

CUBAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
 IS A 501(c) 3 ORGANIZATION (see newsletter 2-07)

NEWSLETTER 3-13  
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FOR OUR SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

## **SALUDOS SOCIOS Y AMIGOS NUMISMATICOS**

**Bienvenidos a nuestra Asociación Numismática Cubana. Esta es nuestra primera comunicación en el idioma Español para beneficio de nuestros visitantes y socios de habla hispana, y aquellos de habla inglesa que deseen practicar su español. Nuestra Asociación esta formada por numismáticos de todas partes del mundo que tienen el interés común de estudiar, coleccionar, y compartir conocimientos y amistad con otros sobre la Numismática de la Isla de Cuba. La asociación está afiliada con American Numismatic Association (ANA), American Numismatic Society (ANS), Latin American Paper Money Society (LANSA) y Florida United Numismatists (FUN).**

**Somos una entidad sin fines de lucro y totalmente apolítica, fundada el 9 de Enero de 2004. Nuestro objetivo es el estudio de monedas, billetes, fichas, medallas, bonos, fichas de casino, documentos y, en general, todo lo referente a la Numismática de Cuba. Nos reunimos anualmente durante la convención de invierno de Florida Numismatic Association (FUN), usualmente en Orlando, Florida. La cuota anual de membresía regular es solamente \$ 10.00 US. El propósito de esta comunicación en español es invitar a todos los numismáticos de habla hispana a comunicarse con nosotros, si así lo desean y prefieren, en este idioma. También queremos explorar opiniones de los socios sobre comunicaciones en español.**

**Por favor envíen sus ideas, preguntas y comentarios a Frank Putrow, (Presidente)**

**[Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com) o al que suscribe, Rudy Valentín, (V.P.) [Numisrev@verizon.net](mailto:Numisrev@verizon.net)**

*(Nota: El nombre legal de nuestra Asociación es "Cuban Numismatic Association", somos una Asociación legalmente constituida en los E.U.A. y no estamos afiliados a ninguna entidad de ningún otro país cuyo nombre en español pueda ser similar.)*

## **eBay UPDATE**

The eBay fiasco began on April 9, 2013. Word began trickling in that eBay was rejecting listing of certain Cuban collectibles. Surely, it had to be a mistake. Maybe eBay was enforcing the vulnerable point of the Cuban Embargo? Maybe the intent was to discourage sellers from listing coins, currency, and unused stamps minted under Fidel Castro's rule (identified as the Second Republic in Numismatic terms)? WHY? Why would eBay introduce changes in their own guidelines after 10 years? There had to be a logical answer to this policy change!

Unfortunately, after more information was received from many CNA members whose listings were rejected, it became obvious that ALL Cuban collectibles were being rejected by eBay. Even cancelled stamps, known as informational, which are specifically excluded from the Cuban embargo, were rejected by eBay. WHY?

Needless to say, this biased policy resulted in many complaints to eBay management. Formal letters to eBay executives, emails, and telephone calls to Customer Service Representatives produced no reason WHY the new policy was introduced. Telephone calls to the eBay executives were impossible because the eBay telephone system does not provide access to the executive branch. Word was received that eBay customer reps were telling callers that eBay was unable to differentiate between First Republic collectibles (1915-1961) and Second Republic collectibles (1962-current), so THE BLANKET BAN was applied. They added "As a company, eBay can do anything they want and they will apply their new policy".

My own April 25, 2013 registered letter to Mr. Michael R. Jackson, eBay Senior VP, General Counsel, was answered on May 23, 2013 by an aide, Mike Carson, Global Regulatory and Policy Management. His response is as follows:

“Thanks for your recent letter regarding eBay’s policy on Cuban-origin items. As you know, eBay’s Embargoed Goods Policy prohibits the sale of most items from Cuba (except for informational items) and does include a prohibition on the sale of stamps, coins and paper money from Cuba. While some of these items may have been made prior to the introduction of the embargo, eBay cannot determine when the item was actually removed from Cuba and therefore has made a policy decision to prohibit all such Cuban-origin items. We are not able to rely on disclaimers in the listing that the item is “pre-embargo” and we are in the process of updating our external policy to clearly state that. We have also removed the Guide to Collecting Cuban Coins.

Thanks again for the information you provided.”

I personally find the above position insulting, unprofessional, and an amateur attempt to cover up the true reason for the policy change.

I want to commend a few CNA members who have spent countless hours and their talent in an attempt to resolve this issue. Orlando Pino has written many letters to eBay addressing pertinent issues such as the intent in the embargo regulations as it pertains to Cuban nationals, as well as empirical policy. He has also petitioned the US Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Control (OFAC), asking for clarification regarding the sale of First Republic Cuban collectibles between a seller and buyer, both of which reside in the US.

Stan Klein, a CNA Director, wrote eBay, pointing out the extremes of the Cuban embargo, as it could apply from sugar, nickel ore, tobacco, coffee, rum, etc. J.G. Ash has written an extensive review of the contradictions of eBay’s new policy.

The Numismatic periodical, Coin World, published a detailed article in the June 17, 2013 edition. The author attempted to get a “WHY” from eBay. In case you did not read the article, here it is:

## Ban at eBay on Cuban coins angers collectors

By Paul Gilkes 06-03-13

Article first published in June 17, 2013, U.S. Collectibles section of Coin World



While the Cuban 1915 gold 20 peso and 1953 silver peso shown are legal to buy and sell in the United States despite sanctions against the island nation, such coins are being banned by eBay from its online auctions. Online auction venue eBay is banning the sale of Cuban coins, paper money and stamps under revisions to its policies governing its online auctions. Imposition of the ban has enraged collectors of Cuban numismatic and philatelic items, noted by comments from the collectors on eBay's own discussion forum at <http://forums.ebay.com/db1/topic/Coins-Paper-Money/Ebay-Banning-Cuban/5100147869>.

The ban has also brought terse remarks from Francis X. Putrow, president of the Cuban Numismatic Association ([www.cubannumismaticassociation.com/](http://www.cubannumismaticassociation.com/)) who says the ban is adversely affecting collector-sellers of such material. Putrow informed Coin World the "unmerited rejection" of Cuban collectibles has been in effect since April 9. "It became effective without any advance warning or notification to the hundreds of sellers of Cuban coins, currency and stamps, as well as other Cuban collectibles," according to Putrow. Putrow said eBay customer service representatives refer callers to Web pages at [pages.ebay.com/help/policies/embargo.html](http://pages.ebay.com/help/policies/embargo.html) that explain that "eBay's policy prohibits the sale of most items that originate from Cuba due to the sanctions enforced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Any violation of this policy, we will remove the item and may prohibit you from future use of our services."

The Embargo Act and OFAC guidelines ban importing into the United States Cuban coins, currency and stamps issued from 1962 onward; pieces issued prior to 1962 may be freely traded. The eBay ban, however, goes further than the Embargo Act and OFAC guidelines, by prohibiting the sale of items issued before 1962, according to Putrow. "There is no logical reason why eBay has initiated a revised policy other than the inability to 'tag' the listings of embargoed and non-embargoed items," Putrow said.

A commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba was partially imposed beginning in October 1960, after Fidel Castro's Cuban Revolution deposed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista's regime. The embargo was enacted subsequent to Cuba's nationalizing the properties of U.S. citizens and corporations in Cuba. The embargo, strengthened to a near-total embargo on Feb. 7, 1962, was codified into law in 1993 as the Cuban Democracy Act. The act's stated purpose was to maintain sanctions on Cuba until the Cuban government moves toward "democratization and greater respect for human rights."

### **Response from eBay**

In response to Coin World's inquiry concerning reasons for eBay's ban on Cuban numismatic and philatelic collectibles, Kari Ramirez from eBay's corporate communications staff issued the following statement May 20. "eBay is committed to maintaining the highest industry standards and our policies are designed to promote a safe and trusted marketplace that complies with U.S. trade laws and regulations. eBay's Embargoed Goods Policy prohibits the sale of items that fall under U.S. embargo regulations. As a U.S.-based company, this policy applies to all items sold on eBay. "We are updating the policy to clarify that eBay does not permit goods from embargoed countries that claim to be pre-embargo, since we cannot determine or verify when an item was removed from a specific country. Specifically, listings for stamps, coins or paper money from Cuba are not permitted."

Ramirez concluded the statement by noting that “Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe is not employed by eBay and has had no involvement with this policy. Eileen Donahoe is U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the wife of eBay’s chief executive officer, John Donahoe.

The pages [ebay.com/help/policies/embargo.html](http://ebay.com/help/policies/embargo.html) online link includes the following explanation: “Under U.S. law, buying and selling items made in restricted countries may not be lawful, depending on the nature of the item, when it was manufactured, and when it left that specific country. Generally, items from restricted countries may be sold only if they’re considered to be informational, pre-embargo, or licensed.”

Collectors of Cuban numismatic and philatelic items designate their collectibles as First Republic, representing collectibles from 1902 to 1962, Putrow said. The Second Republic designation refers to all collectibles from 1962 to the present. All coins and paper currency were struck or printed in the United States during the First Republic, according to Putrow. Most other coins and currency prior to 1902 were also minted/printed in the United States, he said. The Philadelphia Mint minted its last Cuban coin in 1961 — a 5-centavo piece.

### **Treasury guidelines**

The U.S. Treasury Department Resource Center website at [www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/programs/pages/cuba.aspx](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/programs/pages/cuba.aspx) provides guidelines and policies regarding Cuba and other countries against which embargoes are in place by the United States. “The specific details on Cuba are vague because they do not address the exceptions that have been published since February 7, 1962,” Putrow said.

The exceptions, which are well documented, were also included in eBay’s Guide to Collecting Cuban Coins at [www.ebay.com/gds/Your-Guide-to-Collecting-Cuban-Coins/1223/g.html](http://www.ebay.com/gds/Your-Guide-to-Collecting-Cuban-Coins/1223/g.html), but the link was severed on April 20, Putrow said. According to Putrow, before the website link was removed, the pages contained the following language: “LEGALLY PURCHASING CUBAN COINS — Acquiring almost anything from Cuba is illegal for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. However, there are some exceptions. Only items that are licensed, informational, or precede the embargo can be purchased from Cuba. While coins are not licensed or informational, coins minted before the embargo was in place can be legally sold and purchased in the United States. Purchasing any coins minted after 1963 can result in heavy fines.”

SO, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? First of all, we cannot throw in the towel. eBay has hurt the sellers and buyers of Cuban collectibles. For some unknown reason, eBay will not compromise or attempt to address the issue of First and Second Republic collectibles. It will be fruitless to contact eBay at this time, since their response will follow the mantra issued stated above, I encourage Letters to the Editors of the three major Coin periodicals: Coin World ([pgilkes@coinworld.com](mailto:pgilkes@coinworld.com)), Numismatic News and World Coin News ([David.harper@fwpubs.com](mailto:David.harper@fwpubs.com)),

It might take Congress to eliminate the Cuban embargo for this issue to go away. In the meantime, be creative to get the proper attention on this unfair issue.

## **CUBA IS NO LONGER ON OUR BUCKET LIST** by Frank Putrow, editor.

My wife, Carmen, always expressed a desire to visit Cuba. Her maternal grandmother was born in Havana, and we were missing a small piece of her family tree as it pertained to her grandmother's sister. Over the years, we had hoped that the Cuban Embargo would be lifted, and we could visit Cuba to research this missing link. As we approached our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, we decided to visit Cuba, even with the requirement of joining an educational or religious tour. While discussing our plans with a Tampa travel agent, we discovered that a US citizen can legally travel to Cuba to visit family IF the US citizen is no more than three generations removed from the relative living in Cuba.

Arrangements were made and we flew from Tampa, Fl. to Havana on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The revelations and surprises were immediate. It took about two hours to process our "check-in" at the Tampa Sky King counter. It took three steps:

1. Ticket verification and statement of purpose of travel. Surprisingly, there was no requirement to prove intent to visit family – only verbal, than a signature. We were required to pay for our visas at this point, which was \$80 per person.
2. Luggage check-in. It is impossible to describe the density of luggage that was being processed. Carts were loaded with large saran wrapped bundles of clothing, household goods, and large screen TV's. Each passenger is allowed 60 pounds of luggage, thereafter a fee of \$2.00 a pound applies.
3. We observed passengers paying many hundreds of dollars for the excessive weights at this point. I seem to recall that we were asked for \$20 each for airport tax, or some other purpose. Then, we walked to the departing gate to wait three hours for the delayed flight. One hour later, we were walking into the Jose Marti Airport in Havana. It took about two hours to claim our luggage, due to the unending incoming luggage being piled throughout the area. As we left the terminal, we were greeted by hundreds of Cuban citizens awaiting their relatives and "goodies".

We had reservations at a Catholic Convent B&B, staffed with nuns of the Saint Brigida Order. It was immaculate, scenic and in the middle of Habana Vieja (Old).

I had planned to visit the Cuban Numismatica Museo, which we located on the second day. At the Museo, we met Lorenzo Hernandez, the president of the Cuban Asociacion Numismatica. Carmen served as a competent interpreter, and was advised that the Asociacion was meeting the next morning at Casa de Culture. We toured the Museo, which was a disappointment since many coins and currency were not displayed, such as the 1932-1934 Star and 1934-1939 ABC Pesos. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic coinage was almost non-existent. Of course, the highlight was the 1916 Peso Gold Set. I inquired why many items were not displayed and was advised that the space was limited. I asked the manager for information about the Cuban Mint, since I really wanted to meet the principals and tour the facility. To my disbelief, no one seemed to know where the Cuban Mint was, or who to contact.

Things changed for the better the next day at the Casa de Culture. Lorenzo greeted us, and introduced us to many of the members of the Asociacion. We also met Ramon Rodriguez Escandell, the president of Filial Playa, a branch of the Asociacion De Numismaticos De Cuba. I discovered that there are many such chapters throughout Cuba and they all meet annually in Havana. The "meeting" that we attended was actually

like a flea market, where the members bought, sold, and traded amongst themselves. Contrary to my belief, the transactions were very open and money traded hands freely. I was approached by many of the members eager to sell me their wares and also inquire about our CNA. I passed out our CNA business cards and presented Lorenzo a CNA silver medal to instill goodwill between our associations.



1. Cuba Numismatica Museo.
2. Ramon Rodriguez Escandell – Presidente – Filia Playa, Lorenzo Hernandez - Presidente – Cuban Asociacion Numismatica , & Jorge Gonzalez Valdes (CNA member #102).
3. Frank Putrow presenting Lorenzo Hernandez with CNA silver medal for goodwill between or orgaizations.

One of the members introduced himself as Jorge Gonzales Valdes, who displayed his CNA membership card to me. He spoke good English, so we were able to discuss Cuban numismatics first hand. He said that there were a few Cuban collectors who have acquired nice collections. There are no governmental restrictions or guidelines regarding these activities. Jorge understood my interest to visit the Cuban Mint (La Casa de la Moneda) and said he would attempt to make the arrangements. He did so, and we did visit the Mint, pictured below.

There is some background that is important to understand my desire to visit the Mint. About 8 years ago, the Krause World Coin Catalog (WCC) personnel depended on collectors to photograph newly minted Cuban coins, then send the data to Krause to include in the Krause WCC, which was sporadic and inconclusive. I was able to arrange that the Cuban Mint send all new mintages to Krause via the internet in digital format, so that the data could be directly transferred to Krause's publishing software. Sometime since, this process broke down.

Meeting the Cuban Mint's key personnel was important to attempt to re-establish ties with Krause. The Mint was unimpressive at first sight. It appeared to be an old warehouse, with no identifiable signage. The security was present, but not what one would anticipate at a mint. However, Cuba has almost no crime, and criminal punishment is harsh. We met with the Mint Director, Rolando Fong, as well as Virginia Costa and Carmen Viciado. Carmen was the person who earlier arranged the link with Krause. We were advised that the Cuban Mint was reorganized a few years ago and the mints responsibilities were combined with other functions of the Cuban Government. Previously, CIMEX was the organization contracted



to mint the general coinage and commemoratives. It seems that CIMEX was more market orientated, spending assets for promotional and printed information. The new organization is more focused on fixed quantities of products with little marketing. My visit was two-fold. I wanted to establish goodwill with the key personnel, and to assure them that our CNA charter is historical, and non-political. The Cuban numismatic community lacks historical data of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic issues to enhance available data, some of which is over 45 years old. Mr. Fong was receptive and asked Ms. Viciado to investigate the link with Krause, and re-establish it, if feasible. He also advised us that a new Cuban coin catalog should be available in early 2014. A new facility is being built for the Cuban Mint, so many things are in limbo, as the equipment, etc., is being moved to the new location. For that reason, we could not tour the facility. I presented Mr. Fong a CNA silver medal to demonstrate goodwill. I have since contacted Ms. Viciado via her new email address to follow up on the discussions we had.

The discussion about Cuban Numismatics in Cuba cannot be complete without these observations: I personally saw some 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic coins that are not listed in Krause WCC. They include patterns and pruebas. I saw contemporary currency from different eras. I saw error coins and currency. I met collectors who are enthusiastic as our fellow CNA collectors. Yes, numismatics is alive and well in Cuba!

Our main reason to visit Cuba was to research a branch of Carmen's family tree. We did visit the family member and were able to clarify some misgivings. In spite of their humble surroundings, we were met with open arms. Unfortunately, the information we received was second hand, since the actual relative was long deceased. It was also important for us to celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in a special manner. Dinner at the historic Hotel Nacional de Cuba was the perfect place for dinner. We also toured this famous hotel, built in the 1930's, and later was one of the themes of the movie, THE GODFATHER. The memorabilia is displaced throughout the hotel, especially the photos of the many celebrities who were guests during the 30's – 50's.

We can summarize our visit in Cuba as follows:

The Cuban people are extremely friendly. Our contacts with shop/restaurant personnel, taxi drivers, etc. were all positive. It appeared that they were as interested in us as we were in them. We came as strangers, and left as friends.

There is absolutely no military presence. We did not see a single army uniform. The few police officers that we met were very friendly.

The infrastructure was as expected, especially the roads, utilities, and living quarters. Much work is needed in the infrastructure. There are some very quaint neighborhoods, but many of the citizens in Havana Vieja live in small quarters without air conditioning. There are many old plazas, in which one may find a church being restored. These plazas are a focal point for restaurants, museums, and general meeting places for the local citizens. The El Morro, and La Fuerza Castillos (castles) of Habana are prominent and popular tourist spots. In summary, historical structures are very evident, many dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The people of Cuba were the highlight of our visit. They are resigned to the realization that they have limitations in their opportunities. But, like most people that we have met in

numerous countries, they have hope that their children will have a rewarding future. In Cuba, it may be a dream rather than a reality.

### **IBNS PLANS CUBAN PRESENTATION DURING IT'S AUGUST 17 ANA MEETING**

Collectors will learn first-hand what it is like to hunt for collectibles in Cuba, during a presentation at the ANA World's Fair of money at 11:am, August 17, 2013, during the International Bank Note Society (IBNS) meeting, Stanley Campbell will share some of his experiences from six trips to Cuba in the last 20 years. The meeting will be held in Room 44 of the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, during the ANA World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Illinois. The presentation is free and open to the public.

### **MEMBER PROFILE**

Since the membership of CNA is so diverse, and separated geographically, it may be feasibly impossible for our members to meet and get to know one another. This section will highlight a member, or members, in each newsletter, providing a brief background of the person(s), so the membership may know a little about the person(s). It will be 100% voluntary. The officers and board members were first to provide their background, followed by the charter members, then the regular members.

The CNA is privileged to have members of various ethnic, economic, political, and educational backgrounds. Among the mix are: business executives, lawyers, medical doctors, and PhD's in religion, education, science, and government. The core of the CNA remains the "average" person, with numismatic interests, but it is interesting to know that such a variety of collectors are on our membership rolls, such as:

### **STAN KLEIN – BOARD MEMBER** (reprinted from the 1-06 (January 2006 CNA newsletter)

The earliest memories of coins, other than the pennies, nickels and dimes I was given to buy treats, was a small leather bag filled with British, Polish and other European coins that was given to me by my grandfather, when I was about 5 years old. He told me stories of the "old country" especially how he earned and spent similar coins. I was enchanted. I especially enjoyed the large English Pennies that seemed to be the coin with the largest population in that bag. I played with them often but eventually I put them aside and they were forgotten along with other childhood mementos.

When I left my parents home in New York, they went with me to Boston, to college where I eventually received a degree in Music. In between college there was a road job with the Norman Luboff Choir, the United States Army and the Vietnam War and my little bag of coins was stored and forgotten along with the rest of my civilian belongings. I spent my time in the service avoiding bullets and eventually writing and performing music and shows in the 4<sup>th</sup> Army area and also traveling with the First Armored Division Band.

Two years later I was back in Boston to finish my Degree work and then back on the road writing and playing with a group of old Army buddies. We took it quite far and played in most every State including Alaska and through this notoriety eventually became employed at Disney Productions in Los Angeles. They sent quite a few of us to Orlando, Florida to open Disney World and prepare the TV special and I became charmed by the semi-tropical scenery.

I took a trip or two to South Florida and thought it might be a nice place to settle. When I had my fill of Disney (hey, a guy named Goofy works there) I came to Miami to make my fortune (ok it wasn't a fortune, more like subsistence farming). I started a small production company and began to settle down. I was married, had a child and it was time to unplug. Ah, the bag of coins, it was in the bottom of a box. I was enchanted again.

I became determined to learn something about these relics and as I did, I became more drawn in, more fascinated, uncontrollably obsessed. Then I did the most dangerous thing one can do in this state of mind. I bought my first coin, a Morgan Dollar, and then another, until I had a box of these coins. Those who foolishly give in to this craving have no choice but to get into the coin business. I apprenticed with Arthur Smith, of the then famous Smith & Sons. It was trial by fire as the coin market was hot (1980) and gold was trading at record levels. Smith was a Latin American expert and I learned a great deal about Cuban coins and Spanish Colonial coins at his side. After five years, I left Smith and became manager of South Miami Rare Coins, the retail arm of Numismatic Investments of Florida, dealers in high-powered U.S. rarities. I worked major auctions in the U.S. and then in England. Nine years later I was in business for myself as a numismatic consultant, also picking up computer skills in programming, first for me and then for others.

As part of my own community outreach, I give seminars in public schools and in other community venues about various numismatic subjects. My audience ranges in age from about six years old to about ninety. I also have been doing a raggedly scheduled radio show about coins with Steven J. Gray, in South Florida, for the last 12 years.

I recently received my 25 year pin from the American Numismatic Association and I am a long time member of the American Numismatic Society, Central States Numismatic Association, Florida United Numismatists, Numismatic International, The Numismatic Literary Guild, The International Bank Note Society, The Love Token Society, The Gulf Coast Coin Club, The Fort Lauderdale Coin Club and I am also a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society in London.

Editor's Note: Stan is also the webmaster of our CNA.

## **CUBAN PATRIOTS**

**This will be a new section of the CNA newsletter. Each forthcoming newsletter will highlight Cuban Patriot who dedicated their lives to win independence for Cuba.**

### **JOSE MARTI (1853-1895) and the War of Independence**

**Jose Marti is the national hero of Cuba, with his revolutionary writings studied by every child in the country.** Jose Marti, political activist, poet, journalist and teacher, was born in Cuba. His father was Spanish and his mother was from the Canary Islands. From a young age he was politically involved and came into conflict with the government, doing 6 years hard labor at 16 years old for anti-government activity, and then being deported to Spain. Marti was very outspoken: embraced by the working class, and tolerated by the middle class. He

often spoke in negative terms about America's involvement in Cuba's government.

He spent time in the USA where he gathered support for the Cuban revolution amongst Cuban exiles. He was against the annexation of Cuba to the US, being proposed in the 1880s mostly by middle class Cubans and supported by the USA. Marti professed that: "In the USA, the causes of unity instead of coalescing have become dispersed; humanity's problems, instead of being solved, have been increased, democracy has been corrupted and undermined and has given birth to menacing poverty and hatred." His political ideals created unrest among many American politicians.

Jose Marti believed that the Cuban liberation struggle could only be built by the working class. During the 10 Year War, some leaders had relied on rich Cuban emigres and ignored the black working class. In the US, much of his work was based amongst the black Cuban tobacco workers who had emigrated to find work. He said, "There is no danger of war between the races in Cuba. Man means more than white man, mulatto or black man. The souls of white men and negroes have risen together from the battlefield where they have fought and died for Cuba."

He was instrumental in founding the Cuban Revolutionary Party in 1892, which was a broad-based movement. He fought for the unity of Latin America against US imperialism: "I have lived inside the monster and know its entrails".

In 1895, he, Maceo and Gomez launched an invasion of Cuba. Marti was shot and killed. An unfinished letter to a friend spoke of him risking his life to stop the US taking control of Cuba.

From 1895 to 1898, the Cuban Liberation army fought against forces many times their size. They drove the Spanish to the most western point of Cuba. In retaliation, the Spanish built concentration camps and herded Cubans into them. Many died of malnutrition and dysentery.

In 1889 Marti had written, "Once the US is in Cuba, who will get her out?". It was not until 60 years later that the Cuban Revolution got rid of US control of Cuba, overcame the racism against which Marti had battled all his life, and achieved the equality and social justice he had dreamed of.

### **Chronology of Marti's, born in 1853, life:**

- Went to San Pablo college run by Cuban patriot Rafael Maria de Mendive, who was to become Marti's mentor.
- 1871 Deported to Spain.
- 1873 1st Republic proclaimed in Spain. He attends Zaragoza University. *Writes The Spanish Republic and The Cuban Revolution.*
- 1874 Completes his BA in Law and Philosophy.

- 1875 Goes to Mexico where he is reunited with his family. Publishes *Revista Universal*.
- 1877 Returns to Cuba under a pseudonym. And from there to Guatemala. Takes a post as a professor of literature. Marries Carmen.
- 1878 Back to Cuba. Refused permission to work as a lawyer. Son born, Jose Francisco.
- 1879 Arrested for conspiracy. Deported to Spain, and from there went to the USA.
- 1880 In New York, he was made Interim President of the New York Cuban Revolutionary Committee. Publishes *The Hour and The Sun*. Daughter born called Maria Mantilla.
- 1881 Moves to Venezuela where he writes in *La Opinion Nacional*. Publishes *Revista Venezolana*. Forced to leave.
- 1882 Goes back to New York. Writes a poetry book *Ismaelillo*, and writes for *La Nacion* (Buenos Aires newspaper).
- 1884 Named Uruguayan Consul in New York, but leaves this to carry on with political work. He breaks with Gomez and Maceo.
- 1889 Disillusioned by the US. Writes articles defending Cuba against hostile articles in US press.
- Publishes *La Edad de Oro*, a magazine for children.
- 1890 Founds La Liga, an association for the promotion of Cuban and Puerto Rican Black.
- Named Argentinian and Paraguayan consul in New York.
- Named Uruguayan Representative to the International Monetary Conference in New York.
- 1891 Publishes *Versos Sencillos*.
- Gives up his consular posts to continue in the campaign against Imperialist Spain.
- In speeches to Cuban exiles, he approves the formation of the Cuban Revolutionary Party.
- 1892 Founds a newspaper to promote the revolutionary cause, *Patria*.
- Tours US cities promoting the Cuban cause, then to Haiti, Santo Domingo (where he also sees Gomez) and Jamaica.
- 1893 Back to New York, from where he visits Costa Rica to see Maceo.
- 1894 Cuban tobacco workers strike in Key West.
- 1895 Cuban collaborator stops Fernandina Plan.
- 29 January, order given for the uprising to begin. Order delivered to Cuba inside cigar made in Tampa, FL.

- 30 January, Marti sails for Cuba.
  - 25 March, Manifesto of Monte Christo proclaimed, outlining the aims of the Cuban insurrection.
  - 11 April, the expedition reaches Cuba.
  - 5 May, interview with Maceo stating his opposition to Marti's plan of an assembly of delegates. Bitter words exchanged.
- Marti was killed in battle against the Spanish Forces on May 19, 1895. It is said that Gomez ordered him to stay in the rear, but he didn't.

**Next Newsletter – Maximo Gomez y Baez**

**QUIZ:** What is the significance of the ceiba tree and the broken wheel on the reverse of the Cuban 1952 10, 20 & 40 centavos ?



THE CUBAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION IS PROUD  
TO ANNOUNCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE

**REPUBLIC OF CUBA 1<sup>ST</sup> REPUBLIC 1915-1958 TYPE SET BOOK.**

The book is 8 1/2" X 11 1/2", weighs 17 oz. and includes a booklet about the brief history of Cuban Numismatics. The book was designed for those "TYPE SET" collectors, who are not interested in collecting all the coins that make up the Cuban mintages. The book was designed for those "TYPE SET" collectors, who are not interested in collecting all the coins that make up the Cuban mintages.

The book is now available for purchase. Paid up CNA members may order a maximum of two for \$14 each, which includes Florida sales tax (where applicable), and S&H. International, excluding Canada – add \$5 for additional mailing costs. Non-CNA members cost is \$17 each. For ordering information, visit [www.cubanumis.com](http://www.cubanumis.com) or contact Frank Putrow at [Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com) or 727 5317337.

**ONLY 13 BOOKS ARE LEFT. NO CURRENT PLANS TO REPRINT.**

## Answer to QUIZ:

On October 10, 1868, a revolution was led by Carlos Manuel de Cespedes at his sugar mill, La Demajagua. Hostilities continued until 1878, when peace was restored by the Pact of Zanjón. The ruins of this sugar mill are depicted on the reverses of the 1952 10, 20, and 40 centavo coins of Cuba, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence.

### NEW REFERENCE BOOK ON CUBAN COINS NOW AVAILABLE.

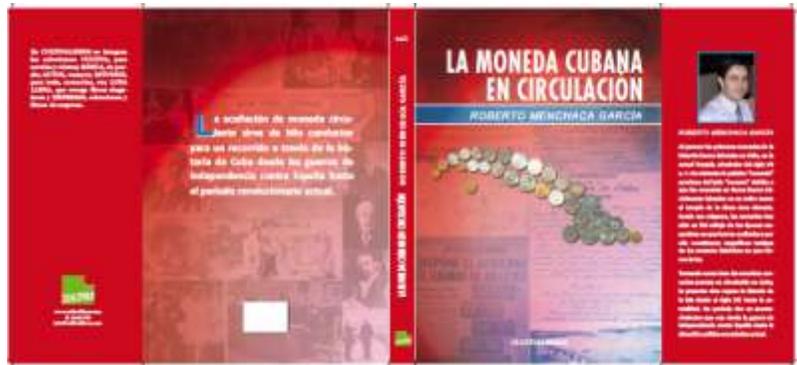
The book's title is "LA MONEDA CUBANA EN CIRCULACION" and has been published by the Spanish editorial "Cultivalibros". It is available at several online platforms.

(<http://www.deastore.com/>, <http://www.cultivalibros.com/>, <http://www.liberialuces.com/>, etc.) for an attractive price of 15 euros, plus handling. The writer, Roberto Menchaca, has also kept some of the books, which could also be purchased directly from him for 10 euros, plus shipping..

Roberto reports that "It took me some effort and a trip to Cuba to unveil the mysteries of the CUC and INTUR coinages. Fortunately, the staff of the Cuban Numismatic Museum was very cooperative. The book is only available in Spanish (i.e. my mother tongue) but I am planning in the future to translate it into English depending on the actual demand".

The book is 104 pages and deals with the history associated to the different stages of the Cuban coinage starting from 1915 till 2012 including a chapter dedicated to CUC coins and another covering the INTUR emissions. It

also contains annexes dedicated to the patterns of 1870 and the 1897/8 emissions. Finally, there is an accurate table enclosing all the years in which Cuban coins have been minted listed by denominations and mints in charge (where all mistakes appearing in the Krause catalogue have been removed).



Questions should be directed to Roberto Menchaca at [romeaga73@yahoo.es](mailto:romeaga73@yahoo.es). Feedback, etc, should be directed to [lamedonacubanaencirculacion@yahoo.es](mailto:lamedonacubanaencirculacion@yahoo.es).

### CNA a No-Show at Cuba Nostalgia in Miami on May 17-19, 2013.

With limited resources, your president decided that it could not adequately support the necessary efforts to maintain a table at the Cuba Nostalgia in Miami, FL. on May 17-19 this year. The table requires about 30 hours of staffing, but only 14-18 hours were volunteered. A few volunteers would have been required to staff very long hours. Last year, over 30 hours were volunteered, and the CNA table was popular, in spite of only recruiting only three new members.

A more determined effort will be made in 2014.

## FROM THE KITCHEN:



### Carne con Papas

- 2 lbs beef
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 tbs paprika
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 green pepper
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 cup dry wine
- 1 cup water
- 2 lbs potatoes
- 1 cup capers

Cut the meat into small cubes and brown lightly in hot oil. Add the salt, paprika, pepper, bay leaf, diced onion, crushed garlic and diced green pepper. When this begins to brown, pour in the tomato sauce, wine and water. When meat is half cooked, add diced potatoes and the capers. Allow to cook until meat and potatoes are tender. If necessary a little more water or wine may be added.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**NOTE: Responses to Letters to the Editor are provided by CNA members, who volunteer their time, and have a variety of expertise. Some information may be misrepresented or partially incomplete. Although these situations are considered minimal, it may occur. In these situations, the CNA apologizes, but cannot be held responsible.**

### #1. A.N. sent the following email:

I recently inherited 6 gold coins - Cuban Pesos, from my parents and I wonder if these would be the kind of coins you would be interested in: 1915 GOLD 20 PESOS CUBA COIN REPUBLICA DE CUBA 33.436 G 900M, 1916 GOLD 10 PESOS CUBA COIN REPUBLICA DE CUBA 16.718 G 900M, 1916 GOLD 5 PESOS CUBA COIN REPUBLICA DE CUBA 8.359 G 900M, 1916 GOLD 4 PESOS CUBA COIN REPUBLICA DE CUBA 6.6872 G 900M, 1915 GOLD 2 PESOS CUBA COIN REPUBLICA DE CUBA 3.3436 G 900M, and 1916 GOLD 1 PESO CUBA COIN REPUBLICA DE CUBA 1.6718 G 900M.

I understand that these coins are scarce and historically important, minted only for two years, featuring Jose Martí, one of Cuba's greatest writers and freedom fighters. They are all in extra fine condition and

uncirculated. My parents had them in a displaying cabinet and I understand they belonged to my grandfather. I am attaching various photos for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks in advance.

**Response by editor:** Thank you for the email and Cuban gold coins photos. They appear to be in very nice condition and you should have no problem selling them. With the recent decline in the value of gold, the coins will be worth less than they were 2-3 months ago. The 20.10 and 1 peso should be worth a premium, whereas the 2 and 5 pesos should sell for a smaller premium UNLESS they are UNCIRCULATED. To determine the grading of your coins, you should have them assessed by a reputable dealer.

From my experience, collectors and dealers generally do not buy coins from foreign countries unless they are certified by a professional third party, such as PCGS or NGC.

I wish you success in your endeavor to sell the coins.

## **#2. C.C sent the following email:**

I have a \$2.00 gold Cuban coin from 1916  
Can someone please tell me the current market value if I want to sell it?

**Response by editor:** (Sent 6-11-2013). Thanks for the email regarding your Cuban gold 1916 2 Peso. The 2 peso was minted only in 1915 (mintage 10K) and 1916 (mintage 150K). They contain 3.34 grams of 90% gold. The condition of the coin will determine the value. The absolute minimum value would be about \$175, and it could be worth \$275 if it is Bright Uncirculated.

## **#3. M.V sent the following email:**

I looked up Cuban Coins and found your site. I have a question. Recently I got talked into purchasing Cuban Coins. .999 silver 5 Peso dated 1980-1988. They are presently housed in Canada. I have invested \$20,000 in these "rare" silver coins but at this time do not have the money or the coins in my possession. Can I go to Canada and retrieve my coins and bring them to the US? Or, have I lost any hope of recouping my investment? Do I have any alternative on this issue?? I need an answer as so as possible. Thank you for any help.

### **Response by Editor:**

I apologize for my delay in response to your email regarding your purchase of Cuban coins from a Canadian principal.

There are two issues that are not in your favor.

1. It has been illegal to purchase Cuban Second Republic (1962-present) from foreign countries since the US Department of Treasury Embargo Act of 1963. The problem is that these coins will have to be shipped across US borders, which violates the embargo.
2. I am not aware of any Cuban 1980-1988 coins classified as "rare".

I would suggest that you contact your local police department, since you could be a victim of a scam, and you sent money to another country. The FBI could also give you advice.

I hope that your issue is resolved in an expedited manner.

## **#4. H. P. sent the following email:**

*I purchased the book (Thomas Lismore - The coinage of Cuba – 1870) that you suggested to me in an earlier email from a rare book dealer. I'm confused on something in the Lismore book on page 12.*

*It states: 20 pesos 1915 - 20 pieces or less, 10 pesos 1915 and 1916 - 470 pieces or less, 5 pesos 1915 & 1916 - 560 pieces or less, and so on. I bought the Krause World Coin Book 2013. Why is there a difference in MINTAGE from LISMORE and KRUASE? I'm stuck and confused!*

**Response by Editor:**

Thanks for the email regarding the Cuban gold pesos.

Since I started collecting Cuban coins about 1998, I have been advised by the "older" collectors that the Lismore booklet had unsubstantiated numbers and statements in his booklet, even though the booklet is one of the best references available to Cuban collectors. On page 12, Lismore is addressing the issue that shipping documents from the US do not agree with the receiving documents of the Cuban Government. To me, this is not a major issue, except in the case of the 1915 pesos. I believe that Lismore bases his variance determination on the approved total dollars by the Cuban Legislature, then calculated by the weight and corresponding dollar value of each coin. There is no known consideration of "wasteage", etc. There was also the possibility of coins being given to officials, etc., after they were minted.

One hundred years later, does it really make a difference?

The problem is not dissimilar to the issue of the silver pesos that were melted down in the early 1950's. I am aware of Cuban collectors who attempted to determine how many of each year (1932-1939, and 1953) were shipped back from the Cuban Bank to New York, with no success. The numbers vary depending on the source.

I'm sorry that I cannot be more specific, but we both know that there are many unanswerable questions regarding Cuban Numismatics.

**#5. B. C. sent the following email:**

I found your name as editor of the Newsletter of the Cuban Numismatic Association via Google. I am hoping that you may be able to help me with some research I am currently carrying out.

I have a Cuban WW1 Victory medal which is gilded and has many detail differences in the design of the reverse from the 'Official' version made in France by Etablissements Adrien Chobillon. I have been told that it might have been made by Antigua Vilardebo & Riera in Havana, and I am trying to find out a little more about this firm and the WW1 Victory medals it made. There are no markings on the edge of the medal to indicate its manufacturer.

I would be very grateful for any information you may be able to give me in this search, or any pointers as to where I might find the information.

**Response by Editor:**

My research has uncovered many WWI medals as well as the medals that may be attributed to Antigua Vilardebo and Riera in Havana. Without a photograph, I cannot assist you in this matter.

**WANT ADS**

**NOTE: Since eBay has shut the door on listings for sale of Cuban coins, currency, etc., some CNA members have expressed their desire to better utilize the CNA newsletter to sell their collectibles and, in general, to stay in touch with the Cuban Numismatic community. These type notices are welcome.**

**Your editor could post more frequent notices to our membership, if the input requires such. These postings will only be distributed to members with email addresses.**

**The first few expressions are the following:**

A CNA member, who only collects Cuban currency, is interested in establishing communications with other CNA members with the same or similar numismatic interests. I only collect Cuban currency from the beginning to the current times. This is for the purpose of sharing knowledge, experience, trading, buying or selling. I collect colonial, specimen, low serial number, consecutive serial number, PMG certified and uncertified bank notes.

You can contact me in English or Spanish. I can be contacted at: [grethe.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:grethe.rodriguez@gmail.com)  
Alfredo J. Rodriguez (305) 227-1849.

Since Ebay no longer lets you list Cuban money for sale. We have available a large collection of both coins and currency.

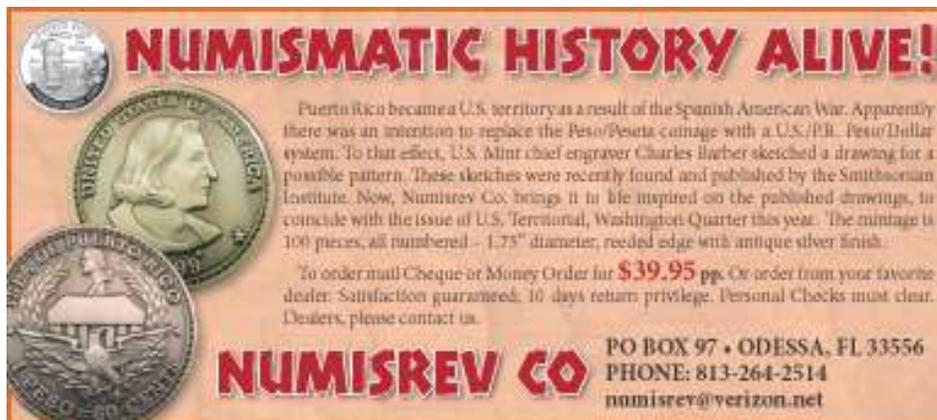
Please send your email address or your name and address to [retired57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:retired57@sbcglobal.net) for our complete list of Cuban coins and currency. It will be a first come basis, and to pay, we accept Money Orders or Cashier's Checks. We prefer no personal checks.

We have the Cuban 10 Peso PUZZLE four set – a large 5 oz. Silver round and much more.  
S. Blocker, PO BOX 8211, WESTCHESTER, IL. 60154-2577.

Your editor is interested in your comments on how the CNA could assist the current eBay policy.

#### FOR SALE:

1. Cuban ANACS MS62 1933 Peso (list \$170) - \$145, includes SH&I.  
Cuban ANACS MS62 1915 10 Centavo (list \$250) - \$90. Includes SH&I.  
Cuban NGC MS62 1915 Centavo (list \$70) - \$45. Includes SH&I.  
Cuban NGC MS63 1946 5 Centavo (list \$45) - \$30. Includes SH&I.  
Cuban NGC MS61 1920 20 Centavo (list \$100) - \$55. Includes SH&I.  
Many other CERTIFIED and "raw" Cuban centavos and pesos. 032012  
Contact Frank Putrow at [Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com) or 727 5317337.
2. Cuban VF – AU centavos (1c to 40c) for sale. 75% of Krause list. Many to choose from. Guaranteed satisfaction. Contact Jesus Inguanzo at [Guardafango@yahoo.com](mailto:Guardafango@yahoo.com) or 305 2237200. 032012
3. Cuba and World Coins. Order your free list at [cidcorreo@msn.com](mailto:cidcorreo@msn.com) or call 813 9334871. 032012
- 4..



**NUMISMATIC HISTORY ALIVE!**

Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory as a result of the Spanish American War. Apparently there was an intention to replace the Peso/Peseta coinage with a U.S./P.R. Peso/Dollar system. To that effect, U.S. Mint chief engraver Charles Barber sketched a drawing for a possible pattern. These sketches were recently found and published by the Smithsonian Institute. Now, Numisrev Co. brings it to life inspired on the published drawings, to coincide with the issue of U.S. Territorial, Washington Quarter this year. The mintage is 100 pieces, all numbered - 1.75" diameter, reeded edge with antique silver finish.

To order mail Cheque or Money Order for **\$39.95** pp. Or order from your favorite dealer. Satisfaction guaranteed. 10 days return privilege. Personal Checks must clear. Dealers, please contact us.

**NUMISREV CO** PO BOX 97 • ODESSA, FL 33556  
PHONE: 813-264-2514  
[numisrev@verizon.net](mailto:numisrev@verizon.net)

032012

5. CNA Member wishes to sell all of the following 21 certified Cuban coins.

1897 M2 NGC MS63 Souvenir Peso.	1897 NGC M2 AU50 Souvenir Peso.
1898 ANACS AU58/cleaned Peso.	1916 ANACS MS62 Peso.
1932 PCGS MS60 Peso.	1932 NGC MS62 Peso.
1933 PCI MS60 Peso.	1933 ANACS MS62 Peso.
1934 NGC AU58 Peso.	1934 PCI MS63 Peso.
1934 NGC MS64 Star Peso.	1935 NGC MS63 Peso.
1935 NGC MS64 ABC Peso.	1953 PCI MS64 Marti Peso.
1953 PCI MS64 50 Centavo.	1920 NGC MS61 HR 40 Centavo.
1920 PCI MS63 LR 20 Centavo.	1920 NGC MS63 20 Centavo (KM?).
1915 NGC MS64 10 Centavo.	1915 NGC PF64 10 Centavo (Whittier).
1915 PCI MS62 Centavo. Contact Berry at <a href="mailto:Guilhermeberrybowman@yahoo.com">Guilhermeberrybowman@yahoo.com</a> or 870 4166033.	121512

OTHER:

1. Buying and selling all Cuban coins, medals, and tokens. George Manz Coins.

[www.georgemanzcoins.com](http://www.georgemanzcoins.com) or email [George@georgemanzcoins.com](mailto:George@georgemanzcoins.com) in Regina, Canada.

Telephone 306 3522337.

032012

## SISTER CLUBS

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