

Coffee Images on Latin American Paper Money

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Coffee is a brewed beverage with a dark, slightly acidic flavor prepared from the roasted seeds of the coffee plant, colloquially called coffee beans. The beans are found in coffee cherries, which grow on trees cultivated in over 70 countries, primarily in equatorial Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Asia and Africa. Green (unroasted) coffee is one of the most traded agricultural commodities in the world. Coffee can have a stimulating effect on humans due to its caffeine content. It is one of the most-consumed beverages in the world. On 5 Shillings (1966) in Kenya, where appears a woman picking coffee on back (P-1/6). Also, on 5 Schillings (1982) in Uganda appears a coffee beans picker on back (P-5A).

Coffee has played a crucial role in many societies. The energizing effect of the coffee bean plant is thought to have been discovered in the northeast region of Ethiopia, and the cultivation of coffee first expanded in the Arab world. The earliest credible evidence of coffee drinking appears in the middle of the 15th century, in the Sufi shrines of Yemen in southern Arabia (on 1 Rial of Yemen appears coffee plants on back in 1980). From the Muslim world, coffee spread to India, Italy, then to the rest of Europe, to Indonesia, and to the Americas. In East Africa and Yemen, it was used in religious ceremonies. As a result, the Ethiopian Church banned its secular consumption, a ban in effect until the reign of Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia. On 1 Dollar (1961) in Ethiopia appears coffee bushes at left (P-18).

For 150 years after gaining their independence, the Latin American nations were essentially suppliers of raw materials and agricultural crops to Europe and the United States. They were known as producer of "desert crops," such as: coffee, sugar, bananas, and cacao. Coffee plants, introduced in the middle 1800's, flourished in the rich volcanic soil in parts of Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala, and coffee became a mainstay of the economy.

Latin America's economic situation was highly sensitive to the rise and fall of prices for its products on the world market. Consequently, the economies of the Latin American nations were especially subject to boom or busts, a situation that continues today in many countries. When coffee prices were high, Brazilian, Colombian, Guatemalan, Salvadoran coffee planters were very rich. But when the prices dropped as they did in 1929, Brazil was obliged to dump tons of coffee into the Atlantic Ocean, and its economy plummeted. However, through prosperity or depression, the mass of Latin American generally have remained poor. Their average per capita income is very low.

Actually, among the first twenty largest coffee producers around the world, ten are from Latin America, such as: Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Some of them had put on its banknotes allegorical vignettes in tribute to this crop.

BRAZIL

100 Mil Reis (S-541); 500 Mil Reis (S-542); (P194)

Coffee had been produced as a crop in Brazil in the early 18th century, when seeds and seedlings were brought into what is now the northern state of Pará in 1727 from neighboring French Guiana. From Pará, coffee plants were sent to a number of other locations, including Rio, where they were grown as a kitchen garden crop. By 1810, coffee plantations had been established throughout the province of Rio de Janeiro and were beginning to produce in considerable quantity. The coffee tree flourished in the climate and soil of Brazil, particularly in the south-central area of the country, where there was high ground and regular rainfall.

By 1870, Brazil was producing about half of the world's supply. Coffee was putting the country back on its feet again economically. The cultivation of coffee was encouraged by a number of factors, including the foreign demand and the lifting of trade restrictions. Also, because of the decline in mining, there was more money available within the country for investment in coffee. Cultivation and harvesting costs were relatively low. In addition, a brand-new market was emerging in the United States, when coffee was beginning to replace tea as the national drink.

Another major change took place after the abolition of slavery in 1888. It became difficult to find suitable labor forces for the fields. Even when workers were found, the cost of wages introduced a new financial problem. A partial solution was the importation of many thousands of foreign laborers, mainly from Italy. In 1895, the peak year of this wave of immigration, more than 140,000 laborers migrated to southern Brazil from Europe. Coffee transformed the economy of Brazil, particularly in the southeast region, where most of the large plantations were located. Other developments followed, such as the construction of railways lines and roads near the plantations and the improvement of southern ports, to handle the export of coffee to worldwide markets.

Banco do Café was established in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Also, this organization issued mortgage letters to stimulate the sales of coffee very similar in design to the banknotes under the decrees of Jan. 19th and May 3rd, 1890. Printed in New York by ABNC.

For most of the early part of the 20th century, Brazilian money was called "Reis," meaning 'Kings.' By the 1930s the standard denomination was "Mil Reis" meaning a 'Thousand Kings.' *Banco do Café* issued only two denominations, as follows: 100 Mil Reis (S-541), which were printed 200,000 notes and 500 Mil Reis (S542), which were printed only 20,000 notes. On front are two allegorical women symbolizing "War" and "Peace" and a shield between two reclining allegorical figures at center with a legend in Portuguese at the top. Squares showing months and value are on back. These notes were put in circulation in September 1929. Today, there are some unsigned reminders with serial numbers (in red) or without serial numbers and undated. Dimensions are 181 x 82 mm.

In 1970, *Banco do Brasil* issued a note of 50 Cruzeiros (P194), appears the portrait of Manuel Deodoro Da Fonseca in a round frame appear at right. Coffee loading scene is at left on back. Both sides the colors are lilac and blue. Dimensions are 162 x 76 mm. Printed by *Casa da Moeda do Brasil*.

COLOMBIA

200 Pesos (P- 417/419)

In any discussion of Colombia's economy one product that comes to mind is coffee, the country's chief export. When coffee first reached Colombia, the farmers, used to drinking cocoa, were reluctant to cultivate a plant whose product they had never enjoyed. There is a store of anecdotes about their resistance. One tale tells of a priest, famous in Santander, whose passion for coffee led him to impose an unusual penance upon the farmers who confessed to him. They were to plant 10, 20, or 30 coffee plants, according to the seriousness of their sins. So the planting multiplied as the sins increased, and large areas of the country were given over to coffee rising.

Coffee is grown on *cafetales*, the plantations of the large *haciendas*, in the *tierra templada*. The plants are usually grown from seed, then transplanted and kept pruned to a height of six to nine feet (two or three meters), for easy picking of the berries. As a rule, the young coffee plants are placed beneath great shade trees. After about five years, the plants begin to bear. First the white blossoms appear and scent the air with their fragrance. Then come the plump berries, which change from red to green as they ripen. The berries, which contain the coffee beans; are picked by women (sometimes called *chapoleras*, or 'butterflies'), for women's small hands are best suited to the delicate task.

Juan Valdez is a famous fictional character that has appeared in advertisements for the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia since 1959, representing over 500,000 Colombian coffee farmer (*cafeteros*). The advertisements were designed by the Doyle D. Bernbach ad agency, with the goal of distinguishing 100%-Colombia coffee from coffee blended with beans from other countries. He typically appears alongside his mule 'Conchita', carrying sacks of harvested coffee beans. He has become an icon for Colombia as well as coffee in general, and Juan Valdez's iconic appearance is frequently mimicked or parodied in television and other media.

In 1974, *Banco de la Republica* issued a note of 200 Pesos, where appears the portrait of the Liberator Simon Bolivar and as watermark; church at right. The legend in capital letters "BOGOTA, COLOMBIA" at lower left center. Scene of a man with basket picking coffee beans is on back. This note is popularly known as 'El Cafetero' ('The Coffee beans picker'). This famous painting is part of the art collection and is hanging in the *Banco de la Republica* in Bogotá.

In 1978, keeping a similar design like P-417 but with only *COLOMBIA* at lower center. Also, on back Minerva's image is on the seal of *Banco de la Republica*, which is in the Colombian notes since 1923. She is the goddess of wisdom, medicine, the arts, science and trade, but also of war. These notes were in circulation until 1983 and were printed by TDLR. Dimensions are 140 x 70 mm.

Today, the unique mild flavor of Colombian coffee is known all over the world, and the country's coffee production is second only to that of Brazil.

COSTA RICA

5 Colones (P-161/220/227/236/241)

Basically, Costa Rica, often called a nation of farmers, has an agricultural economy, with coffee the chief export. In 1804, the Spanish governor Tomas de Acosta introduced the coffee into the country. The rapid growth of the coffee crop, particularly under the leadership of President Braulio Carrillo, the third president of Costa Rica who proposed the Guápiles Highway from San José to the Caribbean in the early 1800s to allow Pacific slope coffee growers to ship to Europe without circling around South America. Also, he made it possible for Costa Rica to import tools, textiles, and other badly needed goods from Europe and North America.

The first export to Panama, in 1820, became the groundbreaking activity that changed the course of the lives. In 1832, Costa Rica was already exporting quality coffee to Chile where it was re-bagged to be sold to England under the brand of "*Café Chileno de Valparaíso.*"

It was in 1843, when a group of visionary exporters undertook the complex task of exporting coffee directly to London. Thanks to William Le Lacheur Lyon, captain of the English ship, "The Monarch" it was possible to transport several one hundred pound bags to Europe that helped Costa Rican coffee become world-renowned.

The growing and trading of coffee changed the face of this humble colony. The country was modernized and young Costa Rican intellectuals could now continue their studies in Europe and return as doctors, engineers and entrepreneurs contributing to the improvement of Costa Ricans' lifestyle.

In 1896, Costa Rica adopted "Colón" as its currency unit. In 1914, *Banco Internacional de Costa Rica* introduced notes in denominations of 5,10, 20, 50 and 100 Colones. On the note of 10 colones appears a scene of five coffee bean pickers at center. Only 90,000 notes were printed by ABNC, which were issued with two dates: June 1914 and October 1914 and circulated until 1918.

In 1950, a similar design like P-209 was issued. This note circulated until 1958 and was printed by ABNCo. In 1959, a new note of 5 colones was issued but Carrillo's portrait is at center on front. Both notes have a scene of coffee workers on back. The denomination of five was also expressed in Roman numbers ('V') in all these notes. Printed in England by Waterlow and Sons Ltd.

In 1963, Central Bank of Costa Rica put in circulation a new note of 5 colones (1963-67). Don Braulio Carrillo's portrait appears in all these notes. Scene of coffee workers is on back. Printed by TDLR. The famous British engraver Joseph Lawrence Keen (1919-2004) engraved this scene with coffee workers on back.

The economic bounty that coffee production and trade gave birth to, allowed the country to build the first railroads to the Atlantic Coast in 1890, "*Ferrocarril al Atlántico*". The awed inhabitants of the capital of Costa Rica, San José, attended the memorable inauguration of the National Theater, seven years later. The National Theater is cradle of Costa Rican culture and a monument to the foresight of the first coffee farmers.

Banco Central de Costa Rica issued a new note of 5 colones in 1968. Easily one of the most attractive bills ever issued, this Costa Rican note reproduces an 1857 painting that hangs in the elegant *Teatro Nacional* in the center of San José, the capital. A famous Italian painter, Jose Aleardo Villa named his work "*Alegoría del Café y el Banano*" ('Allegory of the Coffee and Bananas'), which consists on a festive market day, people gather on the beach to offer coffee and bananas for sale to a visiting ship. These two crops continue to be Costa Rica's two most important, accounting for nearby half the total value of all exports.

In 1971, a commemorative note was issued for the 150th anniversary of Independence (1821-1971) with a circular overprint at right. In 1975, a commemorative note was put in circulation for the XXV anniversary of Central Bank of Costa Rica (1950-1975) with circular overprint at right too. Portrait of Rafael Y. Castro is at left, and under his presidency was established the 'colon' as the unit of currency in Costa Rica in 1896. All these notes printed by TDLR.

Costa Rica is the only country where only the Arabica varieties, by law, may be grown. This is unique in all the world. No other country regulates the quality of coffee as completely as does Costa Rica. It is truly the most carefully grown, harvested and processed coffee bean you may find. Yet another assurance you can expect from coffee that comes from the rich coast of Central America.

Today coffee is still the chief crop, accounting for a majority of all exports. In the Central Plateau, where most of the coffee is grown, thousands of independent farmers produce the 'green gold.'

EL SALVADOR

1 Colón (P-72/82); 2 Colones (P-88/90)

By the mid-1800s, the economy of El Salvador was still largely based on subsistence agriculture, indigo, and cattle. The new economy freedom resulting from independence, however, prompted those in power to begin planting coffee as an export crop. Coffee became a very popular drink in Europe, and the demand for the aromatic beans was great. By 1880 coffee overtook indigo as El Salvador's major export crop.

Coffee production required more land and labor than did indigo. The best land from growing coffee beans was on the upper valley slopes and the sides of volcanoes. These areas traditionally had been densely populated by Indians, who were able to meet their basic needs from subsistence farming. The new coffee oligarchy had to devise a means whereby they could obtain this land, along with labor for the *fincas* (coffee plantations).

Nine-tenths of the land in El Salvador was created by volcanos. Due to all the volcanic activity, the soil is rich and porous with volcanic ash and lava, which makes it extremely fertile and productive. Coffee plantations and cattle ranches are found among oak and pine forest along the lower slopes of the Coastal Range.

In 1919, El Salvador named its currency unit "Colón" in tribute to Christopher Columbus. In 1929, the stock market crash, and the world economy crisis that followed, sent coffee prices tumbling. By this time, coffee had comprised 95 percent of all exports, so the effects on the Salvadorian economy were shattering. The coffee elite cut the wages and unemployment skyrocketed, which did little to ease the social tension caused by the Depression.

In that time, El Salvador produced more coffee than any other Central American country. Until 1950, coffee provided nearly 90 percent of its export revenues. By 1986, after the civil war, it still produced 72 percent of all exports earnings. Most coffee was shipped to West Germany.

In 1950, *El Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador* issued a note of 1 colon. A Coffee bush appears at left and Lake Coatepeque at right. Columbus' portrait is at center on back. This bank note was printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. It was in circulation until 1954.

In 1955, a similar design was put in circulation but this time a coffee bush is at left and building of Central Bank is at right. Printed in England by TDLR. Both notes have Columbus' portrait in a oval frame with circular seals and different signatures in black.

Also, on 2 colones-note (1955-58) appears a coffee bush at left with field workers in background and denomination also expressed in Roman numbers. Printed in by W&S. A similar design was put in circulation but with two different dates, as follow: Feb. 2, 1962 and June 9, 1964. Printed in England by TDLR.

GUATEMALA

50 Quetzales (P-63/70/77/84)

Most Guatemalans live in the highlands areas, where the soil is enriched by the waters of the Motagua River and by the eruptions of the volcanic mountains. Tropical fruits and vegetables grow here in abundance, and it is sometimes possible to harvest corn three times a year. In the highland area is Tajumulco, the highest peak in Central America, and the active volcanoes Fuego and Santa María. Coffee, responsible for about one-third of the country's export revenues, as well as sugar, rice, and tobacco, is grown there.

The coffee harvest depends on a massive, seasonal influx of migrant workers who travel to supplement the meager income generated by their small plots of land in the highlands. Seasonal and sometimes daily contract laborers, instead of permanent employees, represent significant savings for growers by not demanding year round wages and benefits. This arrangement also tends to lower wages in general, and makes access to food (and the land to grow it on), housing, medical care and schooling more difficult. In general, a season's worth of work generate 1/3 of a family's corn and bean calorie requirements for a family.

Guatemalan coffee production peaked at the turn of the 21st century when it reached around 5 million quintales; however, production fell by 1/3 in just a few years (to 345,000 quintales in 2004) as coffee prices dropped drastically. The decline in coffee's price and production increased the already difficult conditions for Guatemala's peasant farmers. About the same size as the state of Ohio, Guatemala ranks second in the world (after Colombia) in the amount of high grades coffee it produces, and it has the highest percentage of its crop classified as high quality. Over half its coffee is exported to the US, representing 1/8 of the country's GNP and generating about 1/3 of Guatemala's foreign exchange. But when these hundreds of millions of dollars trickle down, this intense labor generates little for the coffee workers.

In 1972, *Banco of Guatemala* issued a note of 50 quetzales. Carlos O. Zachrisson's portrait appears on this note at right and the multicolored bird (Quetzal) at left. Printed by TDLR. In 1983, a new design shows Zachrisson's portrait and Tikal temple in background at right; the first great Maya city, an oasis civilization amid the jungles of Guatemala. It was printed by G&D. In 1990, in a similar design appears him but without watermark. Printed by CBN. In 1994, features Zachrisson at right again. Guatemalan flag is as registration device, and new screen trap over entire background. Scene of "*Corte del Café*" and Pacaya volcano, which rises in background are on back in all these notes.

This Guatemalan note reproduces a famous painting "*El Corte del Café*" ('The Harvesting of Coffee') on back but in the SCWPM describes it as "crop workers." According to some sources, this painting was ordered by president of *Banco de Guatemala* in 1960. It was made by Jose Luis Alvarez (1917) and in reference of his work said: "*I used to work for the bank, doing restoration and framing of paintings and the asked me to do this painting [known as 'El Corte del Café'] for them.*" Today, this painting is hanging in the *Banco of Guatemala* in Guatemala City.

HAITI

1-20 Gourdes (P150-154); 5 Gourdes (180;194); 10 Gourdes (P-181;193)

Coffee has been a staple of the Caribbean nation of Haiti since its initial colonization by France in the 17th century. Alongside sugar and tobacco, it has long formed the backbone of Haiti's economy. Today, similar to many other Caribbean nations, coffee is one of the nation's most profitable crops. Coffee growth in Haiti is largely a cottage industry, grown by families and farmers, known as *pèti plantè* in Haitian Creole.

In 1788, Haiti was responsible for half of the world's supply of coffee. Coffee production has been hurt by natural disasters, as well as U.S.-led embargoes against the governments of Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier. Jean- Claude Duvalier's dictatorship made it so that the coffee farmers of Haiti were too scared to come down from the mountains to sell their crops. The machinery began to rust and the skills needed to harvest the coffee trees were lost in the generations. Following the movement away from Haitian coffee production, Brazil moved in and took control of the world coffee market.

With brief comebacks in 1850 where coffee was a major export of Haiti or in 1949 when it rose to the world's third major producer, the market has continued to go through continuous boom and bust cycles. Haitian's coffee competitiveness suffered internationally. The continuous shifts in the coffee market lead to Haitian's burning their coffee trees in order to make charcoal, hoping that would improve economic wealth. When Haiti was a main world contributor of coffee, 80 percent of the labour force was involved in agriculture. In the 1980's the percent population that was involved in agriculture dropped down to 66 percent.

Coffee farming in Haiti has decreased due to a drop in coffee prices, poor road conditions, and political instability. In the early 1990's coffee cultivation in Haiti was affected by trade embargos, as well as coffee rust, a fungal disease that attacked the coffee bean plant. Haitian coffee production should increase in the coming years after it fully recovers from these setbacks.

Haitian Bleu coffee is a relatively new specialty coffee in the Caribbean region. It was introduced to the area in 1995, at a time when the Haitian's coffee market was suffering. Haitian bleu coffee growers hand pick the coffee cherries, using shade-grown farming methods and wet processing techniques to yield these unique blue-green colored beans. Haitian green coffee beans are also fair trade certified, playing an important role in the livelihood of Haitian coffee farmers. Haitian bleu retailers and those who buy Haiti coffee are helping support one of the poorest populations in the Western Hemisphere. Haitian coffee is described as sweet, smooth, and medium bodied.

In 1807, Henri Christophe decreed that all calabash trees were the property of the state, and so all gourdes had to be bought. The gourde in Creole language means calabash and it is a very important vegetable to the Haitian peasant. So, in 1827 the use of the name "gourde" as a unit of currency has continued ever since. One gourde is divided into 100 Kobs.

In 1919, *Banque Nationale de Republique de Haiti* issued a set of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 gourdes. Banana plant is on face and coffee plant is on back. Dimensions are 163 x 87 mm. All these notes printed in New York by ABNC and circulated until 1924.

Some specimens of 20 and 100 gourdes banknotes exist because although the bank originally ordered a 100 gourdes denomination, after the plates were made the bank canceled the order, but requested the American Bank Note Company to change the plates to a 20 gourdes denomination. Once again, after the plates were altered, the bank requested that the company change the plates to 5 gourdes denomination.

In a second issue (1925-32) were put in circulation a new set of banknotes, as follow: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 gourdes. On notes of 5 gourdes appears women harvesting coffee at left. Also, on notes of 10 gourdes appears a coffee plant at center. The coat of arms is at center on back. Dimensions are 162 x 70 mm. Also, these notes printed in New York by ABNC. In the ninth issue, *Banque Nationale de Republique de Haiti* issued new notes featuring President Duvalier, replacing the Haitian women and the coffee plant in the lower denominations in 1967.

NICARAGUA

20 Córdoba (P-176/182); 1,000 Córdoba (P-178B)

In the Pre-Columbian period, arriving in Nicaragua in 1524, the conquistadors found a sizeable population, close to a million inhabitants. These people were chiefly distributed mostly along the Pacific coast and Center of the country, just as are today's Nicaraguans. The principal homestead and villages of those early times are today's larger towns and cities.

Nicaraguan's Indian population was dedicated mainly to hunting and agriculture: their main means of monetary exchange, as in the rest of Central America and Mexico, was "cocoa beans," an English term derived from the Nahuatl *cacauatl*. Initially, their great value confined the use of cocoa beans to Indian Chiefs and nobility. The Cocoa beans were not only a monetary unit but use as food in the form of a "chocolate drinks" and for the "tiste drink" (a concoction of chocolate, maize, water and sweets) that is still considered Nicaragua's national drink.

During the Colonial period and well into the Republican period, cocoa beans were widely used by all classes of the general population. Considering this cumbersome form of exchange so prone to vary in value, the Government of Nicaragua prohibited its circulation by Executive Decree of March 29, 1869.

The economy of this Central American country has always been based on agriculture. Coffee plants were introduced in the middle 1800's, it has played a significant role in Nicaragua's economy and environment. Coffee has been an engine for Nicaragua's national economic development process. It is among the nation's primary sources of foreign exchange and provides the economic backbone for thousands of rural communities. More than 40,000 coffee farm families cultivate this golden bean often in a way that preserves Nicaragua's precious forests and threatened biodiversity. In the late 1990s, coffee annually contributed US\$140 million to the national economy and provided the equivalent of 280,000 permanent agricultural jobs.

In 1990, *Banco Central de Nicaragua* issued a pale red-orange note of 20 Cordobas, featuring Gen. Augusto Sandino with a hat at left and coffee plant at right (P-176). Printed by CBNC.

In 1995, a similar note was put in circulation (P-182) but printed by F-CO. Both notes have a portrait of Emmanuel Mongalo at left and scene of fire in the Meson de Rivas in 1854 at center on back.

In 1991, the BCN Directors approved the emission of notes of 1,000 córdobas (P-178B). The firm Harrison & Son Ltd., printed these notes but never were put in circulation and are in storage at the main BCN vault in Managua. On face of these note appears a coffee plantation at left and guerrilla people in a peace process 'plowing' their weapons at right.

Conclusion:

Coffee is often consumed alongside (or instead of) breakfast by many at home. It is often served at the end of a meal, normally with a dessert, and at times with an after-dinner mint especially when consumed at a restaurant or dinner party.

From ancient times to modern, coffee has been a source of inspiration for poets, for workers, for friends and for lovers involving a certain euphoria which has been translated into many works of art, music and literature. For instance, a famous song "*Moliendo Café*" by Venezuelan composer Hugo Blanco, which truly invokes the spirit of coffee. In Colombia was produced a successful soapopera known as "*Mujer con Aroma de Café*" ('Woman with Coffee's aroma'), which has been translated into several languages.

In 2009, Bank of Guatemala issued a new note of 200 Quetzales (P-New). The portraits of Sebastián Hurtado, Mariano Valverde and Germán Alcántara are at right and also as watermarks. A musical instrument Marimba is behind of them. On back we can see Notes from '*La Flor del Café*' ('Coffee's flower') by Alcántara, a Chromatic Marimba invented by Hurtado and allegory to Valverde's '*Noche de Luna entre Ruinas*' at center.

In the United States, September 29th is celebrated as "National Coffee Day." All the largest chain stores offer free cup of coffee or samples for its regular customers that day. One of the most famous phrases in the United States is "Wake up and smell the coffee!"

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