

**Philip V, Potosí, Eight Reales, 1732 Assayer YA
Counterfeit and Genuine Specimens
Herman Blanton**

A recent internet post¹ at the website *Colonial Cobs Forum* framed the observation that an internet auction² offered two identical cob coins. As cob coins are hand struck on handmade planchets using handmade dies there is no possibility that two identical specimens can both be genuine. This meant that either there was a catalog error or at least one of the specimens was counterfeit. After being alerted the auction house withdrew both lots before the auction closed. The 1732 YA counterfeits are well made, in fact, one of the two specimens offered in the auction had been third party authenticated and encapsulated (aka “slabbed”).

Through some research it is possible to show that this counterfeit has been around for at least fifty years.

Chronology according to findings.

Dasí, Tomás. *Estudio de los reales de a ocho, también llamados pesos, dólares, piastras, patacones o duros españoles* Five Volumes. Valencia: 1950. Dasí makes no mention of Potosí 8R 1732 YA. The fact that Dasí makes no mention suggests a strong likelihood that prior references do not mention it either.



ANE auction 8 & 9 May 1964 lot 186

¹ Posted by Patty Alpert, assistant administrator of *Colonial Cobs Forum* website.
<http://www.colonialcobs.com/forum/index.php?topic=714.msg5875#msg5875> (accessed 30 May 2014)

² Heritage Rare Coins *Weekly World and Ancient Coin Auction #231422* (2014-05-22) lot numbers 64014 & 64015.

Asociación Numismática Española (ANE). *Subasta Social 8 y 9 de Mayo de 1964* lote 186. Provincias Españolas de América. Bolivia-Peru. 186 Real de a 8, 1732 Ensayador, YA en monograma. Dasí e Yriarte publican ejemplar de esta fecha con ensayador M. Burzio se conoce solo ejemplar con el monograma YA. Rarisima. AR. Lamina XI. (Realized 11,000 pesetas with the exchange rate of 60 pesetas to the US dollar. This auction may be the same source referenced by Calbetó as 5/61 and Ponterio [Paul Karon] as 1961.)



Christensen auction 30 June 1964 lot 156

Henry Christensen. *Public and Mail Coin Auction Sale June 30, 1964*, lot 156. Spanish American Silver, Potosi, 156 1732 8 R. YA. Philip V. 24.05 grams. SDNSA 10/19. Y 461. 250 (est. US dollars). PLATE.



Yriarte, Jose de. *Catálogo de los Reales de a Ocho Españoles*, Madrid, 1965 (p. 175, no. 1.072).



Calbetó, Gabriel De Grau. *Compendio De Las Piezas De Ocho Reales*. San Juan Puerto Rico, 1970. Vol II, p. 717 N.º. 1923, Falsificación 1732 FA Fundida 24.20g. (This the earliest citation I found that declares this coin counterfeit.)

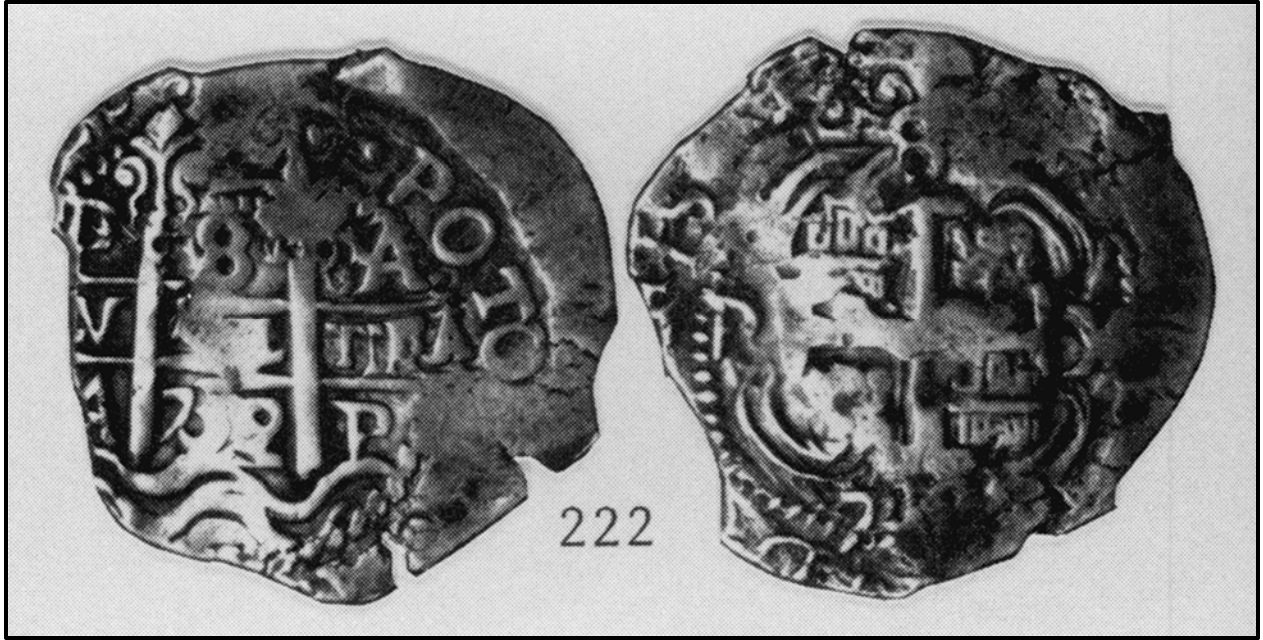


Calbetó, 1970, Vol. I, p. 332, #1177 is a genuine coin. On p. 330 Calbetó identified two specimens as cast: “ANE No. 186 dei 5/61 y Ch. N.º. 156 del 6/64 son fundidos....” These are two of the specimens mentioned above.

Grunthal, Henry and Ernesto Sellschopp. *The Coinage of Peru*. Frankfurt am Main: 1978. Page 201. 519a) 8 Reales, 1732 Yriarte 1072. H. Christensen, June 1964 #156 (illustrated) Valdez collection. A.N.S. (This coin is listed as genuine, which is contrary to Calbetó 1970.)

Sedwick, Frank. *The Practical Book of Cobs*. Maitland FL. 1987 (1st edition). On p. 11 at YA “Beware of the counterfeits of 1732.” No picture.

Sedwick, Frank. *The Practical Book of Cobs, Second Edition*. Maitland FL. 1990. On p. 13 at YA “Beware of counterfeit 8 reales of 1732.” No picture.



Ponterio & Associates, Inc. Public Auction Sale #42 The Paul Karon Potosi Cob Collection, Chicago, Illinois, March 17, 1990. Assayer YA (in Monogram) held office during portions of 1732-1733. 222. P. "1732, similar style, 26.05 grams. With 1.5 dates and three discernable (one very bold) assayer monograms. Much detail on a large flan. Excessively **RARE** date of this assayer but not commonly known due to the excellent counterfeits (see next lot). Sellschopp did not have this item (the only piece missing in his collection from 1652-1773!) and Calbeto's plate coin is the only other one known to us. Attractive **VERY FINE**....500-1000"



Ponterio & Associates, Inc. Public Auction Sale #42 The Paul Karon Potosi Cob Collection, Chicago, Illinois, March 17, 1990. Assayer YA (in Monogram) held office during portions of 1732-1733. 223. P. "1732; 24.57 grams. Of correct style for the era and obviously skillfully cast from a choice

original whose provenance is now unknown. Its specific gravity of 9.71 indicates a highly debased nature but the color on the frontside is highly deceptive. This is identical to Yriarte's plate coin, the 1961 ANE (Spanish Numismatic Association) coin and Christensen's 1964 example. Of all the counterfeits seen this is the most deceptive in our opinion. VERY FINE [.....] *From Kagin's/Americas Aug. 1983 auction lot 1261.*"

Sedwick, Daniel and Frank Sedwick. *The Practical Book of Cobs, Third Edition.* Winter Park, FL.: 1995. On p. 53 no. P45 "Beware of counterfeit 8 reales of 1732YA." No picture

Sedwick, Daniel and Frank Sedwick. *The Practical Book of Cobs, 20th Anniversary Edition (Fourth Edition)* Winter Park, FL.: 2007. On p. 115 no. P45 "Beware of a famous counterfeit 8 reales of 1732YA." No picture.



Stack's. *The Vermeule, Ward, and Mexico Mexico Collections – 1/11/2010.* Lot 1090. BOLIVIA. Felipe V, 1700-1746. Cob 8 Reales, 1732 YA. Potosí. Crown over Pillars and waves, bold P - 8 YA/ PLV - SVL - TR/ YA - 32 - P. Rv. Jerusalem Cross, castles and lions, P - YA/ 32, only a fragment of legend visible. Cayón 8732, KM 31a. A fascinating strike on an ovoid planchet allows most of this splendid coin's central detail to be fully displayed. This piece was the plate coin in Jose de Yriarte y Oliva, *Catálogo de los reales de a ocho españoles*, 1955. Extremely Fine. [Realized 2530.00]

Neither Yriarte 1955 nor Barrera *Catalogo General de la Moneda Falsa Española Desde Los Reyes Catolicos a Juan Carlos I* were available to consult, however, these references may supply further information.

Conclusion

Except for Calbetó, 1970, Vol. I, p. 332, #1177 and Ponterio & Associates, #42 lot 222 all the coins mentioned in this article are counterfeit. The original from whence the counterfeits were cast copied must be a struck specimen. Its whereabouts is unknown.

Soli Deo gloria