



EDMONTON COIN CLUB

"Your Numismatic Connection in Edmonton"



MARCH 1995

Volume 41 Issue 3

1995 EXECUTIVE

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Mike Schneider

ANNUAL DUES

Family \$12.00, Regular \$10.00

Junior \$3.00 (16 & under)

The ECC is a member of:
Canadian Numismatic Assoc.

Canadian Association of
Token Collectors

Canadian Association of
Wooden Money Collectors

Canadian Paper Money Society

Classical & Medieval
Numismatic Society

MEETING NOTICE

DATE : WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1995

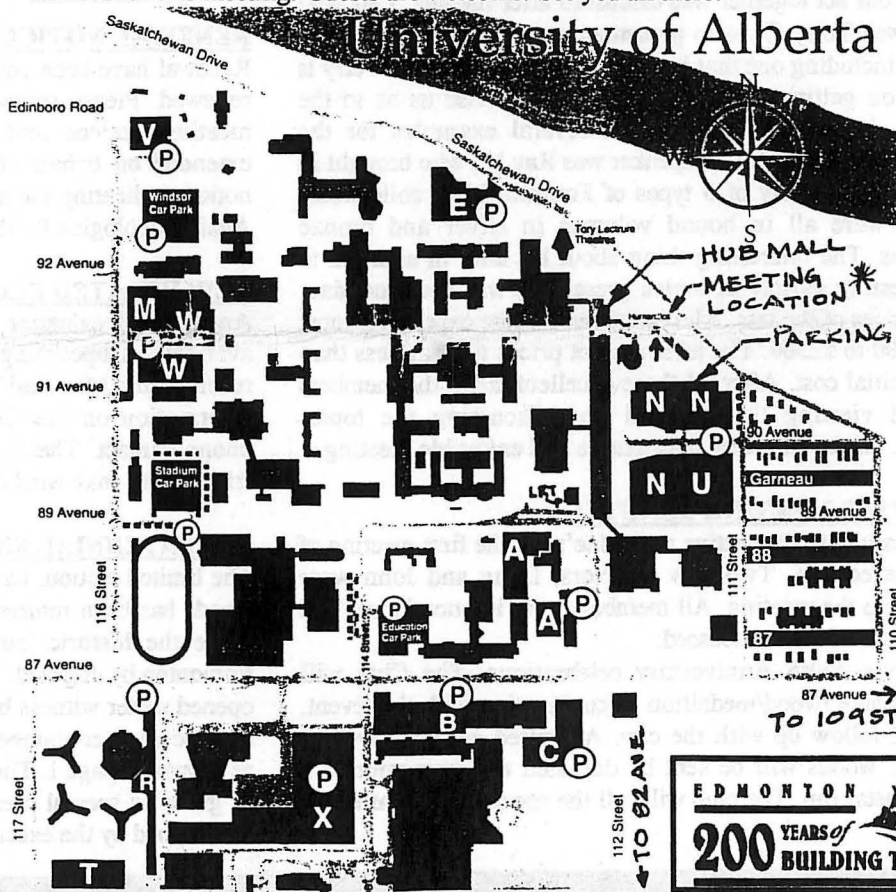
TIME : 7:00 P.M., Meeting starts at 7:30

PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, HUMANITIES BUILDING, SEE MAIN ENTRY LOBBY FOR DIRECTIONS

PROGRAM : TOUR OF HUMANITIES COLLECTIONS INCLUDING ANCIENT COINAGE COLLECTION AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES

MARCH MEETING AGENDA

March's meeting will see the Club tour the Humanities building and it's collection of ancient coinage and antiquities. Members may take the LRT which comes out at the south of HUB Mall, and enter the south end of HUB Mall and walk the full length to the north end to the Humanities building. If you wish to drive, there are 2 options. You may car pool by meeting at Ray Neimans shop at 10511 - 82 Ave., and park in the rear parking lot. You should be there by 6:30 - 6:45 at the latest to join this group. Otherwise, you can part in the University parking lots marked 'N', as shown on the map below. There may be a \$2.00 charge to park here. This is the closest to the Humanities building. Hope to see a good turnout for this meeting. Guests are welcome. See you all there!



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

February's meeting saw 15 members and 1 guest in attendance for what was one of the most informative meetings we've had in a long time. Our president was conspicuous by his absence, but was at home nursing a week long cold. Ray took over for him and did an admirable job in his absence. We saw a few past members who have rejoined and it was nice to see them back. Ray reminded the members of March's meeting location change to the University, where it was confirmed by Terry that we will tour the Humanities collections. Dan brought in some of the Library books and some were lent out. Dan also showed off a CD program of world notes & coinage for the members information. John was asked to review the financial report for 1994, and it was moved we accept the report as presented. (A copy of the statement is included in this newsletter) Four speakers presented talks at the meeting and this summary cannot indicate the detail or examples of coinage and notes provided for the members to view. The 1st speaker was a guest, Steve H. who presented examples of Breton tokens. His theme was contemporary forgeries which included examples of Bust & Harp tokens, British Regal 1/2 Pennies, Tiffin tokens and others. Interesting discussions ensued after the formal presentation. Our next speaker James K., had a collection of Brazilian notes & coinage on display, and his topic was the 'Effect of inflation on coinage and paper money in Brazil.' James's talk was excellent in it's presentation and content and explained how inflation affected the currency from 1938 to date. The collection of UNC notes was very well presented and the members were given an excellent description of the events behind the devaluation of the currency. The similarity to what could possibly happen in Canada if we don't get our act together was discussed after the talk. Our next speaker was Terry C., who presented several Roman Republic ancients, including one that is an as yet unlisted variety. Terry is working on getting it attributed and will advise us as to the outcome. As usual Terry brought several examples for the members to view. Our final speaker was Ray N., who brought in an interesting variety of 6 types of Franklin Mint collections. The sets were all in bound volumes in silver and bronze medallions. The interesting thing about his talk, in addition to the interesting variety of topics presented, was the secondary market prices of the sets. All the sets were quite expensive, most from \$1500 to \$2500. The after market prices were all less than 50% of initial cost. After all these excellent talks, the members continued viewing the material and discussing the topics presented. All in all a very informative and enjoyable meeting.

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

On February 2, the executive met a Joe's for the first meeting of the new executive. Two new directors, Doug and John were welcomed to the meeting. All members were in attendance. The following items were discussed:

- the City's 200th Anniversary celebrations. The Club will produce a note /wood/medallion in conjunction with this event. Mike will follow up with the city. A limited edition envelope with ECC woods will be sent by dog sled to commemorate a historic postal run. The club will sell the special woods after the run.

EXEC. MINUTES CON'T

- the change of the Club name from a 'Club' to a 'Society' was discussed. Dan will look into this from the legal side. Possibly contacting Calgary to see how they handled it.
- Terry is to confirm March's meeting location.
- Bud Collins donated a ECC 1966 medallion for a club auction.
- Dan donated VHS master tape of 5 numismatic films, some of which were converted from the 'PAL' system. They will be viewed for suitability for a fill in at meetings and possibly selling them to members at a nominal fee.
- Dan agreed to bring some of the Club library to each meeting for the members to borrow.
- Ray N. agreed to allow us to put his business phone number on our advertising. This will allow potential members a direct contact with the Executive.
- it was mentioned that the Millbourne flea market was shut down. However some dealers have gone to the new Scarborough Fair market north of the Mayfield Inn.

NEW MEMBERS

The following applications for membership in the Edmonton Coin Club have been received. Should there be no objections, they will become members in good standing:

VLADIMIR MUTIS	#369	EDMONTON
OSWALD SCHULTZ	#370	EDMONTON
ZANE LOWELL & FAM.	#371	EDMONTON

The following past members have been reinstated:

James Kindrake #274; Albert Meyer #247

Congratulations and welcome are extended to the above members. All 3 new members were introduced by Ray Neiman.

RENEWAL NOTICE

Renewal have been coming in steady but not all members have renewed. Please renew today so you will continue to receive meeting notices and show announcements. Apologies are extended on behalf of the editor who inadvertently sent out notices indicating members haven't paid, when in fact they had. Again I apologize for the oversight.

NEW UPDATED ECC CALENDARS AVAILABLE

An updated calendar of events and meeting notice will be available at upcoming meetings. Confirmed dates have been received for May and September. The Calendar also includes information on the Club mailing address, meeting days and phone contact. These can be given to prospective members or friends who may wish to take in the occasional meeting.

BI-CENTENNIAL ENVELOPE RECEIVED IN THE MAIL

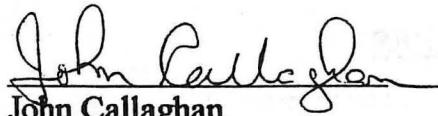
The limited edition, hand canceled envelope with the 1994 ECC woods has been returned to the Club. The envelope and woods made the historic journey from Athabasca Landing to Fort Edmonton by dog sled. The envelope will remain sealed and only opened under witness by several Club members. The woods will then be counter-stamped by the City's 200th Anniversary logo, as shown on page 1. These limited editions will be sold/auctioned or given as special presentations. The exact disposition will be determined by the executive.

Edmonton Coin Club
P.O. Box 75024
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 6K1

1994 Financial Report

Bank Balance 31 December 1993	\$ 623.19
Income January 1 to 31 December 1994	3357.16
Expenditures January 1 to December 31 1994	2518.76
Interest Income	2.99
Service Charge	47.60
Bank Balance December 31 1994	1416.98

Respectfully submitted by,



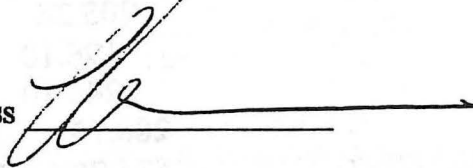
John Callaghan

Treasurer, Edmonton Coin Club, February 8, 1995

Witness



Witness



1994 INCOME

Memberships	\$ 467.00
Auction	166.50
U.S. Exchange	3.54
Coffee Fund	27.22
Scratch Pacs	1262.00
Door Draw	46.00
Archives	30.00
Breakfast(April, Sept. Nov.)	710.00
Woods	18.75
Show Auction	51.65
Show Advertising (Program)	440.00
Anniversary Notes	134.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 3357.16
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1994 EXPENDITURES

Canadian Numismatic Association	\$ 30.00
Classical and Medieval Numismatic Society	20.00
Stationery Supplies	15.07
Canadian Paper Money Society	22.50
Canadian Association of Token Collectors	15.00
Friends of Museum (Meeting Room)	203.28
Postage	196.10
Canada Wide Woods	246.10
Scratch Pacs	288.70
Westwood Inn	835.20
Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors	10.00
Pizza Nite	100.00
Coins for Draw	55.00
Canada Post Box Rental	60.99
C.N.A. Delegates	150.00
Printing Newsletter	150.00
Advertising	12.84
Provincial Treasurer	8.00
Coins for Executive	79.98
Xmas Party	20.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 2518.76
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SAINT ELIGIUS

PATRON SAINT OF NUMISMATISTS

OF ROMAN-GAULISH DESCENT, Eligius was born in 588 of Terrigia, wife of Eucharius, at Chaptelat, GAULE, in what is now France. While still very young, Eloi was apprenticed to the Master of the Mint at Limoges.

THE YOUNG ENGRAVER AND GOLDSMITH polished his skill, and soon became known throughout the area for his precision, diligence and especially for the quality of his work as a coin-er. Eloi was summoned to Paris by the Royal Treasurer to King Clothair II.

ELIGIUS WAS COMMISSIONED by King Clothair to produce a throne. When the young goldsmith presented to his King a golden, bejeweled throne, the Royal Court was surprised of the wondrously splendid masterpiece. Shortly thereafter, Eligius was appointed a member of the Royal Household and indeed, Master of the Royal Mint in Paris. This is where, begins the fascinating life of a man who was to become known centuries later as the

PATRON SAINT OF NUMISMATISTS.

DURING HIS LONG TENURE AS MASTER OF THE MINT at Paris, Eligius produced many coins of artistic merit in an age of artistic decline. His famous mint mark (ELIGI) is to be found on gold and silver coins produced during the reigns of the Merovingian Kings, Clothair, Dagobert I, and Clovis II.

ELIGIUS COULD SCARCELY CONTAIN HIS ENTHUSIASM for the art of gold and silver smithing, its intricacies, the engraving of dies and striking of coins, requiring a skill which he perfected to a degree unknown at this time.

IN 641, ELIGIUS was elected and consecrated Bishop of Noyon-Tournaie. His bishopric was extremely well organized, and his personal fortune was spent in erecting monasteries, nunneries and churches, many of which still stand today, notably the Abbaye of Solignac, near Limoges, founded by ELOI in 632.

IN LATER YEARS, Eligius became a Royal Court Counselor, serving the Queen-Regent Bathildis. Eligius died in 659, during the seventy-first year of his life.

SAINT ELIGIUS FEAST day is annually celebrated on December 1st.

**Edmonton's
Bicentennial Celebration
200 Years of Building Together!**

There's reason to celebrate in 1995. It's Edmonton's Bicentennial: 200 Years of Building Together!

"Edmonton has a colourful and rich heritage worthy of a celebration," says **Alderman Terry Cavanagh**, Chairman of Edmonton's Bicentennial Celebration.

"In the days prior to 1795, the first inhabitants hunted and fished along the scenic banks of the North Saskatchewan River. Then the Hudson's Bay Company put Edmonton on the map in 1795 when it built Edmonton House, a trading post and Edmonton's first permanent settlement. We've been building ever since! From the initiatives of ambitious fur traders ... devoted missionaries ... independent, hardy settlers ... enterprising town folk ... adventurous bush pilots ... rugged oil workers ... to visionary leaders, Edmonton has built a vibrant, diverse and dynamic city of more than a half million strong," explains **Alderman Cavanagh**.

This special 200 year anniversary was launched on New Year's Eve at the **First Night Festival**. The Bicentennial Celebration continues throughout 1995.

"Over 100 community partners have hopped on board the Bicentennial bandwagon. They've put together a great assortment of memorable Bicentennial activities and events in 1995. Many of them make learning about Edmonton's history lots of fun," notes **Alderman Cavanagh**.

"Historical displays ... community events and fairs ... theatrical touring shows ... books ... writing competitions ... storytelling ... contests ... to walking tours are just some of activities being offered to the community in 1995. There's something for everyone," concludes **Alderman Cavanagh**.

To get the latest details on the many, many stimulating and exciting events and activities

happening during Edmonton's Bicentennial Celebration, simply call the ED TEL Directory's Talking Community Pages at (403) 493-9000, then punch **1995** - the 4-digit Bicentennial Celebration code.

Commemorative Envelope To Be Carried In Dog Sled Postal Run

The City of Edmonton has produced a beautiful commemorative envelope to mark its Bicentennial Celebration. A couple from Rocky Mountain House will re-enact a historic dog sled postal run from Athabasca Landing to Fort Edmonton from **February 11 to 19, 1995**. Up to 2000 commemorative envelopes will be carried on this run. Canada Post will cancel the envelopes with a special limited edition Edmonton Bicentennial cancellation stamp, increasing each envelope's value as a collector's item.

If you want to become part of Edmonton's Bicentennial Celebration, join the thousands of Edmontonians expected to purchase the 1995 Bicentennial commemorative envelope! For \$5, you can purchase one of 3,000 signed, limited edition envelopes; and for \$2, you can buy one of 7,000 souvenir envelopes from the Citizen Action Centre at City Hall, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Keep the envelope as a souvenir or memento of a significant event in your life in 1995; or, mail it in the re-enactment of the historic dog sled postal run by:

- addressing the envelope to whomever you wish to receive it
- affixing the proper Canada Post stamp, then...
- bring it to the Citizen Action Centre at City Hall by **February 3rd** to have it included in the dog sled postal run.

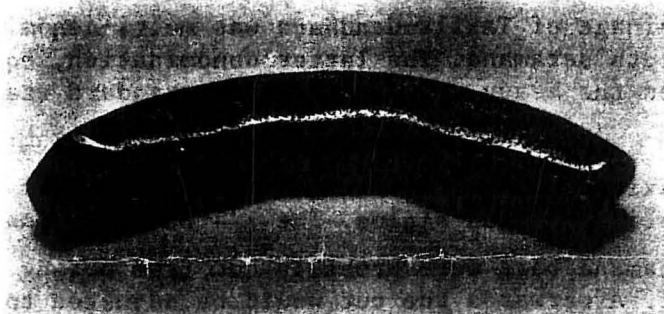
Remember, only the first 2000 envelopes received will be included in the run!

Call Mary-Lea at 496-8251 if you have questions or would like to order by mail.

EARLY PUNCHMARKED COINAGE

Ingrid Smith recently asked one of our newer members to identify a punchmarked coin from her extensive collection. What she received back was a detailed study we thought we would share with you.

by Dr. Donald McIntyre



The coin (illustrated above) is a 1 Satamana coin from Taxila in the upper Indus river area of India. It belongs to the pre-Mauryan period and was probably minted about 350 B.C.

HISTORICAL SETTING

Gandhara and Taxila, situated on the upper Indus river lay on the northern trade route from Persia. This led to certain features of the coinage system, particularly the weight standard, since trade was carried on with the Indian state of Kosala to the east as well as Persia. Taxila-Gandhara probably began to mint in the early 6th century B.C. Early trade from the west was based on the heavy Babylonian silver shekel of about 10.9 gm. Darius I of Persia (521-486 B.C.) conquered Gandhara, to the west of the Indus, early in his reign and Taxila, to the east, late on. He formed two satrapies and exacted tribute but did not change the Taxila-Gandhara coinage system. The region came under Greek rule when conquered by Alexander, 330-327 B.C., but became a part of the Mauryan Empire about 312 B.C. under Chandragupta. At that time the local coinage came to an end since it was not readily exchangeable with the Mauryan coinage based on the light weight system and the Karshapana unit.

WEIGHT STANDARDS

While based on different principles the weight standards for Taxila-Gandhara were compatible with those of Babylonia and Persia. The same Indian weight standard was used by Kosala to the east. The Indian standard was a variable one based on the average weight of the Gunja creeper seed while the western standard was based on an absolute weight system.

There were two weight standards in use in India at the time for trade purposes. The Karshapana of 64 rattis was in use on the southern trade routes and the Satamana of 100 rattis was in use in the north, our area of interest. The ratti is the average weight of the Gunja creeper seed (0.104 to 0.117 gm). Thus the Satamana weighs in the range of 10.4 to 11.7 gm.

In Babylonia, too, there were two weight standards, roughly compatible with the two Indian standards. Both of the Babylonian standards were based on the gold shekel of 8.18 gm. The heavy standard was based on the heavy Babylonian shekel, 10 to the gold shekel. The light standard was based on the light Babylonian shekel, 15 to the gold shekel. The heavy shekel of 10.9 gm was roughly equal to the Satamana. During the Achaemid dynasty under Darius I, on the Iranian-Afghan plateau the Babylonian standard was raised by 3% giving the Persian silver shekel of 11.2 gm. Thus in the early 5th century B.C. a bar of 11.2 gm of Taxila-Gandhara was acceptable to the Persian Empire as equivalent to 2 sigloi (1 shekel), and to Kosala as 4 quarter Satamanas (its highest denomination).

COINAGE SYSTEM

Coinage systems had developed all over India by the early 6th century B.C., some based on the heavy weight system and some on the light. Silver was the primary metal of choice. The shape varied greatly as did the punchmarks stamped on the coins to identify the issuing authority. Broadly speaking, these fall into two categories: those with single punchmarks and those with multiple punchmarks. The coins of Taxila-Gandhara are heavy standard, single punchmarked; those of Kosala are heavy standard multi-punchmarked; those of the Maghaden-Mauryan Empire are light standard, multipunchmarked.

The coinage of Taxila-Gandhara was multi-denominational - one, quarter, eighth, and one hundredth satamana. The latter denomination, equivalent to 1 ratti, formed a basis for trade between the heavy and light weight standard states.

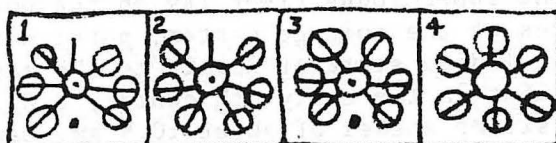
FABRIC

The Taxila-Gandhara satamanas were in the form of bars. The half satamanas were globular, resembling Persian siglos. The 1/4 and 1/8th satamanas were flat or mildly scyphate.

The satamana bars were probably cut from oblong ingots into widths designed to give the required weight. Afterwards the cut would be adjusted to give the exact weight by chiselling the corners. The single punchmark was placed on both ends of the bar which was struck while hot on a wooden anvil (in later versions) giving a concave shape to the bar (bent bars).

The coins evolved from flat bars to bent bars. The bent bars fall into two parallel series, broad and narrow, the former being struck in Gandhara and the latter in Taxila.

The punchmarks are variants of a hexa-, septa-, or octa-radiate symbol:



The flat bars carry only the octa-radiate symbol. In addition to the punchmark stamped at the time of minting there may be bankers marks also on the obverse (concave side) to establish further the authenticity.

ANALYSIS OF THIS COIN

This is a narrow bent bar of silver, clipped at one end to adjust the weight. It weighs about 11.4 gm and has a typical Taxila-Gandhara punchmark at either end. The only other states which issued coins of this nature were Kuru and Panchala, around Delhi. These coins were straight copies of the bent-bar coinage of the Taxila-Gandhara type and show the same punchmarks. They differ, however, in being made of silverplated copper. This coin is therefore a 1 satamana coin from the Taxila area in the late pre-Mauryan era.

The bar carries the standard punchmark configuration at either end of the obverse. It has in addition three small bankers marks. The punchmark is difficult to identify for sure, especially since I have not had an opportunity to study other samples for comparison. While it could be a No. 2, I believe it is a No. 4, six-sided symmetrical figure. There is an indication of a single bar, especially on the figure on one end. On the other hand the other six arms seem perfectly symmetrical without this arm. Also, the single arm joins the circle at a lower level than the standard arms. For these reasons, I think it is a symbol No. 4. Below is a composite of the symbol I made using both figures with the help of the microscope.



(Reprinted from the Toronto
Coin Club Newsletter)

When Canadians spend time to reflect upon the North American way of life they usually conjure up images of social dynamics in either the U.S.A. or Canada. However, rarely do they even consider the nation immediately south of the American border, a nation that not only exists within the territorial confines of the North American continent but one which set the model for our present system of currency.

At first glance there would appear to be remarkably few factors that we share with Mexico, nothing could be farther from the truth. Ours are the only two countries that border on the United States, having in many cases hundreds of miles of undefended border. Although differing in climate the extremes of both necessitate sparse settlement throughout most of these countries. Even in matters such as mineral wealth our two nations appear to share similarities, as well as the way in which we supply needed raw materials to American companies. From this short list a picture slowly emerges of two peoples who, instead of preferring assimilation, have decided to retain their own autonomy and press forward into the challenge. It would surely prove beneficial to learn more about each other and the way in which we relate on every day matters. The study of Mexican numismatics can only assist this most important mission.

NATIONAL EMBLEM

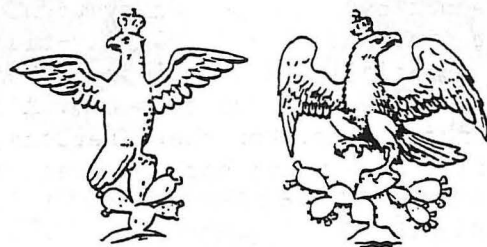
The national emblem of the Republic of Mexico, which appears on the reverse of its coinage has a long and distinguished history. From the start, when it began as a bit of ancient Aztec lore up through the many artistic renderings of the legend, and finally into its present form, the emblem has evoked a primal cohesive bond amongst all Mexicans.

The source for this amazing tale began centuries ago when the ancient Aztec nation was still a wandering band. Legend states that a prophecy was made which would determine the site of their eventual city. The sign was to be when they saw an eagle, sitting on a cactus on a stone in the water, tearing with his beak and fangs a snake asunder. This was not to be a false prophecy for the Aztecs did view such an incident at Lake Texcoco. The city they built, called Tenochtitlan, is known today as Mexico City.

However, the emblem of 'New Spain', as Mexico was called during the Spanish period, 1521-1821, was not always as it is today. Back then the coat of arms of the Habsburg dynasty, the Germanic double headed eagle, and the Burgundian Cross all stood to represent the region. It was not until revolutionary ideas from France reached the New World that an indigenous symbol was even considered. Mexican coinage is the best vehicle in which to view the changing artistic renderings of this old revered tale that marks not only the founding of a city, but the founding of a nation.

The first time we encounter portions of the motif on Mexican coinage is with those struck for Emperor Iturbide in 1823. The snake is noticeably absent but does enter official coinage after 1833 when the crowned eagle also loses royal attribute. The simplified design on the left made way to the more beautiful one on the right once striking considerations were examined and found favourable for more elaborative descriptions. It is from this initial experimentation with the new symbol of Mexican independence that a whole variety of depictions evolved.

Official sources were not the only numismatic examples through which we



can examine this growing desire to represent the eagle and snake. At the Chapultepec castle in Mexico City coins were struck which display remarkable affinity with the whole text of the legend. The example on the left from 1823, and the one on the right dated 1824 both show an eagle looking to the right (dexter), which is in keeping with proper heraldic law. These designs, however, lack necessary fluidity and therefore seem somewhat static in their execution.



It is not until later professional attempts that we really see the majesty of the design in all of its dynamic splendor. Time will allow for this change. Other types of experimental renderings were also coined during later times such as the following three pieces which show eagles with snakes flying to the right but looking to the left (sinister), all from 1832-1866.



There is even a series that was struck from 1862-1894 that portrays a totally wrong application of heraldic principles by having the eagle move to the left and look to the right. If you compare these types to the others this choice of positioning will surely seem wrong to your own eye. As the crude copies of early Canadian tokens stand out to the Canadian collector so must these have irritated our Mexican counterparts.



With the coming of Emperor Maximilian 1864-1867 a new style again entered the scene, one which drew heavily upon the opulence of European design. French taste was now dominating the decorum of the coins as this piece, with a crowned eagle so obviously shows. The proud, calm pose of the bird was not meant to represent that of the Mexican people but the regal stature of the emperor. It was not until after the execution of Emperor Maximilian

that the crown was finally removed to indicate that the symbolic intent had now been once and for all taken away from the aristocracy.

The following examples represent the final experimental types struck before the designs which were to have everlasting supremacy on Mexican coins.



By a decree of September 20th 1916 a depiction, which relied heavily on the designs of Mexican eagle. this example to strike a therefore the event.



1823 was chosen as Designed by Don shows the snake death blow to increasing the The new version



the official Antonio Gomez, as being able the bird and excitement of eliminates this.