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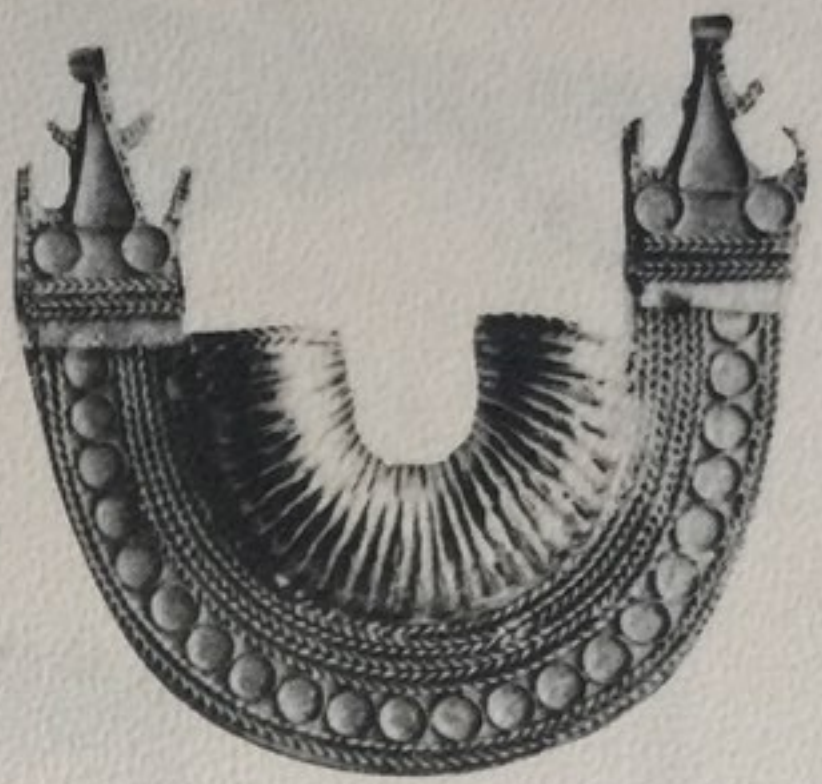

sixteen or even 18 carats, and of this are made all their trinkets and jewelry. The best gold obtained is another called *guinogulan,* which means "the lord of golds"; it weighs about 22 carats . . . From this is made the jewelry which they inherit from their ancestors, with which they never part. . ."[8]

Magellan's men were offered gold in exchange for trinkets, iron and merchandise, and by then trading vessels from Borneo, China, and Japan had been plying the waters round the Philippines islands for centuries, trading their products for gold.

When Legazpi reached the islands in 1565, the men in his expedition carried the first silver coins seen by the natives. "When the men of Luzon saw our *tostones* they were very much pleased with them, and they gave nearly twenty marks* of gold which they had there in that island, giving for six tostones of silver one of gold; and they said that they had more gold, if our men would give them more *tostones,* and that in exchange for the latter they would give them ten or twelve quintals* of gold which they had there in that island. . ."[9]

Philippine numismatists today believe that the early Spanish chroniclers missed reporting what is considered possibly the earliest form of coinage used in pre-Hispanic times. A small cone-shaped piece of gold stamped with a syllable of ancient script and dubbed "piloncito" by local numismatists is believed to be a

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**1 marco = 442 gms.*
arrobas = 46 kg.
1 quintal = 8

Beginner's Section

A Survey of Modern Philippine Coin Errors

Planchet and Denomination Errors

by Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.
NECA 1346

Mints are simply factories for the manufacture of coins. As such, they are composed of machines and the men who operate them. Like in other factories, both machines and men may occasionally malfunction. The results are those sometimes mis-shapen, but always intriguing, pieces of metal we call mint errors.

The demands for coinage over the past three decades, not only for loose change, but to run the myriad coin-operated machines in the United States, have resulted in a drastic increase in the mintage of coins in that country. This not only increased the likelihood of errors in the U.S. Mints, but led to a slackening in the inspection procedure before struck coins are bagged. Except for proof coins, visual inspection has given way to various mechanical and electronic gadgets for culling out mint mistakes. Suffice it to say, however, that more errors are now escaping the U.S. Mints than ever before.

However, when we consider the great quantities of coins produced annually, the conclusion is inescapable that errors comprise but a very minute portion of total production. Thus, all types of errors are uncommon.

What has all this to do with us?

Simply this. Ever since our Central Bank issued its first coinage in 1958, most of the coins of the Republic of the Philippines were made in the busy U.S. Mints. The story of the errors in U.S. coins is, therefore, equally applicable to our own errors.

With the collection of errors gaining popularity in the U.S. over the past 20 years, many varieties of mint oddities have been reported and touted. Some of these are simply exaggerations of acceptable deviation in the products of minting machines, so minor that they are better ignored. Others are probably imagined mistakes by overzealous enthusiasts, or even outright fakes.

There may be new types of errors not yet reported, and there are errors suspected to exist on the basis of knowledge of the minting process, but which have not yet been actually verified.

PLANCHET ERRORS

(a) Improper Alloy – The wrong proportion of metals may have been mixed in the melting pot. This shows in the coin's having streaks or areas that are different in color or texture. Discoloration can also result from coming into contact with tiny particles from a different color planchet during the annealing, or the washing process.

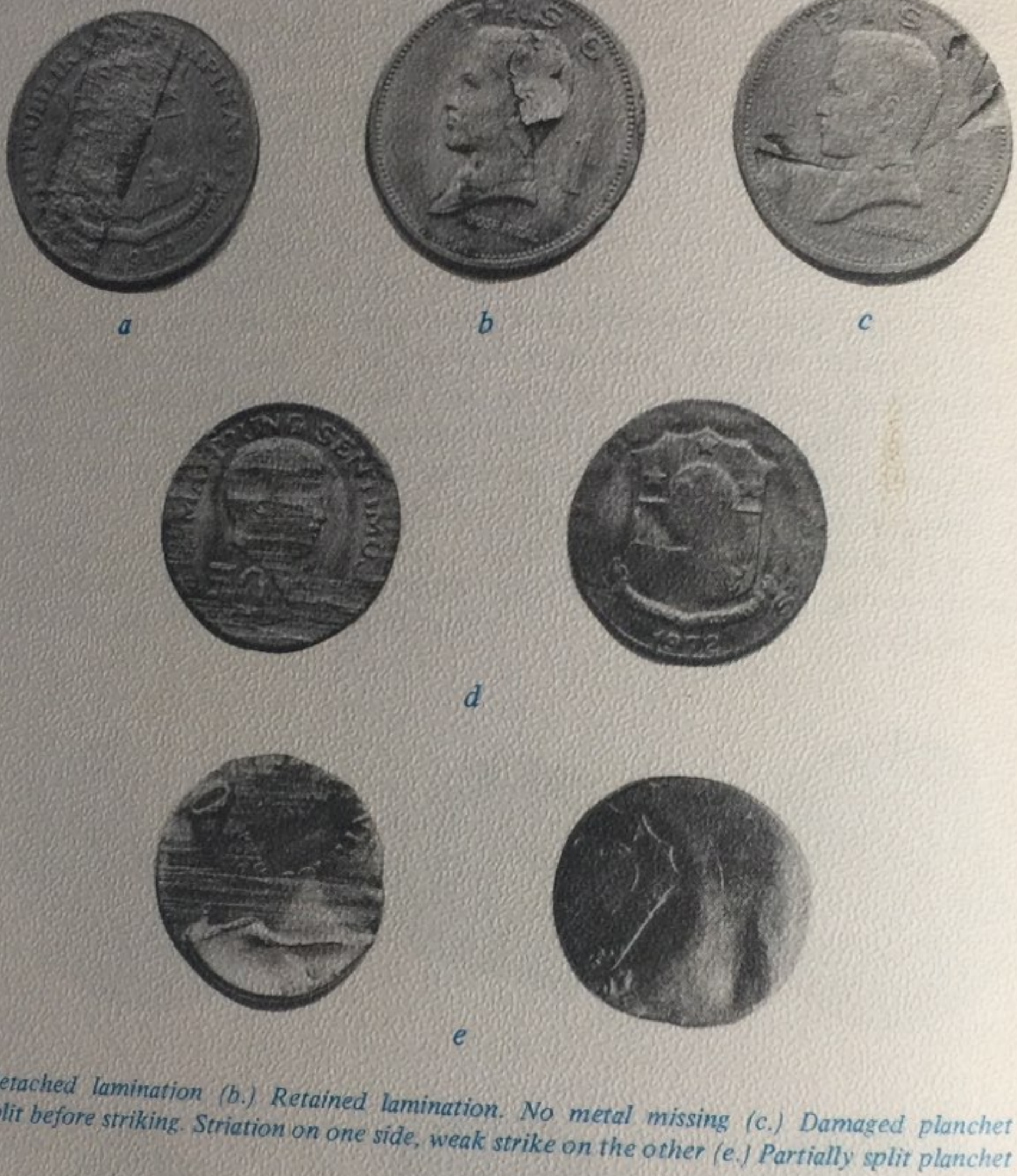
(b) Damaged and Defective Planchets – Coins made from blanks which are damaged or cracked before being struck. The damaged area may appear as a hole in the coin, with rim intact, or as a deep narrow crack. Due to improper adjustment, the coin metal strip may not have been rolled sufficiently, so it is thicker than standard (Rolled Thick), or may have been overrolled, in which case it would be too thin (Rolled Thin). Or it may have been rolled unevenly, resulting in Tapered Planchet. Or the blank may have been gouged, bent, cut, or mutilated.

(c) Incomplete Planchets (Clips) – If the strip is not fully advanced during the blanking process, the punches will overlap

a *b* *c*

d *e* *f*

CLIPPED PLANCHETS: (a.) Straight clip 15% at K-10 (b.) Straight clip 15% at K-5 (c.) Curved clip 35% at k-10 (d.) Ragged clip at K-7 (e.) Double curved clip (f.) Elliptical clip



a *b* *c*

d

e

(a.) Detached lamination (b.) Retained lamination. No metal missing (c.) Damaged planchet (d.) Split before striking. Striation on one side, weak strike on the other (e.) Partially split planchet

into areas already punched out, so the planchet will have one or more semicircular areas missing, or a Curved Clip. If the punch overlaps the edge of a strip, it will be a Straight Clip, and if it hits a broken area, a Ragged Clip. If the punch is retracted before it could cut through and the strip is moved, an Incomplete Punch Mark results.

Clips are described according to their position on the coin in relation to the face of a clock, and on the amount of missing metal by weight. Multiple and oval clips are quite rare.

(d) Laminations and Split Planchets – During the rolling process, any slag, dirt, corrosion, or entrapped gas will prevent the metal from becoming a solid

a *b* *c* *d* *e*

1-PISO STRUCK ON THE FOLLOWING U.S. PLANCHETS (a.) Cent (b.) Dime (c.) Nickel (d.) Quarter (e.) Half-dollar

mass and will make it tend to split layers. If it splits before being struck, the coin will show weak or missing details, and the surface on the split side will be striated. If it splits after being struck, one side will have a clear strike while the other show striations and a weak outline of the image from the opposing die.

If the planchet peels off parallel to the surface, it would be a Lamination Error if the thinner piece is less than 20% of the total weight of the blank. If the split is complete, but joined at one edge by an area of unbroken metal, a Hinged Split Planchet results.

(e) Wrong Stock Planchet – The coin is of the correct metal alloy but is of the wrong thickness, for instance, when the planchet was punched from a strip intended for another denomination or for a foreign coin. The error is almost of normal diameter for its denomination, but has the thickness of the wrong stock used.

(f) Blank Planchets – Once blanks escape the mint, they are considered errors. Type I blanks with straight rims are scarcer than Type II blanks which have upset edges.

STRIKING ERROR. Double struck, both off-center, first strike uniface.

MULTIPLE ERROR. Piso on U.S. clad dime planchet, double struck, uniface.

If a coin is struck on a planchet of a metal or alloy different from what it should be, a Wrong Metal error results. This includes a planchet intended for a different series of the same denomination, provided there was a change of metal.

If the planchet is of identical metal or alloy but intended for a different denomination, this would be a Wrong Planchet error.

Either case would apply to Philippine coins struck on foreign planchets, or to foreign coins struck on Philippine planchets.

Among the verified Wrong Metal/ Wrong Planchet errors on Philippines coins are:

a. One Piso (1972-74) on: U.S. silver clad half dollar; U.S. cupro-nickel clad half dollar; U.S. clad quarter; U.S. clad dime; U.S. nickel, and U.S. Lincoln Cent. Also on: 50, 25, and 10 Sentimos.

b. One Piso (1975 up) on: U.S. clad quarter; U.S. clad dime, and U.S. nickel. Also on: 25, and 10 Sentimos of the same series.

c. 50 Sentimos on: U.S. clad quarter; U.S. nickel, and U.S. cent. Also on 25, and 10 Sentimos.

d. 25 Sentimos on: U.S. clad dime U.S. nickel, and U.S. cent. Also on: 10 and 5 Sentimos.

e. 10 Sentimos on: U.S. dime.

f. 5 Sentimos on: U.S. dime, U.S. cent, and Liberian cent. Also on the 10 Sentimos planchet.

Filled Die

DOUBLE DENOMINATION. Piso struck off-center over U.S. clad quarter coin. Shows faces of two national heroes. (Enlarged)

Because of its small size, there are no known wrong planchet 1-Sentimo. However, the U.S. dime has been mis-struck on this aluminum planchet.

These errors are easily spotted by the difference in either size or color of the coin from the standard of that denomination.

There is great fun and challenge trying to identify a strange planchet. The simplest way would be to compare it by weight and general appearance with other coins manufactured in the same mint about the same year. A standard reference would be the publication *Domestic and Foreign Coins Manufactured by Mints of the United States.*

In this way, we identified an English series 50 Sentimos coin minted at the Philadelphia mint in 1959, but dated 1958, as being on a Korean 100 Hwan planchet.

(To be continued)

Ed's Note: Coins featured in this article belong to the collections of Messrs. Conrado Ciriaco, Philip Liao, Honesto Llanes and the author. Photo credits to Conrado Ciriaco.