

VENEZUELA



Early Arms of Venezuela

FOOTNOTE: Coat of Arms of Venezuela - originating in 1836, a sheaf of ripe wheat for unity and fertility, the flags symbolize triumph and the white untamed horse, Liberty.

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
BRUSSELS MINT

10 CENTAVOS DE VENEZOLANO 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1879 200,000

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / BARRE under bust.

▼RV: Arms, within wreath of laurel and palm branches, crest of two cornucopia of flowers, Motto on ribbon: 19 DE ABRIL 1810, 5 DE JULIO 1811, LIBERATAD (April 19, 1810, July 5, 1811, Liberty) incised below, •ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA• (United States of Venezuela) above / GR.2.500 •1879• LEI 835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-21

FOOTNOTE: *The Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of Venezuela* were minted by four foreign mints and the National mint at Caracas. The listings start with the Paris mint issues of 1858, 1874 & 1876, and 1893. Brussels minted coins dated 1879 and the Caracas series is dated 1886-9. The country turned to Philadelphia to produce these coins for a long period 1903 - 1954 although not all years. The last silver coin was struck again at the Paris mint dated 1960. The listings are by mint and chronological. Until 1960 the coins bear no denomination or value, except for weight and fineness.

FOOTNOTE: Caracas is situated in a fine valley about 3000 feet above the Caribbean Sea, connected by railway with the Port of La Guayra, about 10 miles distant. It is regularly laid out, and has some good buildings, including a cathedral, university, Federal Palace, and other government buildings, etc. It has various parks and gardens, gas and water supply, telephones, tramways, etc. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Phila., 1895.*

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
CARACAS

½ BOLIVAR 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1886	230,000	rare
1887	230,000	rare
1888	231,330	
1889	230,000	rare

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / BARRE under bust.

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EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CARACAS

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-21

POPULATION: Venezuela - 1893 - 2,21,988 with capital Caracas with 70,509 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: The Casa de Moneda de Caracas was established in 1886 to provide the national coinage. The Caracas mint, a private company under contract to the government, closed four years later due to commercial and financial difficulties. The dies used at the mint were ordered from the Paris mint with out mint mark.

FOOTNOTE: Caracas was founded in 1567 by Diego de Losada under the Pious title of Santiago de Leon de Caracas, and has been successively capital of the Province of Caracas, of the Captaincy-General of Caracas and Venezuela, and the Republic of Venezuela. It was the birthplace of Simon Bolivar, and claims the distinction of being the first colony in South America to overthrow Spanish Colonial Authority. The city was almost totally destroyed by the great earthquake of 1812. Population - 1881 - 55,638. *Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Ed., 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: Venezuela, a republic in the north-west of South America with population in 1873 of 1,784,194. The east coast of Venezuela was discovered by Columbus in 1498; Ojead and Vespucci followed in 1499, and entering Lake Maracaibo, they found an Indian village constructed on piles, to prevent the evil effects of inundation, and they named the place Venezuela or 'Little Venice', a name which afterwards spread to the whole country. The first settlement was made at Cumana in 1520, by the Spaniards and Venezuela remained subject to Spain till it claimed independence in 1811. It then returned to allegiance to Spain, but again revolted in 1813, and forming with New Granada and Ecuador the Republic of Columbia, was declared independent in 1819. Columbia and Ecuador and Venezuela split into separate independent countries in 1832. *Library of Universal Knowledge, N.Y., 1880.*

FOOTNOTE: The Law of 1858 provided for new coinage, which was ordered from the Paris mint.



1944 - 1/2 BOLIVAR - OBVERSE

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
DENVER MINT

1/2 BOLIVAR 18.5MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1944 500,000

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / BARRE under bust.

▼RV: Arms, within wreath of laurel and palm branches, crest of two cornucopias of flowers, Motto on ribbon: 19 DE ABRIL 1810, 20 DE FEBRERO 1859, INDEPENDENCIA FEDERATION (April 19, 1810 - February 20, 1859 Independent Federation) incised below, • ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA • (United States of Venezuela) around / GR.2.500 • 1944 • LEI 835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = DENVER

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-21A

POPULATION: Venezuela - 1940 - 3,324,160



1944 - 1/2 BOLIVAR - REVERSE

VENEZUELA, REPUBLIC of
PARIS MINT

UN REAL / 10 CENTAVOS 18.5MM .900 FINE 2.3 GRAMS

1858 42,698 rare

▲OV: Head of Liberty, facing left, LIBERTAD (Liberty) on tiara, seven stars, above / (anchor) 1858 A (mintmark) BARRE below.

▼RV: Arms of the Republic / (hand), REPUBLICA DE VENEZUELA (Republic of Venezuela) above / ★ 1 R_L 2,30 G_S ★ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: A = PARIS

ENGRAVER: BARRE (anchor) = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

DIRECTOR: (hand) = Charles Dierickz, Director of the Paris mint, 1845-60

REFERENCE: Y-9

FOOTNOTE: Venezuela consists mostly of a vast plain, watered by the Oronoco and its numerous branches. The climate is warm throughout, producing sugar, coffee, indigo, cotton, and tobacco and tropical fruits in abundance. The plains as far as the eye can reach, are covered with tall grass, on which graze vast herds of horses, oxen, and mules. The hides of their animals constitute one of the principal articles of the commerce of the country. Caracas is pleasantly situated in a valley, about 12 miles from the coast. Its streets are broad, well built, and cross each other at right angles. In 1812, the city was mostly destroyed by an earthquake, and about 12,000 persons buried beneath its ruins. It is mostly rebuilt, and contains many elegant edifices. La Guayra, the port of Caracas, has an extensive trade. *Olney's Geography, 1849.*



1874A - 10 CENTAVOS - REVERSE

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
PARIS MINT

10 CENTAVOS DE VENEZOLANO 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1874	800,000
1876	280,000

^OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / (anchor) (bee) BARRE **A** (mintmark) below.

∇RV: Arms, within wreath of laurel and palm branches, crest of two cornucopias of flowers, Motto on ribbon: 19 DE ABRIL 1810, 5 DE JULIO 1811, LIBERATAD (April 19, 1810, July 5, 1811, Liberty) incised below, • ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA • (United States of Venezuela) above / GR.2.500 • DATE • LEI 835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **A** = PARIS

ENGRAVER: BARRE (anchor) = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

DIRECTOR: (bee) = Renouard de Bussiere 1860-79

REFERENCE: Y-13

FOOTNOTE: In 1871 the United States of Venezuela adopted a coinage system which approached closely to that of the Latin Monetary Union with a gold venezolano of 1.612 grams .900 fine as the unit equal to 100 centesimos or 10 reals.

FOOTNOTE: The new coinage from the Paris mint of 1874 was issued without denominations, but carried the weight and fineness, which was to provide for their acceptance along with the previous coinage as the size and appearance was not changed, except for the portrait of Simon Bolivar designed by Barre which is still used on their coinage today..



1893A - 1/2 BOLIVAR - REVERSE

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
PARIS MINT

1/2 BOLIVAR 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1893	1,000,000
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^OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / (**cornucopia**) (fasces) BARRE **A** (mintmark) under bust.

∇RV: Arms, within wreath of laurel and palm branches, crest of two cornucopias of flowers, Motto on ribbon: 19 DE ABRIL 1810, 5 DE JULIO 1811, LIBERATAD (April 19, 1810, July 5, 1811, Liberty) incised below, • ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA • (United States of Venezuela) above / GR.2.500 • 1893 • LEI 835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**cornucopias**) **A** = PARIS

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

ENGRAVER: (fasces) = Jean La Grange 1880-96

REFERENCE: Y-21

POPULATION: Venezuela - 1891 - 2,323,527 with capital Caracas with 72,429 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: 1901 - The monetary standard is gold and the unit of value is the bolivar, worth one franc or 19.3 cents in United States money. 100 centimos equal one bolivar. *International Year Book, N.Y., 1901.*

FOOTNOTE: By 1874 the Plaza Bolivar in Caracas was complete with its iron railings and lamp posts and its beauty was crowned with the unveiling of the equestrian statute of the Liberador, bronze on a handsome marble base. This statue, work of the sculptor Tadolini, is like the one in the Plaza de la Constitucion in Lima.



1960 - 50 CENTIMOS - OBVERSE

VENEZUELA, REPUBLIC of
PARIS MINT

50 CENTIMOS 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1960 20,000,000

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / (cornucopia) (mintmark) BARRE (owl) under bust.

▼RV: Arms of the Republic, • REPUBLICA DE VENEZUELA • (Republic of Venezuela) above around / 50 CENTIMOS • 1960 • GR.2.5 LEI .835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (cornucopia) = PARIS

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

ENGRAVER: (owl) = Raymond Joly, 1959 -

REFERENCE: Y-36A



1960 - 50 CENTIMOS - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Caracas was founded in 1567 by Diego de Losada., who never dreamed it would be the capital of an oil-country. It is the birthplace of Simon Bolivar. It was the first city to overthrow Spanish colonial authority. During the wars of Independence it was repeatedly pillaged. The name Caracas comes from a tribe of Indians.

Speaking of Venezuela, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, Caracas, 1947.

FOOTNOTE: Within the past few years there have been temporary shortages of small change in Caracas. You accept a box of matches or some other small item for what the grocer could not pay in change; and to ask the beggar to make change for you out of the accumulation of his alms! *Speaking of Venezuela, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, Caracas, 1947.*



Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador



1921 - 1/2 BOLIVAR - REVERSE

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
PHILADELPHIA MINT

1/2 BOLIVAR 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1903	200,000
1911	300,000
1912	1,920,000
1919	400,000
1921	600,000
1924	800,000
1929	400,000
1935	1,000,000
1936	600,000

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / BARRE under bust.

▼RV: Arms, within wreath of laurel and palm branches, crest of two cornucopias of flowers, Motto on ribbon: 19 DE ABRIL 1810, 5 DE JULIO 1811, LIBERATAD (April 19, 1810, July 5, 1811, Liberty) incised below, • ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA • (United States of Venezuela) above / GR.2.500 • DATE • LEI 835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PHILADELPHIA

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-21

POPULATION: Venezuela - 1904 - 2,590,981 including 326,000 indians.

FOOTNOTE: Coins in circulation in 1913; gold coins are the old spanish *onza* (80 bolivars) and 20 bolivars, silver coins are 5 bolivar pieces, commonly called *fuerte*, and divisions including the 1/2 bolivar called a *real*, and the 1/4 bolivar called a *medio*. *The Statesmen's Year-Book, London 1916.*



1946 - 1/2 BOLIVAR - REVERSE

VENEZUELA, UNITED STATES of
PHILADELPHIA MINT

1/2 BOLIVAR 18.5MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1945	4,500,000
1946	2,500,000

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / BARRE under bust.

▼RV: Arms, within wreath of laurel and palm branches, crest of two cornucopias of flowers, Motto on ribbon: 19 DE ABRIL 1810, 20 DE FEBRERO 1859, INDEPENDENCIA FEDERACION (April 19, 1810 - February 20, 1859 Independent Federation) incised below, • ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA • (United States of Venezuela) around / GR.2.500 • 1944 • LEI 835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PHILADELPHIA

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-21A

POPULATION: Venezuela - 1946 - 3,851,000

Catalogo de Monedas de Venezuela, Tomas Stohr, Caracas, 1975.

FOOTNOTE: The *bolivar* has been the legal monetary unit of Venezuela since 1879. Guzman Blanco's decree stipulated the silver *bolivar*, "which is to be considered divided into 100 *centesimos*"; but the law of 1918, now in effect makes an imaginary gold *bolivar* the legal monetary of Venezuela. A bolivar contains 20 centavos or eight *lochas*, or four *medios*, or two *reals*. Its pet name is *bolo*. *Speaking of Venezuela, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, Caracas, 1947.*

Simon Bolivar, The Liberator



1954 - 50 CENTIMOS - OBVERSE



1954 - 50 CENTIMOS - OBVERSE

VENEZUELA, REPUBLIC of
PHILADELPHIA MINT

50 CENTIMOS 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

(1955) 1954 15,000,000

▲OV: Head of Simon Bolivar, facing left, BOLIVAR left, LIBERTADOR (Liberator) right / BARRE under bust.

▼RV:

Shield of the Republic, • REPUBLICA DE VENEZUELA • (Republic of Venezuela) above around / 50 CENTIMOS • 1954 • GR.2.5 LEI .835 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PHILADELPHIA

DESIGNER: BARRE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-36

FOOTNOTE: Venezuela during the past 18 years has risen to third place among oil-producing countries of the world, following the United States and Russia. Ninety-five percent of the oil production is exported. Wages paid by the petroleum industry in the Maracaibo basin are based on a minimum of 8 Bolivares a day for unskilled labor. Semiskilled labor receives 22 bolivares a day. The bolivar of 100 centimos, based on gold, is the monetary unit of Venezuela. The bolivar has a nominal value of 19.3 cents U.S. Venezuela issues gold coins 100, 20, and 10 bolivares, although few are in circulation; silver coins are 5, 2, and 1 bolivar, and 50 and 25 centimos pieces; nickel coins are 12 1/2 and 5 centimos value. The government does not issue paper currency. The paper currency is issued by six authorized banks in notes of 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 bolivars. Mining has been an important industry in Venezuela since the colonial period. Gold, coal, salt and diamonds are mined. In 1938. *U.S.Dept. of Commerce, 1941.*

FOOTNOTE: This issue was struck at the Philadelphia mint in 1955 all dated 1954. It is the first type in this series to bear a denomination and the Arms of Venezuela has been changed to only the shield.

FOOTNOTE: The Coat of Arms of Venezuela has passed through many alterations - because of its nature as an aggregation of complicated symbols and partly because of changes in the Government of which it is an emblem. As it stands today [shown on the reverse of the 1946 coinage] it rest on a law passed by Congress July 15, 1930. The Arms of Venezuela, stipulates this law, shall be a shield the field of which shall consist of the colors of the Venezuelan flag, in three quarterings. (Note - right and left are according to heraldic usage, i.e. they designate sides of the shield exactly opposite of those to which we should naturally apply them. Right is the bearer's right, not the observer's). The quarter on the right shall be red and shall contain a sheaf of wheat which shall symbolize the union of the States of the Republic, and the richness of its soil. The quarter on the left shall be yellow and as emblem of victory shall contain weapons and two national flags united by a laurel wreath. The third quarter shall be blue, shall occupy all the lower part of the shield, and shall contain from right to left but looking towards the right, an untamed white horse, as symbol of independence and liberty. The Coat of Arms shall have as crest above, the emblem of abundance, with two cornucopias turned downwards full of fruits and flowers of the cold, temperate and hot zones. Below, it shall have a branch of olive and palm tied with ribbons in the colors of the flag. The blue ribbon shall bear the following inscription in letters of gold: to the right - *19 de abril de 1810 - Independencia*. To the left - *20 de febrero de 1859 - Federacion*. In the center - *EE. UU. de Venezuela*. Some of the changes from the earlier versions were; the sword and lances replacing primitive bow and arrows, and the horse introduced in 1822, - "animal which is distinguished for its nobility and beauty, which is reared native on the *Ilanos* and has decided so many times the triumph of arms". The laurel became an olive branch in 1863. *Speaking of Venezuela, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, Caracas, 1947.*

FOOTNOTE: Only once in its history has Venezuela issued paper money without backing; this was in 1811, when there were also issued little tokens of cardboard. In 1814, when the national treasury emptied and Bolivar's own funds spent, the Patriot government was hard pressed for money, the Church was asked to help the State financially. A decree was issued authorizing the use of all ecclesiastical plate and valuables "except those indispensable for religious services". Although the Royalist Archbishop delayed the actual transfer of the Cathedral silver for nearly six months in the hope of a Boves victory, the Republican government finally managed to gain possession of an incredible amount of Church silver. The Archbishop's faith in boves was ill-founded; when that leader did re-take Caracas he only went through a farce investigation and attempt to get the silver back from the deposed Patriot government. *Speaking of Venezuela, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, Caracas, 1947.*

FOOTNOTE: In 1928, Venezuela moved into second place behind the United States among the world's oil-producing countries. In other words, her production had become fabulous in a list which included such fabled producers as the Crimean fields of Russia, the spectacular limestone fields of Mexico and the seemingly limitless reservoirs of the Middle East waiting to enter flush production in Iraq and Iran. The first oil concession, a 250 acre site, in 1878 was granted to Venezuelans in the Andean foothills near Rubio, on and around a surface manifestation or seepage of oil. In 1884, a company named Petrolera del Tachira was established. It was not until 1917 that foreign enterprise and capital gave Venezuela a true oil industry marked by intensive drilling using heavy mechanical equipment., The results was 100,000 barrels for that year. Thirty years later that amount is pumped in two hours. *Speaking of Venezuela, Maurice Kamen-Kaye, Caracas, 1947.*