

ANA TRAVELING EXHIBITS

QuickFacts

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204 numismatic objects and artifacts
29 wall-hung interpretive panels

SUPPLEMENTAL

Exhibition catalog

PARTICIPATION FEE

\$3,000 for a 3-month period, plus inbound and outbound shipping costs

SIZE

2,000-2,500 square feet

SHIPPING CRATES

One

SECURITY

Moderate/High

ENVIRONMENT

Climate-controlled space

SHIPPING

Federal Express

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AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION
MONEY MUSEUM

¡VIVA LA REVOLUCIÓN!

Fought from 1910 to 1920, the Mexican Revolution was a bloody and chaotic period in a country known for its turbulent history. For thirty years, Mexico had been ruled by the dictator Porfirio Díaz. When Díaz made a public statement that he was going to resign at the next election, he started a chain of independent democratic activity. Under the nominal lead of Francisco I. Madero (the “Apostle of Democracy”), and aided by some political blunders by the government, the democrats (or “anti re-electionists”) ousted Díaz from power in 1911. But the Madero administration was ineffective and reliant upon support from ex-federalists (i.e. the remnants of the Díaz government).

Rebel groups like the Morelos rebels under Emiliano Zapata had been promised agrarian reform — but instead got further repression and poverty. The Maderistas split, and the Federalistas (under General Huerta) seized power once more (with Madero assassinated). In the north, ex-Maderista General “Pancho” Villa led his “Division del Norte” against Huerta, while Zapata campaigned in the south. Another northern movement was the “Constitutionist” movement under Carranza, which became the most powerful group. Huerta was forced out, and a split then arose between the Villistas and Zapatistas on one hand, and the Carrancistas on the other. Zapata did not campaign rigorously, and Villa was out-manuevered by the Carrancistas under General Obregón. Carranza thus became president, though with continuing rebellion. Obregón then took control and had Carranza killed. By the early 1920s, only Obregón was left of the important rebels (Zapata and Villa having both been assassinated by Carrancistas).

The Mexican Revolution was never an all-consuming, nationwide civil war. Certain social groups played no part at all in the early stages, notably the urban working classes, the resident peons on the great estates in central and northern Mexico and the debt-peonage unfortunates in the tropical southeast. There was never more than 100,000 men under arms at any one time.

It was hard to find a means of exchange during the war, as most communities were isolated. Coinage of the Republic was not suitable because it was considered an act of treason to have the money of any opposing factor in one’s possession. It was also a time of rampant inflation, with Republic silver coins worth more as bullion than as its face value. The solution was for each leader to issue his own money. Generals sincerely attempted to give people a means of exchange during those trying times. Coins were in greater demand than paper money, which most people were reluctant to accept, as it had no intrinsic value.

