

The Only Foreign Coin struck at the New Orleans Mint

The goal of the **United States Mint** was to produce circulation coinage for domestic commerce, but in the 1800s the U.S. government began accepting contracts to produce coins for other nations. While the U.S. Mint went on to produce more than 1,000 different coins for over 40 countries, only one foreign coin was produced at the New Orleans Mint.

Throughout its history of making coins, much of the bullion used for coinage production came from foreign coin deposits most often in the form of Mexican coinage. Yet, while the New Orleans Mint's sole task during most of its years of operation was to produce United States coins, there was one exception: the **Mexico 1907 20 Centavos** coin.

The contract to produce Mexican coinage began at the United States Mint in 1906 with San Francisco producing silver coins and Philadelphia producing gold coins. In 1907, **Mexico** continued to have the United States produce its coinage, with the Denver and San Francisco Mints striking a cumulative 14,841,000 50 Centavos coins. The 1907 20 Centavos were assigned to the **New Orleans Mint** to produce.

The dies were provided by the **Mexico City Mint**; the coin features the "M" mintmark for "Mexico". The New Orleans Mint produced a total of **5,434,699** 20 Centavos coins for Mexico. Mexico produced approximately 4 million.

The Mexico 1907 20 Centavos coins feature two different varieties. On the "7" of the date, one variety features a **Straight 7** and another exhibits a **Curved 7**. The Curved 7 varieties are those coins struck by the New Orleans Mint, while the Straight 7 pieces are minted in Mexico.



Both varieties are also found on **1907 50 Centavos** coins, but they are not known to be identifiers of which mint produced them.

The Mexico 1907 "Curved 7" 20 Centavos coin is the only non-US coin produced at the New Orleans Mint. While it may not be as numismatically significant as many other coins produced in New Orleans, it does symbolize a significant output that reached an international stage before its mint of origin ended coin production just two years later.