

The Henkle Manuscript

Hobbyists, it is said, generate devotion.

Nothing except love of hobby could account for the existence of the unpublished (and probably unpublishable) Henkle manuscript.

For 15 years Chicagoan David E. Henkle placed into his computer every bit of data known or guessed about every token issued in or for every Latin American nation. This includes such modern pieces as gambling chips, food stamp tokens, parking and vending machine and amusement tokens, and everything issued earlier that could be traced.

Every published work in every language, plus thousands of fixed price lists and auction catalogs, are being fed systematically into the work. The cross-referencing achieved has caused observers to marvel, because specialists in one country's tokens seldom get the opportunity to compare conclusions that stretch across frontiers.

A full description of each side of every token is included, and only paper money is excluded. (Cardboard chits are included, as are tokens in plastic, bakelite, vulcanite, leather, bone and many other substances, as well as all metals.)

In early 1988 Henkle agreed to collaborate on the reference work before you now. It has provided us with the best possible answer to "What's out there?" that plagues every pioneering cataloger. Every project must start somewhere, but the Henkle manuscript served as a trampoline to get us jump-started.

Will the Henkle work ever be published? We'd guess no in its present form because it would need critical editing and compacting to make it usable for the collecting public. As a working tool, however, it demonstrates better than anything I've ever seen how the magic of the computer has enhanced numismatic research.

Lest someone conclude that the computer will replace research in numismatics, we hasten to add that only human persistence driven by devotion matters. There is no monetary or fame award for such work as the Henkle manuscript, only personal satisfaction.

Our deepest gratitude is extended to David Henkle for his collaboration in making *Latin American Tokens* better!