Procurador General y Diputación Consular dándole todo el aparato de solemnidad, y la de los cuadrilleros por sus Comandantes con igual asistencia: que el Gobernador del partido gradúe el mérito de los Comandantes para obtener la insignia no tan solo por las aprehensiones que hicieren sino por las fatigas y desvelos que hubiesen empleado en la persecución de los fugitivos pues las correrías que hagan los unos en una parte de los Campos pueda hacer caer los negros en manos de

[7] Archivo General de Indias. SANTO DOMINGO, 2210. Folio 1. **“Remitido con carta del gobernador de Cuba en 9 en enero de 1820, y del de La Habana de 1 de febrero de 1820.”**

los otros sobre distancias opuestas, y no debe considerarse con menos merecimiento a la una respecto de la otra. Vuestra Excelencia en vista de todo se servirá resolver lo que estimare por mas conforme. = Nuestro Señor Guarde a Vuestra Excelencia muchos años como deseo. Cuba 9 de Enero de 1820. = Excelentísimo Señor. =Eusevio Escudero. = Excelentísimo Señor Capitán General de la Ysla.
Es copia

[8]

Number 11.

The Governor of Havana: Informs what is offered to him about the proposed distinction of a medal by the Governor of the Plaza of Cuba for the Commanders of brigades against the runaway slaves of that Palenque.[9]

[8] Archivo General de Indias. SANTO DOMINGO, 2210. Folio 2. "*Remitido con carta del gobernador de Cuba en 9 en enero de 1820, y del de La Habana de 1 de febrero de 1820.*"

[9] **Palenque:** A remote place with difficult access in which runaway black slaves took refuge. Retrieved and translated, from the internet by Ángel O. Navarro Zayas on June 23, 2021, at <https://dle.rae.es/palenque>

Your Excellency

Having participated to Your Excellency in an office dated December 17, last number 7, what was happening then about the Palenque of runaway slaves of the district of the City of Cuba, and of what I replied to that Governor regarding his proposing to me the distinction that he believed convenient and timely for the brigades destined to the persecution of said runaway slaves in order to give an account to your honor I accompany Your Excellency for this reason a copy of what the Governor himself has written to me on this, dated next January 9, including the design that is cited for the award medal and informing Your Excellency for the determination that is to be the liking of the King Our Lord that I do not consider the establishment of this distinction convenient for the class of soldiers who are employed in this operation, because their institute being to do so on all occasions and objects that are of the Royal Service will be able to opt for the one they deserve from the pity of your honor through the qualification that results from the reports of their respective Chiefs; and why

otherwise abuses might result in the distribution of said award: adding to your excellency that with regard to the non-military Commanders of the aforementioned brigades against the runaway slaves who became deserving of some compensation, they could be designated pecuniary, or of another kind that was not related to the medal in question.

God keep Your Excellency many years. Havana, February 1, 1820.

Your Excellency



His Excellency the Marquis of Mataflorida.[10]

2nd MANUSCRIPT

Your Excellency = Consequential to Your Excellency's warnings about proposing to you a mark of distinction that would be appropriate for the reward and encouragement of the persecutors of the runaway black slaves, I accompany Your

Excellency the attached design that the engineer of this plaza has formed for the Commanders of the brigades and their seconds when these Commissions fall on white people. = As it is necessary that a distinction be made from the white Commanders to those of color, I understand that for their Commanders the same medal is used without the Crown, changing the colors of the Ribbon with the blue center, and red borders with the it was in which the dilemma was made of gold and the rest of silver, and in the squads all of silver and without a Crown; That the insignia of the Commanders or their seconds be placed by the first authority or their lieutenants with the concurrence of the Trustee Procurator General and Consular Deputation giving him all the solemnity apparatus, and that of the squad by their Commanders with equal assistance: that the Governor from the city, graduate the merit of the Commanders to obtain the insignia not only for the apprehensions they made but for the fatigue and sleeplessness they would have used in the pursuit of the fugitives, since the raids that some make in a part of the fields can make runaway blacks slaves fall into the hands of others

[10] General Archive of the Indies, SANTO DOMINGO, 2210. Page 1. "Remitido con carta del gobernador de Cuba en 9 en enero de 1820, y del de La Habana de 1 de febrero de 1820."

over opposite distances, and one should not be less deserved than the other. Your Excellency, in view of everything, it will be useful to resolve what you consider as more agreeable. = Our Lord Keep Your Excellency for many years as is my wish. Cuba January 9, 1820. = His Excellency. = Eusevio Escudero. = Your Excellency Captain General of the Island.

Is a copy



11

Conclusion

Slavery and the African slave trade are among the darkest, wicked, despicable acts of humanity against a group of people because of the dark color of their skin. In 1865 the African slave trade ended, although slavery was not abolished in Cuba until 1886. Fortunately, just this year, 2021, as a revindication by the Government United States of America, has taken an approach to commemorate

References:

1 Berenguer, Carlos. (2020) *Medallas Cubanas: Siglo XIX y Siglo XX*. Amazon books. Miami, Florida.

[11] General Archive of the Indies, SANTO DOMINGO, 2210. Page 2. *"Remitido con carta del gobernador de Cuba en 9 en enero de 1820, y del de La Habana de 1 de febrero de 1820."*

Emancipation Day, observing June 19, "Juneteenth," and ending slavery. It is an unmistakable reminder and message to everyone that "all men are created equal"; Never again let humanity be fooled by committing such an atrocity of slavery against our African brothers and sisters. Like the great late Martin Luther King Jr. declared: *"All people should be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."* For my Cuban brothers and sisters on their beautiful Island and also in the diaspora, *"Patria y Vida...Cuba y Puerto Rico son de un pájaro las dos alas..."*

Acknowledgments

I owe gratitude to Dr. Damaris Mercado, the first female president of the Puerto Rico Numismatic Society; thank you for supporting my research. Thank the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNE), Mr. Andy Newman, Mr. Leonard Augsburger, and Mr. Christopher McDowell; thank you for believing in my research. Thank you for your unconditional support to my parents Dr. Nelson Navarro Ramas and Flor Zayas Yordán. To my beautiful wife, Pilar Cristina: thank you for everything...and to my two young children, Lucas Mateo and Matías Manuel, you boys make us proud, I hope that one day you will

2 General Archive of the Indies, MP-MONEDAS, 24. ***“Medalla de premio para los que contraigan un mérito señalado en las partidas contra los negros foragidos del país, levantados por el gobernador de Cuba, brigadier don Eusevio Escudero.”***

3 General Archive of the Indies, SANTO DOMINGO, 2210. Page 1. ***“Remitido con carta del gobernador de Cuba en 9 en enero de 1820, y del de La Habana de 1 de febrero de 1820.”***

4 General Archive of the Indies, SANTO DOMINGO, 2210. Page 2. ***“Remitido con carta del gobernador de Cuba en 9 en enero de 1820, y del de La Habana de 1 de febrero de 1820.”***

5 Library of Congress. A map of the isle of Cuba, with the Bahama Islands, Gulf of Florida, and Windward Passage: Drawn from English and Spanish surveys.

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6 Navarro Zayas, Ángel O. (2020). El Nuevo Día Newspaper, Wednesday, July 15, 2020. ***“La escasez monetaria en la historia de Puerto Rico”***. <https://www.elnuevodia.com/opinion/punto-de-vista/la-escasez-monetaria-en-la-historia-de-puerto-rico/>

7 Rodríguez Escandell, Ramón (2018). ***Surgimiento de la Moneda en Cuba***. Numiscuba. Enero-Marzo, págs. 8-9.





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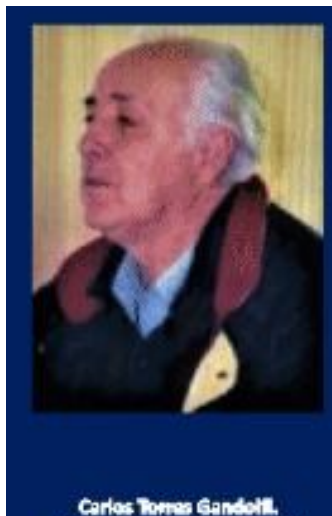
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New books

The distinguished Chilean numismatist Mr. Carlos Torres Gandolfi, based in Brazil, delights us once again with a new installment of his particular study of the eight-real pesos of his native country. In this study, which the author himself acknowledges should have been the first in the series, he takes us back to the study of the Spanish mint issues issued by the Royal Mint of Santiago between 1773 and 1818. The study is completed with a careful, elaborated and very personal study of the varieties that served as base or coin blanks for the elaboration of the famous patacones of 960 reis in Brazil, in connection with his particular tribute to the Bicentennial of the Independence of his host country and current residence.

In this issue he informs us of some topics related to the issues themselves, such as the First Chilean Numismatic Exhibition of October 1952, held in commemoration of the centennial of the birth of the distinguished historian and numismatist José Toribio Medina, and of the so-called "pretension buttons", ornaments with the same motifs as the minted coins used on the brass or copper military capes, before moving on to the study of



the coins themselves from the period of time studied.

The first section includes valuable information on the quantities of noble metal coins and marks minted at the mint of Santiago, as well as on the minting of the 960 reis carried out at the mints of Rio de Janeiro and Salvador de Bahia. A summary table is also included in which the quantities minted at the main mints of the Monarchy between 1773 and 1817 can be observed, as well as illustrative graphs that show their evolution and the comparison between the mints of Mexico, Lima and Potosi.

The body of the work, very visual and profusely illustrated, is

Carlos Torres Gandolfi

LOS 8 REALES DE SANTIAGO DE CHILE



**DE BUSTO DE 1775 A 1817.
CON SUS VARIETADES Y EN LOS 960 REIS DE BRASIL.
EN HOMENAJE AL BICENTENARIO DE LA INDEPENDENCIA
DE BRASIL. 1822 - 2022**



TOMO II



dedicated to the study of each of the varieties of the eight-real coins struck in Santiago in each of the years in which they were minted, with information on their production, assayers' initials and rarity, as well as the specimens of the 960 reis minted for each one of them. Also noteworthy is the large amount of details collected and reproduced graphically of many of the pieces studied and their variants.

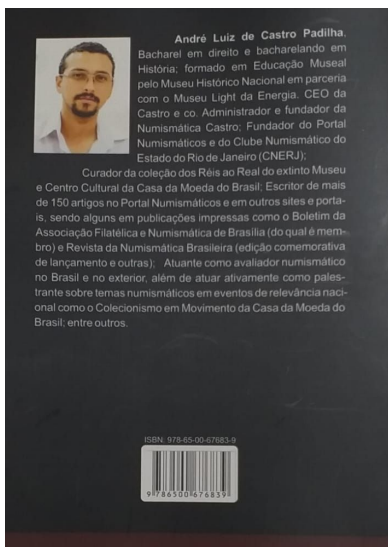
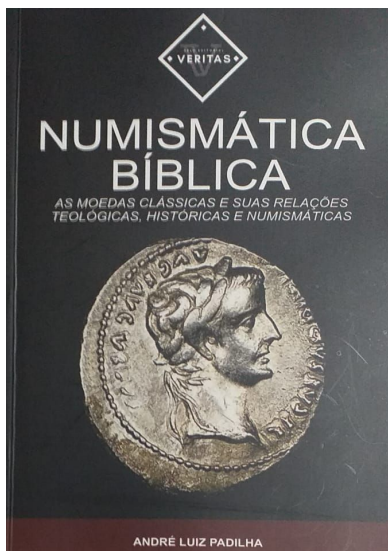
As on previous occasions, we can only congratulate Don Carlos for his effort and abnegation in the study of these important issues,

which transcend the spatial framework of the place where they were minted and are an essential component of the common numismatic heritage of the Ibero-American peoples. And, above all, thank you for sharing and illustrating so many hours dedicated to it with the avid reader of knowledge.

Thank you very much, Don Carlos.

Pedro Damián Cano Borrego
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New books



A very special book from the Veritas Publishing House.

BIBLICAL NUMISMATICS

This is the title of this book on classical coins and their theological, historical and numismatic relations, whose author is André Luiz Padilha. In the group of publications on the numismatic theme, in which catalogs predominate, we find this oasis, which takes us back to past times, with very valuable images for the relevant iconography of the numismatic specimens illustrated in it, apart

from the descriptive rigor of its mystical part and appraisal, which make it stand out in this difficult field. Therefore, it is pleasant and important to be led by an expert hand through the paths of mystery and mysticism of an iconography rich in symbols and biblical narrative, which the author does very well through the long and interesting history of Biblical Numismatics.

Carlos Torres Gandolfi.
President of the Pacific Pole of the American Numismatic Union - UNAN.

