

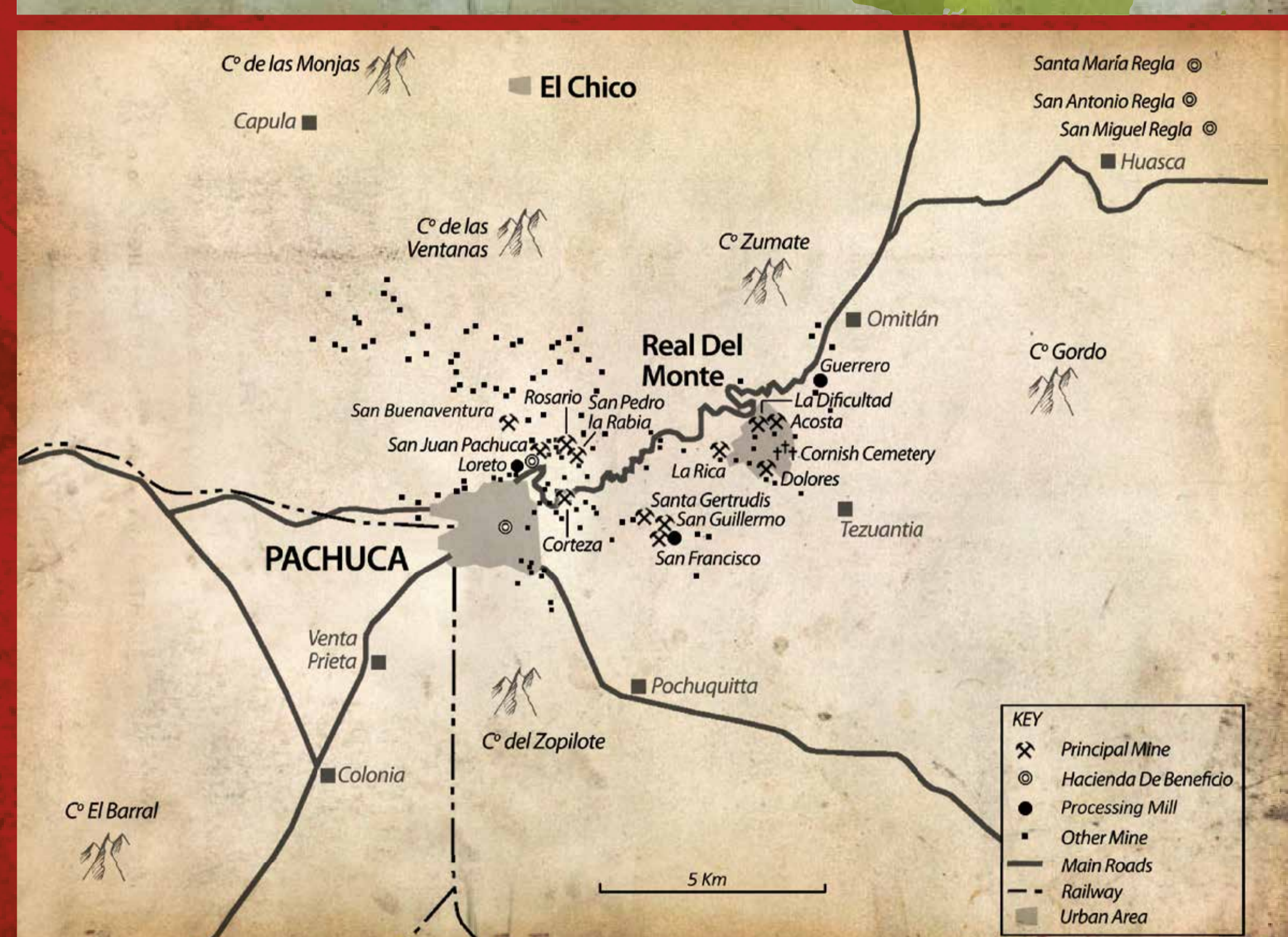
# CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF MINING HERITAGE



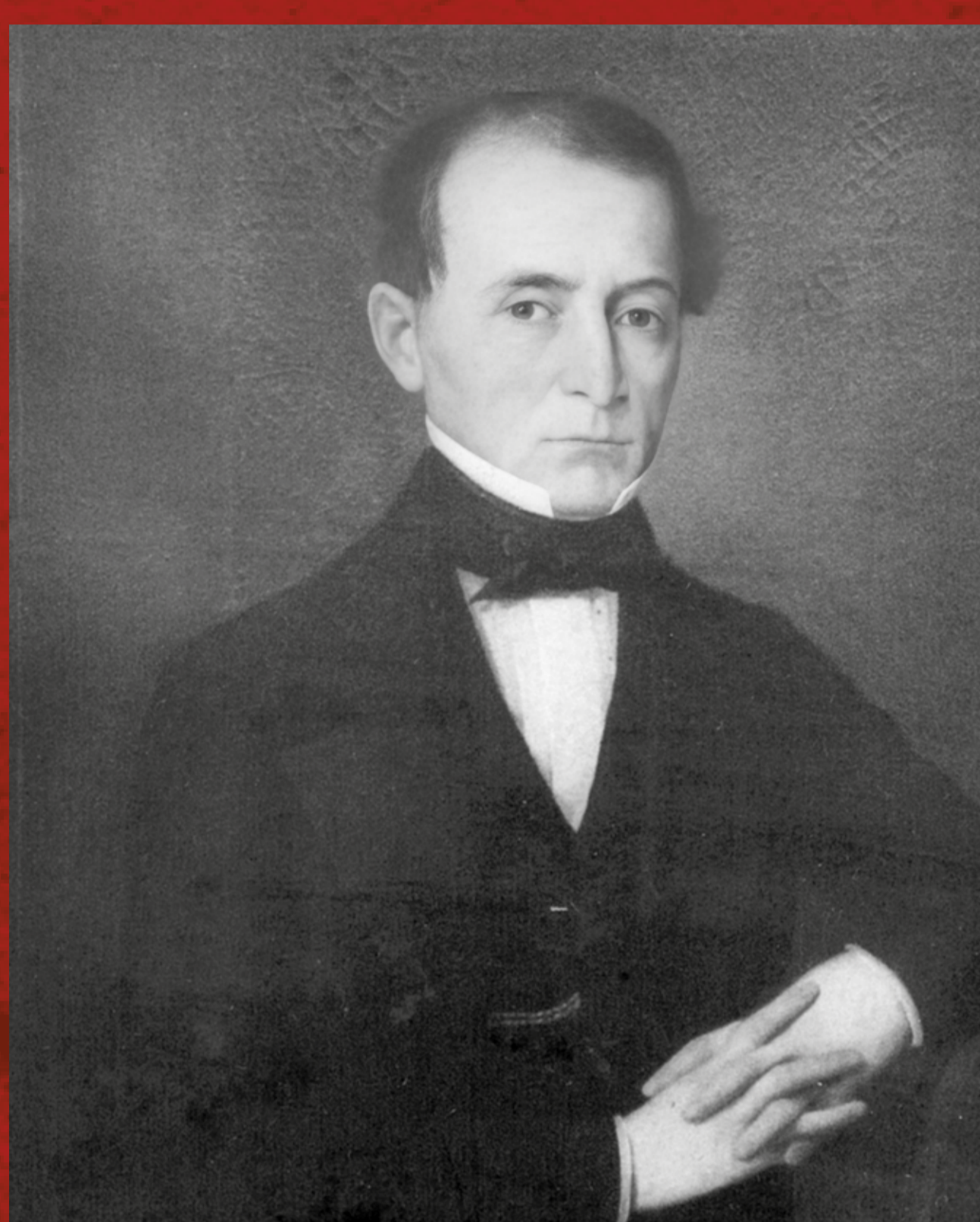
*“Pachuca has a charm and acts as a magnet to nearly every Cornishman who reaches there. A Camborne man feels as much at home as if he were again at Troon or Tallywarren Street.”* *Cornish Post and Mining News*, 18 January 1900

John Rule of Camborne and a former captain at Dolcoath Mine arrived at Real del Monte, Mexico, in 1824 with the first party of mineworkers for the Real del Monte Mining Company, including men from the Camborne area. This began a process of migration characterised by strong familial links that endured for well over a century. Camborne and surrounding mining villages accounted for a significant number of Cornish migrants to Real del Monte and Pachuca.

The most famous was Francis Rule of Troon, who arrived in Pachuca in 1854 and rose to the top level of management with the Real del Monte and Pachuca Mining Company. A shrewd, well-connected, self-made man close to autocratic president, Porfirio Díaz, Rule made his wealth in mines including Santa Gertrudis and Maravillas. Known as *El Rey de la Plata* (the Silver King) he wielded enormous influence, owned several haciendas, constructed many grand buildings in Pachuca, and employed scores of Cornish migrants at his mines. Today the district is known as **‘Mexico’s Little Cornwall’**.



Maps: Dr Martin Critchley



Above left: Captain John Rule (1784-1866) who led the first party of Cornishmen to arrive at Real del Monte in 1824. He served the Real del Monte Mining Company as Commissioner from 1832 until 1843, when he retired to Parc Bracket House in Camborne.

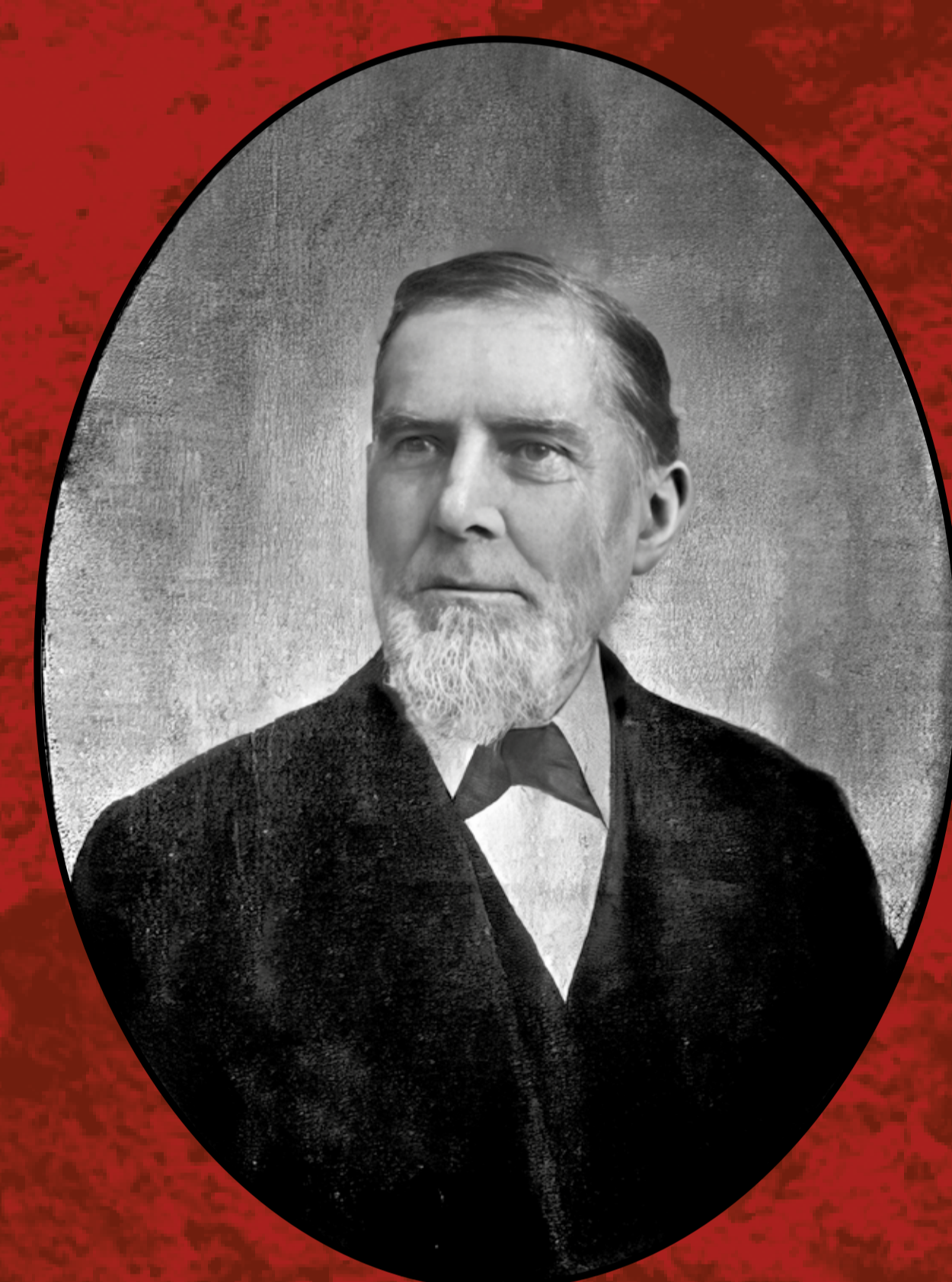
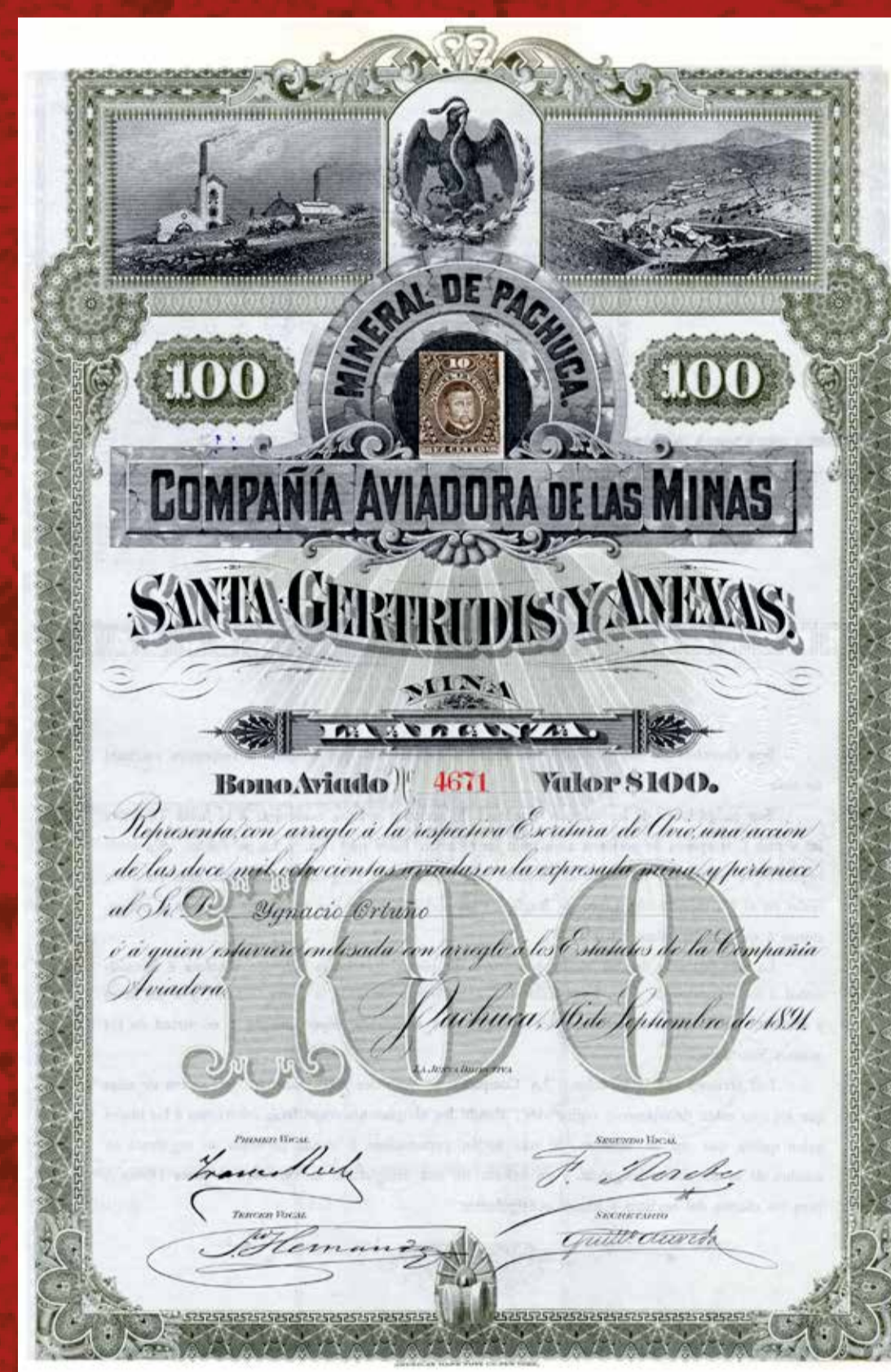
The late Professor Charles Thomas

Above middle: Francis Rule (1835-1925) with his wife Mary Hoskings, both natives of Troon. Rule was the acknowledged head of the Cornish colony. Although he entered wholeheartedly into Mexican life and showed great benevolence to numerous worthy causes on both sides of the Atlantic, he remained British at heart.

Sharron Schwartz Collection

Above right: Mina Gertrudis, Mineral de la Reforma, with its 50-inch cylinder Harvey's of Hayle engine on the San Juan Shaft. Rule imported numerous engines from Cornish engine makers, including a monster 90-inch engine manufactured by Bickle and Co. which was started at Santa Gertrudis in 1902.

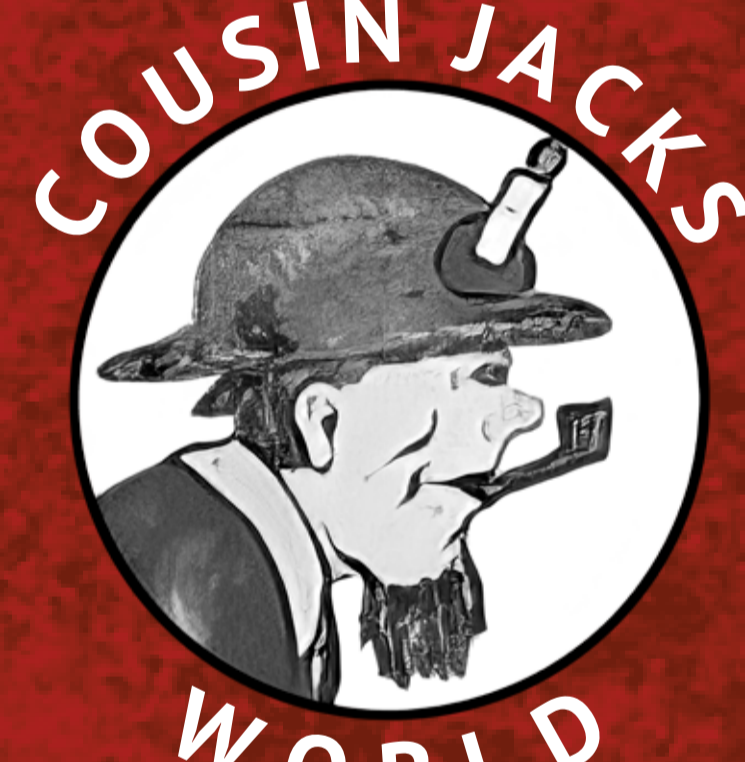
Sharron Schwartz Collection



Above left: Share certificate signed by 'Franco Rule.' Rule set up the Santa Gertrudis Mining Company with fellow Camborne man, William Stoneman, in 1874. It laid the foundation for his enormous wealth and future success, and provided a good income for its many Cornish shareholders. In 1896, his son Captain William Mayne Rule stated, 'many people in Camborne have lived for years on their dividends.' Sharron Schwartz Collection

Above right: Mexico was one of the most dangerous destinations for Cornish migrants. Knave-Go-By native, Captain William Rabling (1837-1901), head agent of the Real del Monte and Pachuca Mining Company, was kidnapped from a stagecoach en route from Pachuca to the City of Mexico in 1863 by bandits loyal to Catarino Fragoso. He was one of President Benito Juárez's partisans, fighting against the French-installed Emperor, Maximilian. Rabling was held for ransom for \$6,000. Over three weeks later, he was released on payment of most of the ransom, during which time he was terribly ill-treated. Sharron Schwartz Collection

Text: Dr Sharron P Schwartz



[www.cornishmining.org.uk](http://www.cornishmining.org.uk)  
[www.cousinjacksworld.com](http://www.cousinjacksworld.com)

In 1896 Rule constructed a huge French Renaissance style mansion in Pachuca. Named the Casa Rule, he entertained President Porfirio Díaz there. The house is now the Pachuca Municipal Palace and is where the Camborne Mayor signed the Friendship Agreement with her counterpart in 2008. Carlos Enrique Sevilla

