



Madrid Numismatica

by EDUARDO DARGENT, Peru

Madrid is a hunter's paradise for the paper money collector. I must say that most of the material found is Spanish, but there are also some surprises for the enquiring hobbyists. In addition to some renowned dealers, who will be glad to show not only what they have for sale but also their private collections, there are shops in "EL RASTRO", Madrid's flea market, which handle exclusively coins and notes. El Rastro is open every day, but Sunday is the best day to go. Among old keys, guns, shoes and suitcases, the notes compete in attracting the public.

At the PLAZA MAYOR, the old closed square of the city, every Sunday the collectors and dealers get together to buy, sell and trade; protected from the rain or sun by the XVII century arcades. The Philatelic and Numismatic open market of the Plaza Mayor, which was started some years ago by the now leading numismatic dealer of Madrid, Mr. Juan Cayón, has become a must for all who visit Spain's capital.

But this is not all. A visit to the Museum of "La Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre", located in Jorge Juan 106, will make the whole trip worthwhile. In the new Mint, built only about three years ago, you will see one of the most interesting museums dedicated to numismatics. Machinery, dies, and graphical descriptions of the process from metal ore to coin are the natural frame to a large collection of coins which covers a period from Ancient Greece to modern times, giving special importance to Spain and its former possessions.

big rooms where he might find unlisted or unconfirmed notes of his speciality. In fact that is exactly what happened to me. In the first room, dedicated to the Americas, I rushed to the Peruvian section, where to my great surprise I found two notes which I had been looking for during a long time in order to advance my classification of Peruvian notes of the 1914-1918 period. From a total of 20 notes which I have reason to believe were issued, I had been able to confirm 10. There, at the museum, I saw a crisp note dated 3 Octubre 1914. The other note I saw was even more rewarding, 1 Libra 14 Setiembre 1918. This note had not been confirmed, and it becomes the number 11 in my list. There are still nine notes to be confirmed, but to find two, was far more than what I had expected from the museum.

Among other notes which attracted my attention in that first room were a 1 and 4 Pesos from Venezuela dated 1811. These notes were issued during the independence wars of that country, and are considered rare.

The second room houses an advanced collection which would be a delight to our good Russian collector friends, among others. Also very attractive is the 1000 Kash of Emperor Hung Wu printed on mulberry paper, which adorns the centre of the Chinese collection.

In the last room most of the European material is kept. The Portuguese collection, according to the person in charge, is one of their prides. The section dedicated to Great Britain is not very large, but varied. The oldest note from Britain is a 5 Guinea dated 1792 and issued by Henry Hayden and Bart Rivers. Also a British Colonial note for Demerary and Essequibo for the value of "Two Joes of 22 Guilders each", attracted my attention.

I do not mean to make a list of the material at the museum. A few examples such as the ones given above should be enough, I believe, to make you fellow collectors, become sufficiently interested in order to spend one morning at the Museum of the Spanish Mint on the first opportunity you have to visit Madrid.

NEW LIBRARIAN FOR THE SOCIETY

After several years of faithful contribution to the society, our U.S. Librarian—Wren Culkin from Philomatic Center, Boys Town, Nebraska—is compelled to leave his post.

Under Wren's guidance, our Library expanded at a rate that allows the IBNS to be the proud possessor of a large number of numismatic material.

The new Librarian is Mr. Carl E. Mautz of 3083 North East Regents Drive, Portland, Oregon. We wish his success in the continued fulfilment of Wren's ambitious intentions.