

# NI Bulletin

A Publication of Numismatics International Inc.

Volume 49 Nos. 9 / 10



September / October 2014

\$4.00

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Welcome to the September / October edition of the NI Bulletin. This shortened edition accommodates the bundling of the NI auction together with the bulletin for combined mailing. In this edition we offer articles on subjects from three continents; Africa, Europe and South America. Paul Baker writes concerning recent twenty-first century coins which contrasts the ARS Classica articles on very early ancient coins. Robert Ronus has an interesting article on a gold coin made in silver and your editor writes on the "Star of Lima" mintmark in an effort to bring clarity to the subject.

We are caught up on publication which means that my backlog of articles is low again. Please keep us in mind when writing and recommend us to those who you believe may have something that will interest our readers.

With the ANA World's Fair of Money transpiring last month the summer auction season is essentially over and now the autumn season begins. So far this year there have been some important sales and coins sold and from here we'll have to wait and see what comes.

*Herman*



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## Membership Report

The following person(s) have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by 3-October-2014 the memberships are effective that day.

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*NI*

## Rwanda's Recent Coins

Paul Baker, NI #2615

There were no Rwandan circulation coins at all made with a date from the 1990s. But in the last few years a whole new series has been issued starting with five types issued in 2004. The 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Francs were soon announced and declared legal tender by the document:

“PRESIDENTIAL ORDER N° 06/01”, entitled, “ISSUING NEW COINS OF 1, 5, 10, 20 AND 50 FRW AS LEGAL TENDER IN RWANDA” of 30/April/2004.

The order is posted on the “Legal Information Portal Republic of Rwanda” on internet (accessed 2-May-2014): <http://lip.alfa-xp.com/lip/AmategekoDB.aspx?Mode=r&pid=7854&iid=474&rid=306982>

The Presidential Order stated that any older coins series would be legal tender only until 31-December-2004. Although the announcement of the new coins was in April they must have been issued later that year. Early appearances of the set of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Francs coins on eBay were in January 2005. So it seemed a little odd that these new coins were all dated “2003”. Per the series of events prior to the issue of the later 100 Franc coin, it is rather likely that the “2003” date appears on these coins because of that year being either (a) the year in which an order was placed with the minter, (b) that in which the Rwandan authorities had put out the tender for the minting of the coins or (c) perhaps the date indicated for the coins in the tender documents. I soon had some of the new Rwandan coins on order. However I did not manage to get the 1 Franc straight away—it seems that they were not quite so plentiful, at least not to collectors around the world.

Each of the five types features a different plant on the obverse and arched over this central feature is the legend “BANKI NASIYONALI Y’U RWANDA” which is the Kinyarwanda name for the National Bank of Rwanda. Kinyarwanda is one of Rwanda’s three official languages with the others being English and French. The reverse of all five denominations features the Rwandan coat of arms and around this central feature the value written in Kinyarwanda.

Rwanda Coat of Arms. Above “REPUBULIKA Y’U RWANDA (Republic of Rwanda) and the national motto below

UBUMWE-UMURIMO-GUKUNDA IGIHUGU (Unity, Work, Patriotism). Image from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal\\_of\\_Rwanda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_Rwanda) (accessed 2-May-2014).







**Rwanda 1 Franc 2003**

1 Franc: the obverse features a ripened rice plant, (*plante de riz en maturité*); the reverse includes the legend “IFARANGA RIMWE”. Further details: mass 0.7 grams, aluminum, diameter 16 mm and plain edge.



**Rwanda 5 Francs 2003**

5 Francs: the obverse features leaves and cherries on a coffee tree, (*un caféier avec cerises*); the reverse includes the legend “AMAFARANGA ATANU”. Further details: mass 3.0 grams, brass-plated-steel, diameter 20 mm and plain edge.



**Rwanda 10 Francs 2003**

10 Francs: the obverse features a bunch of bananas in tree, (*un bananier avec son regime*); the reverse includes the legend “AMAFARANGA ICUMI”. Further details: mass 5.0 grams, brass-plated-steel, diameter 24 mm and plain edge.



### Rwanda 20 Francs 2003

20 Francs: the obverse features a tea plant, (*un théier*); the reverse includes the legend “AMAFARANGA MAKUMYABIRI”. Further details: mass 3.5 grams, nickel-plated-steel, diameter 20 mm and plain edge.



### Rwanda 50 Francs 2003

50 Francs: the obverse features a half-covered maize cob, (*epi de maïs à demi-découvert*); the reverse includes the legend “AMAFARANGA MIRONGO ITANU”. To each side of the date are the cornucopia and French-horn privy marks of the *Monnaie de Paris*. These marks do not appear on any of the other coins. This type is also different to the others dated “2003” in that the size and style of date and other legends are different; there even seem to be differences with the coat of arms and the color as compared to that of the 20 Francs type. Further details: mass 5.7 grams, nickel-plated-steel, diameter 24 mm and plain edge.

The French descriptions given above in parenthesis are for the main obverse feature on each type and were included in what I once saw on the bank’s website, however the webpage is no longer active.

I first saw a report about Rwanda’s next new coin in September 2007. It was a report dated 13-March-2007 that was on the website <http://www.rwandagateway.org>. In French, that particular report stated that Rwanda would be getting a 100 Franc coin to replace the 100 Franc note.



Another news report included two references to the legal authorization for this new coin type, these were:

“PRESIDENTIAL ORDER N° 18/01 OF 28/08/2008 ISSUING A ONE HUNDRED FRANCS (100 Rwf) COIN WHICH IS LEGAL TENDER IN RWANDA”

“ANNEX TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ORDER N°18/01 OF 28/08/2008 ISSUING A ONE HUNDRED FRANCS (100 Rwf) COIN WHICH IS LEGAL TENDER IN RWANDA”

Included in the two documents above are details of the new coin's legends and dimensions. These documents are in each of Rwanda's three official languages. The denomination name “Rwandan Franc” appears in three different abbreviated forms: “100 Rwf” (English), “100 FRW” (French) and “100 Frw” (Kinyarwanda). The coins would not have been released before the above mentioned Presidential Order which is dated 28-August-2008, although the coins are actually dated 2007.

The annual report of the British Royal Mint for 2007/2008 (the year ending 31-March-2008), as published mid-2008, includes an erroneous statement...“Of particular note was the award of a contract by Rwanda for their new 100 fils coin.” Most likely this is reference to the Rwandan 100 Francs 2007; it would be at least highly unlikely for the report to mention Rwanda if there hadn't been any order at all from Rwanda in this period. Mint report on-line at link below (accessed 2-May-2014).

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc05/0570/0570.pdf>



**Rwanda 100 Francs 2007**

Pictured above is my 100 Francs 2007 which I acquired in December 2008. Centrally to the obverse and over two lines is the denomination written as “100 FRW”, arched above this is “**BANKI NKURU Y'U RWANDA**” (apparently another Kinyarwanda name for National Bank of Rwanda) and below there is the date “2007”. For some reason the name of the bank has been written in Kinyarwanda in a different way than seen on the “2003” dated coins. Centrally to the reverse of this coin is the Rwandan coat of arms, arched above this is “**AMAFARANGA IJANA**” which is the denomination written in Kinyarwanda and below there is the denomination numeral “100”. Further

details: mass 7.5 grams, the ring part of this bi-metallic type is made from nickel-plated-steel and the core from copper-plated-steel, diameter 26 mm and plain edge.

In November 2009 I came across information released by Rwanda's "Minister in charge of Cabinet Affairs". It is entitled "STATEMENT ON CABINET RESOLUTIONS OF 28 OCTOBER 2009". It is a pdf download available from the website <http://www.primature.gov.rw/> by following Publications > Cabinet Decisions > 2009 Cabinet Decisions > English > Statement of Cabinet Decisions of 28.10.2009. [http://www.primature.gov.rw/index.php?eID=tx\\_mm\\_bccmsbase\\_zip&id=7027153635363880993d61](http://www.primature.gov.rw/index.php?eID=tx_mm_bccmsbase_zip&id=7027153635363880993d61) (accessed 2-May-2014).

Within this document, the first point in paragraph 3 reads as follows...

A Presidential Order determining a new coin of Ten Francs (RwF 10) with the following words "Banki Nkuru y'Igihugu" instead of "Banki Nasiyonali y'u Rwanda". The ordinary coin shall remain in circulation.

The phrase "ordinary coin" no doubt refers to the "2003" dated coins of this denomination. Strange as it may seem, this will be the third Kinyarwanda name for National Bank of Rwanda to have appeared on recent Rwandan coins. I have not yet been able to determine why these changes have been made nor the exact meanings of each of the individual words. A more recent Presidential Order, that numbered 55/01 of 30-August-2010 (to be found within "Official Gazette N° Special of 02/09/2010") gave the legal go ahead for coins of 5 Francs and 20 Francs both dated 2009, again with "Banki Nkuru y'Igihugu" instead of "Banki Nasiyonali y'u Rwanda". These have been available for a while now. Finally, about two years ago, one other addition, Presidential Order number 03/01 of 3-May-2012 (to be found within "Official Gazette N° Special of 04/05/2012") gave the legal go ahead for coins of 50 Francs dated 2011, also with the bank name as on the 2009 dated coins of 5, 10 and 20 Francs. These new coins are available, still having the privy marks of *Monnaie de Paris*, but the more recent such marks, i.e., cornucopia and heart.

Finally, one important recent development for Rwanda is that on the 29-November-2009 the country became the 54th member of the Commonwealth of Nations. This was announced at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago. Rwanda had made its application for membership in 2008. Of the 54 members only Rwanda and Mozambique are without historic ties to the UK. Of numismatic interest—membership of the Commonwealth of Nations makes a country a little more likely to use the services of the British Royal Mint—especially for countries that are not so geographically close to the Royal Canadian Mint or the Royal Australian Mint. As detailed earlier, it seems for sure that the Rwanda 100 Franc coins were made by the British Royal Mint. It would seem quite possible that they also made all of the 5, 10 and 20 Franc coins mentioned above.

*NI*



## A Gold Coin of Hesse-Cassel Made of Silver

### Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

Fritz Rudolf Künker, the most important German numismatic auction house, offered a remarkable collection of 300 rarities from Hesse, the Mercator Collection, in their Auction 220 in Osnabrück in October 2012. Here is one coin of Moritz, Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel (1592-1627) that caught my eye at the time:



Obv. MAUR:D: \_G:LAND: \_HASS (=Hesse) : C(=Katzenelnbogen) : \_C(assel) : D(iez) : Z(iegenhain) : E(t) : N(idda) : in legend arms of the lordships of Eppstein (chevrons), Frankenstein (battle axe), Itter (lion rampant ) and Plessen (cramp-iron) Crowned Hesse lion rampant left, below TS monogram (= Terentius Schmidt, mintmaster, Kassel, 1621-34), in circle.

Rev. CONSILI\_ET VIRTU\_MON:NO:\_AURE:IM (with prudence and effort, new imperial gold coin) in legend arms of the counties of Diez (2 lions left). Katzenelnbogen (lion rampant), Ziegenhain (divisions per fesse with star) and Nidda (divisions per fesse with 2 stars) 2 crossed jousting lances with pennants dividing rosette 16 26 rosette, above foliage symbolizing life, below death bell and hourglass symbolizing transitoriness.

Silver 29.08 g 43 mm. Dav. 6274. Schütz 700. KM 76.

*Continued on page 153...*

# The Origin of the “Star of Lima” Mint Mark

Herman Blanton

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Numismatists have long admired the beauty of the coins issued by the Lima mint during the tenure of assayer Diego de la Torre in the latter 16th century. The particular pieces that carry the assayer mark of Diego de la Torre also carry a star mark. Ever since Ernesto Sellschopp proposed that the star mark was the arms of the city of Lima<sup>1</sup> numismatists have known it as the *Star of Lima*. If this is true, then how did it come about that the star appeared on these coins?



This article will show that the star on the referenced coins is indeed the *Star of Lima*. Furthermore, it was the official seal of the City of Lima for showing approval of weight and fineness. The seal was created in 1549 by Juan de Bruselas under authorization of the *Cabildo of Lima* (town council).

The origin of the Star of Lima mintmark is intimately associated with the Spanish conquest of Peru. With the reader's permission offered here is a brief narrative in order to place the mark in historical context; to skip this narrative jump ahead to the next section.

## Section 1: Historical Setting

Historians date the conquest of Peru from the capture of the Inca Atahualpa in 1532, who the Spaniards killed in 1533, until the execution of the Inca Túpac Amaru (the First) in 1572. The conquistador Francisco Pizarro left Spain in 1509 to seek his fortune in the New World. While in Panama he made an agreement with Hernando de Luque, a priest, and a fellow adventurer one Diego de Almagro to explore and conquer Peru. A failed expedition in 1524 returned to Panama and a second expedition set out in 1526, but it too faced extreme difficulties. Pizarro and Almagro agreed to separate with Pizarro waiting on an island off the coast and Almagro returning to Panama for reinforcements. The governor of Panama, Pedro de los Ríos, rejected the request for a

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<sup>1</sup> Sellschopp's meticulous study of cobs led him to propose that the coins with the star mark were not Potosi but were actually Lima. In his English language book *The Coinage of Peru* co-authored with Henry Grunthal (1978: 14) he wrote "This star had been the official hallmark of the city since 1535, and was stamped on goldsmith's work, weights and weapons." In the prolog by Arnaldo J. Cunietti-Ferrando in Dargent (2011:8) "*En 1963, un estudioso alemán radicado en el Perú, el Dr. Ernesto Sellschopp, basado exclusivamente en una minuciosa y apasionada observación de las mismas monedas, publicó un revolucionario artículo: 'Nuevo datos para la diferenciación de monedas limeñas y potosinas bajo el reinado de Felipe II'. Descubrió que si bien se conocían piezas de la breve acuñación de 1568/70 y de la brevísima de 1659/60, era lógico suponer que debían aparecer también los abundantes ejemplares de período 1572/88 y sobre todo, las últimas emisiones, cuando con mayor número de empleados, la ceca de Lima elevó su producción de monedas. Arribado a esta conclusión, fue cuestión de tiempo, resolver el problema. Pronto descubrió que las monedas del escudo coronado del ensayador D atribuidas hasta entonces a Potosí, llevaban una pequeña estrella sobre su sigla y recordó que ya en 1549, el cabildo de Lima había dispuesto estampar una estrella como sello de Armas de la ciudad. Luego encontró que la inicial D correspondía a un ensayador llamado Diego de la Torre, que había jurado su cargo ante el Cabildo limeño en 1577.*"

third expedition and assisted only so far as to bring the Spaniards back to Panama. It was agreed among the conquistadors that Pizarro should bypass the governor of Panama and go to Spain to appeal directly to the king for permission to conquer Peru; Pizarro arrived in Spain in 1528. King Charles was persuaded by Pizarro and had the Council of the Indies negotiate and draft a *capitulación* (contract or agreement) to conquer Peru within certain constraints. Due to the king's travel schedule the contract was signed by his wife, queen consort Isabella. The contract, known as the *Capitulación de Toledo de 1529*, gave Pizarro license to explore, conquer and populate (settle) Peru.

*...licencia e facultad a vos, el dicho capitán Francisco Piçarro, para que por Nos, en nuestro nombre e de la Corona real de Castilla, podais continuar el dicho descubrimiento, conquista e población de la dicha provincia del Perú...*

The text of the *Capitulación* is available on-line at the URL below [accessed July 12, 2014]. [http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib/historia/CarlosV/9\\_9.shtml](http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib/historia/CarlosV/9_9.shtml). It is also recorded in print such as William H. Prescott: *History of the Conquest of Peru: with a Preliminary View of the Civilization of the Incas. Vol. II.* (1874) Appendix No. VII.

The conquest began with a period of exploration from 1530-32 after which in 1533 the Spaniards settled in the town of Jauja where Pizarro appointed *alcaldes* and *regidores* (mayors and aldermen). At an elevation of about 3350 meters (11,000 feet) Jauja is located in the fertile Mantaro valley some 250 km (160 miles) inland from present day Lima and 875 km (540 miles) from Cuzco. Jauja served as the provisional capital of the Spaniards in Peru. After this Pizarro divided his army, leaving some and taking the rest with him to Cuzco. After capturing the Inca capital in Cuzco he returned and ordered the relocating of the town to a more suitable location. Following orders from Pizarro the aldermen in Jauja met on December 4, 1534 to discuss the affairs concerning a relocation. The title page of book 1 of the *Cabildo de Lima* is dated 1534. “*LIBRO, 1º DE LOS cavildos de esta CIUDAD, DE LOS REYES, QUE COMIENZA EL AÑO DE 1534*”. Therefore the Cabildo of Lima was formed and operated even before a permanent site of the town or its name had been selected (Cobo 1882: 13-15).

Since the name of the new capital, *Ciudad de los Reyes* (City of the Kings), is central to the theme of this article some space ought to be devoted to it. Citing the foundation date of the city as the Day of Epiphany, January 6, 1535, may be convenient but it is not accurate. On the Day of Epiphany a Catholic Mass was conducted and on that holy day it seems, but not expressly written, that help of the Magi was sought to locate the best site for the town. Although the Bible does not say how many Magi there were, tradition holds there were three because of the mentioning of the three gifts as recorded in Matthew 2:1-12. Francisco Pizarro selected the name *Ciudad de Los Reyes* to honor the Magi (Cobo 1956: 292-93). Cobo also recorded the orders issued by Pizarro dated January 6, 1535. In these orders Pizarro selected three experienced men to choose a specific site for the new city. “...*fecho [hecho] en Pachacamac a 6 de Enero de 1535.—Francisco Pizarro, por mandato de su señoría, Antonio Picado*” (Cobo 1882: 13-28).

Nicolas de Ribera el Viejo (the elder) favored the village of San Gallán, which is today called Pisco, situated about 240 km (150 mi.) south of Lima but he quickly moved the people with him to the new site once Pizarro had selected it. The City of the Kings, which was soon to be called Lima, was officially “founded” on January 18, 1535, the day on which Pizarro changed the status of the native community on the Rimac River to that of his capital city. (The native peoples along the coast pronounced the “R” in

Rimac as an “L” hence the spoken name became Limac.) On January 21, 1535, the Cabildo set to work at organizing the new city (Torres: 11).<sup>2</sup> Conscription of the native population was implemented in order to accomplish the construction projects which were to be built over top of their own communities.

The city was officially named and recognized by the Spanish Crown in a decree dated 1537.

... in a province which in the language of the Indians is called Limac, and in it a town made of Spanish Christians for which we command to name and entitle *la Ciudad de los Reyes* (the City of the Kings), because now Hernando de Zevallos on behalf of its residents has begged us on her behalf. We order the city arms, for putting on their banners and seals and other parts and places ... and this is our mercy and will that now and henceforth forever the said Ciudad de los Reyes have and be known by its shield on a blue field with three golden crowns of the kings, brought into a triangle, and above them a gold star, with each of the three points of the star touching the three crowns, and bordered by gold letters that say *Hoc signum vere regum est*, on a red field, and for capping and motto two black eagles with king crowns in gold, looking at each other, and embracing an I and a K, which are the first letters of our names [I for Ioana or Joana and K for Karolus or Charles], and above said letters a star of gold, as described and sketched...given in the city of Valladolid, this seventh of December in the fifteen hundred and thirty seventh year of the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ.—I the King.... (Fuentes 1858: 82-83).<sup>3</sup>

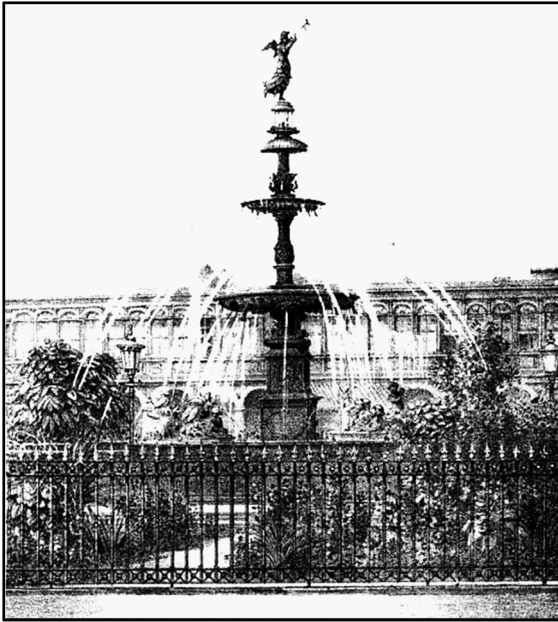
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<sup>2</sup> *De Cajamarca acompañó Ribera á Pizarro en la reducción de las provincias que, en su marcha al Cuzco, tuvo que recorrer; y cuando en 1534 se intentó trasladar á mejor sitio la ciudad fundada en el año anterior, en la valle de Jauja, para residencia de las autoridades, se encargó á Ribera de ejecutar la traslación. Fundó con este propósito el pueblo de San Gallán, que, aun en sus principios, se refundió en la ciudad levantada por Pizarro el 18 de Enero de 1535 en la valle de Lima, trasladando allí la población de Jauja, en obediencia de resoluciones del Cabildo de ésta, dictadas al respecto. En 21 de Enero del indicado año 1535, quedó definitivamente organizada la nueva población, constituyéndose en ese día el Cabildo. Pizarro, en uso de sus facultades de Gobernador, y atendiendo á que el Ayuntamiento de Jauja no había elegido su personal para el indicado año 1535, nombró Alcaldes y Regidores de ese Cabildo. Nicolás de Ribera y Juan Tello recibieron entonces las varas de justicia, correspondientes á los Alcaldes de la ciudad. Al erigirse ésta, Ribera y Diego de Agüero trazaron el plano y distribuyeron los solares entre sus fundadores. Penosa labor fué la del Cabildo de 1535. Todo el tiempo tuvo que pasarlo en dictar resoluciones que organizaran la Administración local, entonces excesivamente complicada por las variadas atenciones y deberes que á sus miembros competían. Satisfactoriamente fué llenada la misión de Ribera, á tal punto que mereció que sus compañeros de Cabildo le encargaran nuevamente de su Alcaldía por cuatro veces más.*

<sup>3</sup> *...en una Provincia que en lengua de yndios se dice Lima, y en ella hizo un pueblo de cristianos españoles, al qual mandamos llamar e intitular la Ciudad de los Reyes, e por agora hernando de Zevallos en nombre de los vecinos de ella, nos ha suplicado que acatando lo que han servido, mandásemos dar á la dicha ciudad armas que pongan en sus banderas y sellos y en las otras partes y lugares ... e por la presente es nuestra merced y Voluntad que agora y de aquí adelante perpetuamente para siempre jamas, la dicha Ciudad de los Reyes aya y tenga por sus armas conocidas Un escudo en campo azul con tres coronas de oro de Reyes, puestas en triangulo, y encima de ellas una estrella de oro la*



[“*Hoc signum vere regum est*” can be translated as “THIS IS THE SIGN OF THE TRUE KING”.]



The examples of the Arms of the City mentioned in the original 1537 decree seem to be lost, however the arms still exist on the fountain located in the Plaza de Armas which is today called the Plaza Mayor. The fountain, which brought water into the heart of the city, was dedicated in 1578 with a large celebration including the tossing of coins to the public.<sup>4</sup> (A scene in which one can imagine newly minted coins with the Star of Lima mark.) The city arms on the fountain have three crowns and two six-pointed stars, unlike many of the arms dating later which show eight-pointed stars. The image here shows the fountain as it appeared in 1866 (Fuentes 1866: 11). The star image

on the title page of this article is from the fountain.

In 1542 the Viceroyalty of Peru was established as was the Royal Audiencia and Chancery of Lima. Also that same year of 1542 King Charles issued the *New Laws of the Indies for the Good Treatment and Preservation of the Indians* intended to provide the native population some measure of protection from exploitation.

Between 1544-46 the *encomenderos* [basically the conquistadors who had become large landowners with rights of inheritance] in Peru refused to comply with the *New Laws*. Word of the *New Laws* reached Lima before the first viceroy, Blasco Núñez Vela, arrived in 1544. He soon understood the discontent of the *encomenderos* and became sympathetic to their position but in obedience to the king he still tried to enforce the *New Laws*. Hostility arose between the existing authorities in Peru and the new viceroy to such an extent that the Audiencia tried to remove the viceroy from office. Led by Gonzalo Pizarro (Francisco Pizarro’s half-brother) an open rebellion began with the viceroy being killed in 1546. In 1552 *The New Laws of the Indies for*

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*cual, cada una de las tres puntas de la dicha estrella toque á tres coronas, y por orla unas letras de oro que digan hoc signum Vere Regum est; en campo colorado y por timbre y divisa dos aguilas negras de corona de oro de Reyes que se mire la una á la otra, y abracen una I y una K que son las primeras letras de nuestros nombres propios, y encima de estas dichas letras una estrella de oro segun que aqui van figuradas y pintadas... Dada en la Villa de Valladolid, á siete del mes de Diciembre, año del nacimiento de nuestro Salvador Jesucristo, de mil quinientos y treinta y siete años.—Yo el Rey—*

<sup>4</sup> (Bromley: 26)... *que hubo en la Plaza Mayor fue la que se inauguró el 21 de Octubre de 1578, acto que se celebró con corridas de toros, salvas de arcabucería, música de trompetas y chirimías y arrojó de monedas al pueblo.* (...that was in the Plaza Mayor was inaugurated on 21 October 1578 celebrated with bullfights, salvos of musketry, music of trumpets and chirimías [wooden flute instruments], and the tossing of coins to the people).

*the Good Treatment and Preservation of the Indians* was weakened by issuance of a revised set of laws.

## **Section 2: The Star of Lima mark**

The origin of the Star of Lima mark dates early in the history of that city. In order to understand the history it is helpful to explain the meaning of specific terms and offices used in that time and place.

Selected Vocabulary:

**Bruselas:** Spanish for Brussels (Belgium)

**Fiel:** *Encargado de que se cumplan con exactitud y legalidad ciertos servicios públicos.* (Diccionario de la Lengua Española del Real Academia Española). One charged with keeping certain public services accurate and legal.

**Fiel de pesos (y pesas):** *platero elegido anualmente por el cabildo, a partir del año de 1544, para visitar, junto con los diputados de la ciudad, los pesos y pesas y sancionar a los mercadores que tuvieron pesos faltos. Entre sus funciones se recogen también las marcar los pesos con marca personal y de la ciudad, así como hacer las matrices de las propias marcas por encargo del municipio.* (Heredia: 57). Silversmiths elected annually by the Cabildo, beginning in 1544, together with city deputies called on city merchants to inspect for short weighments. Among their functions was to mark scale weights with their personal mark and that of the city.

**Marcos:** weight standards especially that of the *marco* (mark) which came out of the middle ages. (In the metric system the mark is approximately 230 grams.) Coin weight (mass) was specified in pieces per mark.

**Platero:** Literally “silversmith” but in Lima during the period discussed “goldsmiths, jewelers, assayers, smelters and other experts in non-ferrous metals, since specialization in these fields was not thorough.” (Lockhart: 118)

**Pesa:** scale weights (for weighing) and calibration weights for checking accuracy.

**Peso:** weight (or mass).

**Sello, sellar:** Stamping, punching, printing or otherwise marking things to indicate their character.

In May 1538, just three years after the founding of the city, the Cabildo first mentioned the office of assayer and an assayer’s name, the platero Diego Bravo. On September 28 the Cabildo set rules for the size of assay and fees for performing the assay. On November 5 the Cabildo required that assayers mark each assay with the fineness and their own personal mark but that no additional fee could be charged for the marking (Heredia: 50).

In 1544 complaints about short weight (less weight than declared) and dishonest scale weights came before the Cabildo. The Cabildo agreed to appoint an honest *platero* who they would authorize to inspect scale weights, weight transactions and to punish short weight violations. Eventually this inspector position would be called *fiel de pesos (y pesas)* (Heredia: 51).

The first appointment to the office of *fiel de pesos y pesas* was in May 1549, either May 25 (Heredia: 51) or May 21 (Dargent 2001: 136), when the Cabildo authorized

Juan de Bruselas<sup>5</sup> to inspect *marcos* and *pesas* of iron and other metals and mark them with a seal (punch) consisting of a star (to represent the city) and with the inspectors name. It seems that the punch (seal) was applied only to those standards and weights that satisfied Cabildo requirements for honesty and fairness.

*En este cabildo se acordó que se vea los marcos e pesas de hierro e otro metal las mandaron que Juan de Bruselas, fiel, ha hecho por sellos una estrella que con las armas de la ciudad y su nombre del dicho Juan de Bruselas* (Dargent 2001: 136 with footnote 180 reference: *Libros de Cabildos de Lima* (en adelante, LCL), libro IV, tomo III, p. 128). (In this Council it was agreed that the weight standards and scale weights made of iron and other metal approved by *fiel* Juan de Bruselas, have a star seal [punch] for the arms of the city and his name.)

Shortly after the “weight seal” the Cabildo commissioned Juan de Bruselas to provide another seal, this one for sealing official documents. The entry below is recorded in the books of the Cabildo for June 14, 1549.

*En este cabildo, Juan de Bruselas, platero, truxo y presentó el sello que esta cibdad acordó e mandó facer, grande de plata, esculpidas las armas della para sellar y dar la autoridad a las cartas que esta cibdad escribiesen y las escrituras y probanças que en esta cibdad se hiziesen.* (Dargent 2001: 137 with footnote 181 same reference as 180). (In this Council the silversmith Juan de Bruselas delivered and presented the seal that was agreed to and ordered to be made; it being a large engraved arms in silver for sealing and authorizing letters in this city.)

On July 5, 1549, the Cabildo asked Bruselas for yet another seal, this one with “three crowns and a star” for marking textiles coming into the city.<sup>6</sup> Likely these textiles were mostly woolens. By these records in the books of the Cabildo it is clear that Juan de Bruselas created the Star of Lima seal in 1549 and it along with other seals that he made were official seals authorized, commissioned and sanctioned by the Cabildo of Lima. In the year 1551 Juan de Bruselas departed Lima for Charcas (Heredia: 51) and would become assayer for the city of Potosí. For a full account of Juan de Bruselas and other Flemish personalities in Peru see Dargent 2001.<sup>7</sup>

### **Section 3: The Mint at Lima**

Negotiations for establishing a mint in Peru began in 1551 (Dargent 1997: 259). By decree of August 21, 1565 King Philip II authorized a mint in Peru. Arequipa was the leading candidate for the new mint but the king preferred to ennoble Lima by installing the mint there. The mint mark was specified to be a Latin letter “P” which was to signify

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<sup>5</sup> (Lockhart: 118) A certain Juan Renero, a native of Brussels, departed for New Spain in 1535. Then in the 1540s he appeared in Peru where he was known as Juan de Bruselas.

<sup>6</sup> Antonio Roma Valdés “Una Pesa con Marcas de Lima” in *Gaceta Numismática* 187 Junio 2014: 115-16. Described and illustrated the top of a nested weight recovered from a building, likely a butcher shop, in Lima which collapsed in the earthquake of 1746. The weight includes the stamped design of three crowns arranged in a triangle. The author hypothesized it was made locally in Lima or else by Johann Mangold of Nuremberg Germany after 1736.

<sup>7</sup> Professor Dargent has kindly made available on internet an English translation. [http://macuquina.com/articles/Flemings\\_in\\_colonial\\_South\\_America\\_english.pdf](http://macuquina.com/articles/Flemings_in_colonial_South_America_english.pdf)

the Viceroyalty of Peru, not any particular city ... *y pongase en la parte donde la devisa de las columnas una P latina para que se conozca como se hizo en Pirú...* (Dargent 1997: 259-62). The first receipt of silver at the mint was in 1568. Production was intermittent and none of the coins carry the Star of Lima mark (because the royal authorization specifically described the design). The year 1572 was a transition year for the mint at Lima. A letter dated April 24, 1571 informed the king that production had stopped but it must have resumed after March 1572 when the new “Crowned Shield” design dies arrived because coins of that design with assayer mark X (Xinés Martínez) are known. Late in 1572 the mint was closed with one-half of its equipment and tools sent to *Alto Peru* (Upper Peru, i.e., Bolivia) for use at La Plata (1573) and then Potosí (1574). One-half of the tools and equipment were retained in Lima according to an agreement between the *Audiencia* of Lima (that wanted to retain the mint in Lima) and the Viceroy of Peru in case there should come a need to reopen the mint in Lima (Dargent 1997: 263-70).

A need for coins did develop in Lima and the viceroy changed his mind whereby he authorized the reopening of the mint which then operated between 1577 and 1587, and then again in 1592 when it seems a final decision was made to close it permanently at which time coin production resumed for a short time in order to settle open accounts (Dargent 1997: 270-71). The coins produced at the second operation (1577-87, 1592) of the Lima mint were of the “Crowned Shield”<sup>8</sup> design unlike the original design authorized in 1565. They carry the “P” for Peru and the Star of Lima which must be an additional mintmark to represent the City of Lima. On some specimens the star is clearly separated from the assayer mark suggesting it is independent of the assayer. The star was employed by the Cabildo as its mark of authority ever since it was created by Juan de Bruselas therefore it seems clear that the star is the mark of the City of Lima to distinguish it from other authorities, e.g., Potosí. I’ve not seen documentation showing who authorized the use of the star on the coins, however, it seems likely that by 1577 it was standard practice to include the star as the city’s mark of authorization and therefore was not invented by the mint assayer Diego de la Torre since it had been in use since at least 1549, some 28 years earlier.

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<sup>8</sup> Royal decree of Philip II dated March 8, 1570 ordering a design change of coins produced in the Americas.



#### Section 4: Examples showing the Star of Lima mintmark



**Obverse | Reverse**

**Philip II: Lima, 1/2 real, assayer Diego de la Torre. 18 mm**

**Obverse shows assayer's mark "D" with "o" above to the left of PHILIPPVS monogram and to the right of it the Star of Lima  
(Daniel Sedwick LLC Treasure Auction 12 lot 984)**



**Obverse | Reverse**

**Philip II: Lima, 4 reales, assayer Diego de la Torre. 32 mm**

**(Daniel Sedwick LLC Treasure Auction 12 lot 974)**



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## Notes:

1. Spain switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar by dropping ten days after Thursday Oct 4, 1582. The following day became Friday Oct. 15, 1582. Therefore, all dates before October 15, 1582 in this article would be ten days later by today's reckoning.
2. Bernabé Cobo was a Jesuit Priest serving in Peru (1599-1630), then in Mexico (1630-50) and then in Peru again. His writings were not published until the 19th century. Today his writings are considered primary source material for western South America.

My sincerest appreciation to Dr. Eduardo Dargent Chamot, professor at University of Lima 1982-2008 and University of San Martin de Porres (Lima) since 1999. He supported and encouraged me during preparation of this article by directing me to sources, providing hard copy material and proof reading the text, however, any errors remaining belong to the author.



*...continued from p. 143*

What is special about this coin is that it is described in the reverse legend as a gold coin but is in fact silver. Künker believe that the coin was struck from the die of a 10 ducat gold piece. No such coin is known, only this rare silver taler. Probably the gold coin was never struck because of the precarious political and military situation at the time. The Thirty Years' War was in full swing.

Davenport lists the coin but without a picture and without a translation of the exact reverse legend including the important word AURE. There are also regular silver Talers with the same design but with the reverse legend CONSILIO ET . VIRTU(T)(E) . MON NOVA.IMP, with no AURE (Dav.6711, 6712, 6713, 6716-6723).

Schütz lists the coin with simply the comment: "apparently this die was originally intended for a strike in gold."

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**Mysia, Cyzicus: Electrum Stater circa 500-450 BC**  
**Numismatica Ars Classica**



Stater circa 500-450 BC, EL 15.87 g. Cerberus l.; below, tunny. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. von Fritze 103. Boston 1538. Extremely rare. A very intriguing and fascinating issue, good very fine. Privately purchased in 2001.

The hellhound Cerberus appears with some frequency on Roman provincial coins, yet rarely on Greek coins. Indeed, the creature may only be represented by an issue of electrum staters and hectai of Cyzicus and on extremely rare Epirote bronzes of the 4th Century B.C. issued at Elea and Thesproti (either at the city of that name, or by the tribe).

On the coins of Epirus the creature is shown with three heads and is paired with the facing portrait of Demeter, the goddess whose annual torch-lit journey into Hades brought forth winter in the terrestrial world. The mythological hellhound is best known for having been captured by Heracles in his twelfth and final labor, which was by far his most dangerous. After delivering Cerberus to King Eurystheus, he then returned to chain the creature at the gates of Hades, which he continued to guard. Cerberus is typically described as having three heads of wild dogs, though often with just two, as here on this Cyzicene stater; but as with most every aspect of Greek mythology there are various traditions and little agreement, such that Cerberus is described as possessing somewhere between one and one hundred heads. He is said to have had the claws of a lion, a tail in the form of a serpent, and his mane sometimes is described as being composed of a great mass of serpents.

Barclay Head suggested that this type was struck in reference, or homage, to Cimmerium (Kimmerikon), a city on the southern shore of the Cimmerian Bosphorus that earlier had been called Cerberion. He reasoned that this city would have been a familiar destination for the intrepid Cyzicene merchants. However, Greenwell notes that Cyzicus was particularly attached to the story of the Argonautic expedition—especially to Heracles' involvement—and to the goddess Persephone, who Appian says had received Cyzicus as a marriage gift from Zeus. Since Cerberus is associated with both Heracles and Persephone, this type perhaps is best seen as part of a larger display of designs associated with those deities.

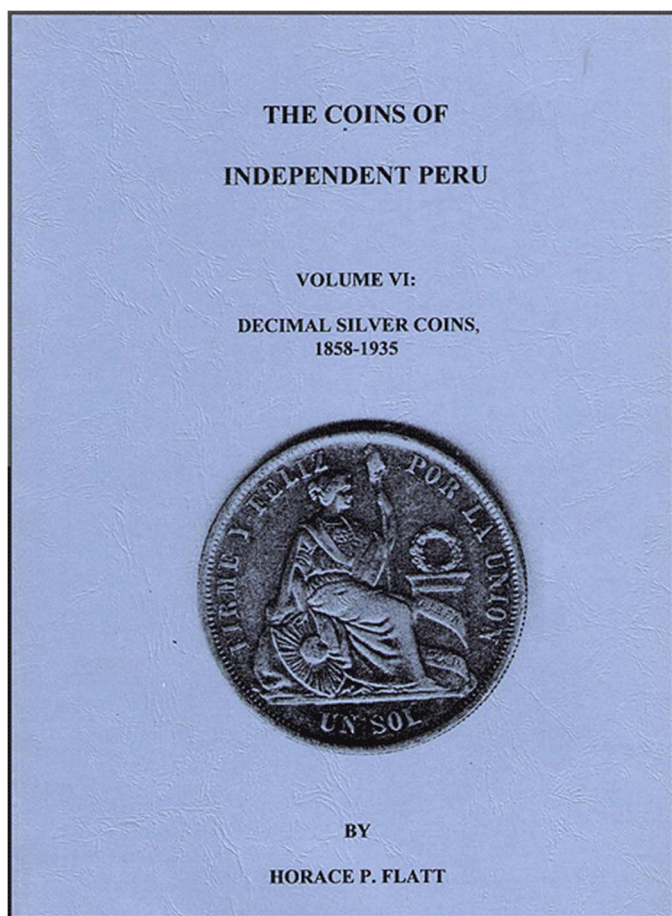
Reprinted with permission of ARS Classica Numismatica, Auction 77, 26 May 2014, lot 55.

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## Book News and Reviews

***The Coins of Independent Peru. Volume VI: Decimal Silver Coins, 1858-1935.* By Horace P. Flatt. Terrell, Texas: Haja Enterprises, 2000. 125 pages, softbound. Available from Dale Seppa, 103 6<sup>th</sup> Ave North, Virginia, MN, 55792. \$30 postpaid.**



Horace P. Flatt published this book in 2000, as the 6th volume in his series entitled *The Coins of Independent Peru*. The first five of these works appeared in rapid succession, from 1994 to 1997. This review is admittedly tardy, but only because of the fact that the book was not advertised, and may well not have been previously reviewed until now. The very first volume covered the early coinage, denominated in *reales*, from 1821-1857, while the second, spanning the years 1858-1917, covers much of the same ground as the volume currently under review. This overlapping of subject matter was occasioned by the permission the author obtained to utilize the data contained in William Judd's unpublished manuscript from 1983 on the crown-sized *soles*. Judd's work, in turn, contained vast amounts

of information on specific varieties, as well as scarcity ratings. Had Flatt not obtained this material, it is likely this book would never have seen the light of day.

Since Flatt also covers the coinage of the Cuzco, Ayacucho and Arequipa mints in Volume VI, this latest work, of which this reviewer was completely unaware until several months ago, is by far the most complete of his entire *oeuvre*. Despite the obvious fact that the author has drawn heavily from his earlier work on these latter mints, the results have proven felicitous in the extreme. Flatt has collected Peruvian coins since the 1960s, and his over 30 years of painstaking note-taking on his own collection, travels to archives on three continents, and extensive correspondence with other authors have given us this highly readable, historically accurate and fully documented book.

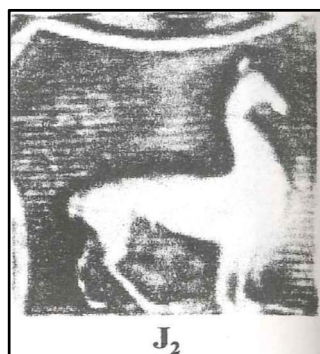
Initially, Flatt intended to cover only the ever popular *soles*, a series with numerous major types covering over 70 years, and as many varieties as, say, 1878 Morgan dollars. However, so much additional information surfaced during his investigations that he felt compelled to include the minor coins, fractionals of the *soles* as well. He also includes the outlying provincial mints. For this we can only be grateful, especially since the author makes no bones about the debt he owes to previous researchers, many of whom

provided him with photographs, notes on provenance and counterfeits, and access to their collections.

After several pages briefly outlining the early Republican period, which utilized the Spanish colonial system of coinage denominated in *reales*, Flatt covers the transition to a true decimal system, roughly spanning the years 1858-1864. He goes on to illustrate the features by which his cataloguing efforts will proceed. Chapter Two is devoted to “The Elements of the Design”, including a number of varieties in Liberty’s armor, or breast plate, and the shield she rests upon, somewhat similar to that seen on Liberty Seated coinage of the United States. The shield also displays the ubiquitous sun face often seen on Andean coinage, in this case of Incan origin. Normally associated with the ‘sacred’ metal—for gold was held in awe by the Incans, who considered it to be the ‘teardrops of the sun’—it should be remembered that both Bolivia and Peru have always been primarily silver-producing nations, from at least the earliest Spanish colonial days.

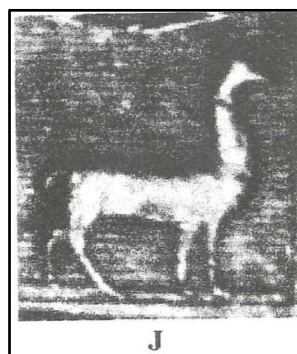
Flatt goes on to illustrate features such as the “Wreath over Pedestal”, the Liberty Cap, the legends, the inscription ‘Libertad’, the Palm Branch, the ‘Cinchona tree’, source of quinine in combatting malaria, and the Llama. This latter animal, iconic in Andean culture, was originally supposed to be the smaller *vicuña*, prized since times immemorial for its fine wool. Finally, and by no means is even this figure without numerous varieties, he takes up the cornucopia spilling out coins as a major feature as well. From the earliest days of the Republic, the animal, mineral and agricultural wealth of the Andean region was thus symbolized on the Peruvian coat of arms and most subsequent coinage.

In this fashion, each type or variety is assigned letters which refer directly to these very features, such as A to F for the obverse (for most of us this is thought of as the reverse, or coat of arms and date side), with G through L designating the reverse features, on the side bearing the figure of a Seated Liberty. Thus, for example, the first fully decimal crown, or *sol* of 1864, is described as ABCDEF/GHIJKL, with subsequent types bearing subscript numbers as well, such as F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub> and so on. Since each feature with letters and numbers is also illustrated, every type and significant variety is fully described, and can be visualized by the reader. The significance of this painstaking descriptive work is entirely on a par with that of Sheldon, Overton and VAM varieties among U.S. Large Cents, Bust Halves or Morgan Dollars. That this pioneering work for Peruvian *soles* did not occur until the year 2000 is indicative of the fact that researchers are relatively new at this game, and Flatt is the first to recognize that his findings have only scratched the surface of what is sure to be expanded by subsequent investigation. Thus far, with the exception of a few true specialists, the author’s efforts have gone largely unnoticed. The author gives credit where it is due, in particular to his use of Judd’s 1983 manuscript.



*“J2—Llama with ears forward and visibly male. First used in 1879.”*

Now you see it...



*“J—Small Llama with extended tail. First used in 1864.”*

Now you don't...

For the typical reader or non-specialist such as this reviewer—a generalist in 19th century Latin American coinages—the most interesting reading in *The Coins of Independent Peru* are the numerous historical anecdotes, of which I will describe only a few. One of these is in the depiction of the llama, which suddenly becomes “visibly male” as a symbol of Peru’s readiness to defend herself. A chapter entitled “War of the Pacific” (1879-1883) now describes the slow but inexorable approach of the Chilean army of occupation. By the time Chile finally takes the capital city of Lima in 1881, the llama has already reverted to her original female nature, along with numerous other changes wrought by the occupation of the Lima mint by the Chileans. The coinage morphs through several more transformations in the early years of the 1880s. As an aside, I must note that the real losers in this war were the Bolivians, who lost their Pacific coastline, the province of Litoral, creating a long-lasting political ‘hot potato’ which still smarts, to this day. In any event, as Chile loosens its grip on the Peruvian capital, contenting itself with having acquired one Peruvian border province, Tarapacá, along with the formerly Bolivian coast, change proceeds anew as the original Mint employees regain their creative freedom. The entire process is described in the author’s lettering and numbering system, as always. This period in particular, albeit concerning silver, is pure ‘numismatic gold’ in the opinion of this reviewer.

Other interesting features on the coins include letters spelling out an assayer’s name on the coins spilling out of the cornucopia, for which one Señor DERTEANO paid a heavy price, of eventual demotion and censure. There is even a five-legged llama feature, which is in reality an ‘over-llama’, as opposed to an over-date, although created by similar processes. We are reminded of the three legged Buffalo nickels of 1937. The world-wide collapse in the price of silver in the 1880s and 1890s is followed closely, since Peru always insisted on an exact correspondence between face value and intrinsic value. When this falling price trend reversed itself in later decades, it would eventually give rise to coinage of only 0.500 fineness following the First World War, until well into the years of the worldwide Great Depression.

Finally, the coinage of silver ceases entirely in 1935, except for sporadic commemoratives which begin to be produced some thirty years later. The attempt to fix the weight and fineness of the gold *libra* to the pound sterling of Great Britain serves to remind us that that island nation not only gave Peru a number of its chief assayers, but affected its monetary policy as well. It was not by coincidence that the railroads of the Andean nations were largely of British construction as well.

All in all, Volume VI of *The Coinage of Independent Peru* is a treat for the curious eye and mind alike. And if one were to attempt to collect this nation's silver coinage by type or even by die variety, this work is absolutely essential. Especially interesting is the use of a rarity scale applied to every known variety of the *soles*—a feature Flatt ascribes largely to the Judd manuscript—with additional contributions made by a veritable *Who's Who* of specialists, all of whom are credited for their efforts. In most cases, detailed photographs are provided to showcase the types and varieties described, and when a contributor's findings disagree with Flatt's personal experience, the author states his own opinions firmly, while keeping an open mind and always laying bare his reasoning process, in confirming or doubting as the case may be. As Flatt remains the final arbiter, *The Coinage of Independent Peru* never reads as if it were designed by committee, despite the author's penchant for collaboration as a means toward completeness. If one had to have just one work to begin collecting Peruvian coinage of the era 1858-1935, this book would be an excellent place to begin.

*Reviewed by David B. Fiero*

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**Ephesus: Phanes Electrum Hecte circa 625-600 BC**  
**Numismatica Ars Classica**



Phanes. Hecte circa 625-600 BC, EL 2.33 g. Forepart of stag r., head reverted. Rev. Irregular square punch with irregular lines. Weidauer –, cf. 35 (stag l.). SNG von Aulock –. Linzalone LN 1103. Very rare. About extremely fine

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