

DOCUMENT A



THE NUMISMATIST

Official Magazine of the

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Organized in 1891 — Incorporated Under the Laws of the United States in 1912

Stuart Mosher, Editor

Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D. C.

January 20, 1950

Mr. L.W. Hoffeecker
P.O. Box 553
El Paso, Texas

Dear Friend Hoffeecker:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of Dec. 5, and January 10. I would have answered long before this tardy date but your first letter required study and investigation.

I would have published it but for the fact that Dr. Pradeau is a very sincere person and I did not wish to cause any misunderstanding. I have written to him and am enclosing his reply. Please re-read your own letter, then read his and judge for yourself if I have done the right thing by withholding your letter up to this point.

If you should care to change your letter so that it does not appear to criticize the Doctor I should be glad to publish it.

While I am quite well aware of what goes on within the A.N.A. I take no part in such politics and there seems very little I can do to improve out present situation. Katen may have just reasons for his complaints but my hope is that our present officers will be able to promote harmony without involving The Numismatist. Space is tight and we cannot afford to risk losing members and advertisers by using it all up with political arguments. For five years now I have kept the magazine free from personal attacks and I hope that I will be able to finish out my editorship without involving the magazine in a bitter controversy.

I hope that this finds you in health and the the Year 1950 will be one of the best you have had to date.

Cordially yours,

Stuart Mosher
Stuart Mosher

Go tell it on the Franklin Mountains ...

L.W. HOFFECKER IS REBORN! BY JASON ELWELL PART 3 OF 4 DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT B-1

January 23d 1950

Mr. Stuart Mosher
Personal
C/O Smithsonian Institution.
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Mosher:-

Your letter received and I would drop the matter and forget about it if it were not for the fact that the good doctor has called me a liar several times and has put me in the position of either being a fool or deliberately trying to distort the facts and this I cannot stand for,

He says the most flagrant of my statements is that the San Francisco Government minted 6 Million coins for Mexico which had been shipped to China.

I was in Mr Gillin's office in the Mint during the Convention and he showed me a Mexican 8 Reals coin and stated that they had just finished Minting 6 Million to be shipped to China afterward in the minting room I talked with the Supt and he informed me that the Mexican Government had sent them the dies for the the last 8 Real coin they had Minted (1897) and they had changed the date to 1898 and minted these coins, they did not say in what month they had minted them, the Mint report in the September Numismatist says they minted 1,250,000 silver Pesos for Mexico, I did not dream all this, Victor was in the Party at the time and on his way home we discussed these 8 Reale pieces in my office in El Paso.

In his second paragraph of his letter he again says I lie, when I mention the Banco de Mexico, the Banco de Mexico handles all the coins minted in Mexico and issues all permits for the export of coins, and I am enclosing Photostat copies of two letters from them, you will notice in the letter of Oct 24th that they say that they will refund the \$278.10 which was only the duty on one shipment, and since writing your I have received their draft for both shipments, the Doctors statement that there is no duty on coins and this refund backs up my contention.

But I must contradict his statement that there is no duty on coins as there is a duty on Copper Coins. It was at the time I wrote you I have not brot over any since, at that time they asked me 15% at the Bridge I thought it was just another hold up and refused to pay, they held the coins so I demanded to see the Tariff, it read Monedas de Bronze 15% so I paid,

The Banco Nacional de Mexico, Branches al over the world is not a Government Bank the is the Banco de Mexico, I do business with both these Banks and no doubt have closer relations with the later than any other person in the coin business in the U.S.

If I was as simple and unreasonable as the Doctor I would say he lied about having letters from the Bank, any one can get letters from them and there being some 3000 employees they are not all from the same person, my Photostats should convince you that I am telling the truth.

The doctor is again wrong I wont be as rude as he and say he lies You cannot get the facts from any customs Collector, this question will not be settled until sometime in March when my case comes before the Customs Court here in El Paso.

To give you an idae of the difference of opinion among Customs so called experts (who by the way know nothing about coins) I will quote a few, the Chief expert here said it was very this piece was not a coin

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DOCUMENT B-2

From the mere fact that it had no value on it, I contende that the words 1 troy ounce gave it a value he said not I then showed him the Mexican "tejo" of 1943 which had the weight on it, he could not account for that, I then showed him an eagle American Eagle and Half Eagle, and English Gols back to 1709 with no value on it,

Another expert spoke up and said it did not tell where it was made that Webster said it must be made by a government havinf authority to is coins, I showed the Wordind the Casa de Moneda de Mexico he did no know what Casa dre Moneda maent.

Then the REAL expert on money spokred for \$4.92 a day for yeras learning to be an expert on everything that passes thro a Customs Houe, said it could have been made on Denver, I showed him the Mo he said that meant nothing that it had no Mexican emblem on it, I showed him the coins issued in Mexico from 1870 to 1905 both in Gold and Silver, but he said it had to have an eagle on it that all coins had, I showed him lo U. S. Commemorative Half Dollars and to rub in in my Old Spanish Trail among the rest,

He Said it did not Circulate in Mexico which is true one of our News paper reporters wa in Mexico at the time they first came out and could not obtain one she came home and called me and I gave her one to publish with her article.

You will notice that the Bank states in their letter of September the 5th that they had sent a few to this Country for Numismatic purposes, they and every one else denies that it is a medal, so where does in come in Numismatis if it is not a Coin, I do not know of any Numismatists collecting manufactured articles os silver.

In the Doctors Summary of the cost he has overlooked a few itans I expect through ignorance I still do not believe in calling any one a crook without some good evidence , I was not brot up to think I knew it all.

- #1 U. S. Consular Invoice without which nothing can come out of Mex
- #2 Mexican Broker Charges for fixing up the Mexican export papers and gettingy this invoice.
- #3 The Express and Insurance
- #4 Broker Charges on each side of the border

Their is no Limit to the amount of what the Mexican charges will be the Inspectors are not getting any wages and are starving, one Official comes out and tells you his wife is sickdand wants \$10.00 U.S Cur for medicine you finally(after 6 Hours the last time) get to the Cashier to pay your duty he is busy and wont look at you until 9 o'clock and informs you the office is closed, you say you understand the buy an willing to pay extra for over time, you give him 10 Peso and go out and find your car is loked in the Cusyoms Corral, you give a fellow a peso and he finds the man with the key it costs another Peso, then yoy think thank God it is all over but it costs \$10.00 Peso more to send a man to the bridge with you to tell them to pass ypu,

The Doctor says I was there all the time at the Convention when he was talking Yes I was , I never herdd him mention the troy ounce, he probably refers to his tak before the Convention which I could not have heard if I had been in the , he did mention to me that they did not pay him for his talk or his expenses up there.

I I am not only tried to convince you that I am not a liar, I am I asked Sarton if he was interested in anything it was in being published in fact I did not want it published, until he showed what he was going to do. go a little slow on giving him pulicity

2000 members,

some one must agree with him or we would not have lost some

Go tell it on the Franklin Mountains ...

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DOCUMENT B - UNSCRAMBLING FINAL PARAGRAPH

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I have only tried to convince you that I am not a liar, I am not interested in anything I send in being published in fact I do not want it published. I asked Sartor if he did not think we should go a little slow on giving him publicity until he showed what he was going to do.

2000 members, some one must agree with him or we would not have lost some

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DOCUMENT C

Past

El Paso Texas February 3d 1950

Mrs Nellie Tayloe Ross
Director of the Mint.
Washington D. C..

Dear Mrs Ross:

I wrote an article for our Magazine in which I made the statement that i had been in the Mint in San Francisco, and that Mr Gillin had showed me a Mexican 8 Real coin which I am quite positive he said they had just minted 6 Million to be sent to China, I had the coin in my hands , but some one told our Editor Mr. Stuart Mosher who is also Curator of the Smithsonian Institution that there was not a word of truth in my statement,

I wrote to Mr Gillin and received a letter from his Secretary Miss Patricia V. Orr that Mr Gillin was out of the City and that it was not permitted to give out any information in regard to the operations of the mint and referred me to your Department,

This matters worries me as I am not in the habit of giving out false information,

The Mint report in The Numismatist for October on page 607 says that 750,000 Pesos were coined for Mexico and again in the September Issue L,259,000 On page 558, all at the San Francisco mint.

Can you give me any details as to the design of the Design of the coin and the date, the Coin Mr Gillin handed me was an 8 Real and I think dated 1898, I later talked with a gentleman who I took to be a foreman in the workroom and he told me that the Mexican Government had sent them the dies for the 1897 8 Real coin this was the last year they minted Reales in Mexico and he said that had altered the date making it 1898 instead of 1897.

It is not my desire to get you in any argument, but would very much appreciate it if you will just states the facts that is all I need to clear my name which is the best asset I have,

1946
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With kind personal regards to yourself and Mr Howard I. am.

Yours truly

L. W. Hoffecker

Past President of the A.N.A.

DOCUMENT D

THE NUMISMATIST

STUART MOSHER, EDITOR

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 13, 1950

Dear Friend Hoffecker:

Please accept my thanks for yours of February 14 and March 8th. I would have answered the first sooner but have a bad case of "bursitis" and only during the last week have I been able to get any relief.

I'm sure that Dr. Pradeau did not mean to have his remarks understood as personal. You know that our Spanish brothers are impetuous and that they rarely mean to be unjust.

I have studied your correspondence with care and I am convinced that you know what you are talking about. I have never heard your integrity questioned, and on the other hand I have heard many nice remarks about you. I only wish that people would talk about me as they do about you, but I fear that that will never be the case.

You will notice that the Connecticut vs Wichita affair has finally made The Numismatist. I regret this very much but there was nothing I could do to keep it out. I wonder what will happen next!

I'm returning your correspondence and thanks again for giving me the straight facts.

Kindest regards,



Stuart Mosher

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L.W. HOFFECKER IS REBORN! BY JASON ELWELL PART 3 OF 4 DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT E-1

March 16th 1950

Mr. Stuart Mosher
Smithsonian Institution
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Mosher:

I received your letter along with my papers yesterday, thanks for returning them, I was sorry to hear that you had been laid up, one of the girls living next door was laid up some time ago with the same thing and from what she said it was not very pleasant.

I was pleased that I had been able to square myself with you, but I still do not think that I know more about Mexican coins than the doctor, but I will tell the truth or keep my mouth shut, nobody will ever make me believe that he did not know he was not telling the truth when he took the hide off of me, I guess his wife had reason for quitting him,

He had a rough on at the convention because they did not pay his expenses up from Los Angeles and waive the expenses for the entertainment and the dinner, on account of his making a talk.

You do not need to worry about what people say about you, I have heard lots of nice things, and nothing otherwise, Max was through some weeks ago and he spoke very highly of you.

I hope to attend the Convention this fall and see you there.

I note what you say about the row being aired in the Numismatist, I was one of the crowd that stopped that some years ago, nobody care to pay \$5.00 dollars to read about such things.

DOCUMENT E-2

Dr Wild told me in Frisco that he was told by one of the new board that he did not have a chance, that you had to play along with the gang if you got anywhere.

I think most of the board is alright, but ~~have~~ no use for Sheldon or Reagan.

Yours Truly

L. W. Hoffecker

DURRES, CHARLES, VALLI WILD • ASSISTANT
Assistant Manager.

In order to assist the committee, will you please fill out and mail the enclosed card as soon as possible.

Your Host,

East Bay Coin Club
J. H. Rogers, Secretary
1433 Edith Street
Berkeley, California