

1622 Cartagena (Colombia) 2 Escudos, a Revised Census

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These coins were unknown to collectors before their discovery among the gold and silver coins recovered from the 1622 Spanish treasure fleet off the coast of Florida by Mel Fisher. All of these specimens are presumed to have been salvaged from the fleet which included the ships *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* and *Santa Margarita*. Until 1620 the Spanish crown prohibited the striking of gold coins in its American colonies; these 1622 dated specimens were struck under the 1620 authorization. I attribute these to Cartagena (*de las Indias*) and not Santa Fe (*de Bogotá*) for reasons too lengthy to explain here and this also is the accepted attribution, *cf* Restrepo (2012: 65-66). The next American mint to strike gold was Lima which made a few gold coins in 1659 & 1660 but these were not royally sanctioned, i.e., they were illegal strikes. It would not be until 1680 that another American mint, Mexico, was authorized. The exception to this being the first gold coin struck in America is *oro corriente*, which are atypical coins such as circulating gold ingots, ingot sections, etc. (Proctor 2007; Blanton 2011).

This coin type is a 22 karat gold two-escudo with a specified mass of 68 escudos/mark which is calculated to be 6.77 grams per piece (Blanton 2013). We classify the coin as Philip III because the ordinal on the coin is III. Technically the coin is Philip IV because his father Philip III had died the previous year 1621. The obverse has the Habsburg shield with crown above. Superimposed on the Habsburg shield is Portugal (high) and Flanders & Tyrol (low). The reverse has a Cross Potent (four cross bars at the ends of cross) with lily flowers between and surrounded with four arcs doubled and four small rings.

Obverse legend: “❖•PHILIPPVS•III•D•G•❖” around, “•SF•” left and “•II•” right.

Reverse legend: “•HISPANIARVM•REX 1622”

This census is built upon Richards' listing (1989, 2002 and 2012) arranged chronologically according to the individual specimen publication and updated with my observations. The Spink America specimen (1997) in Richards (2002: 11) is renamed the Swiss Bank specimen (1991) as it predates Spink America and added to the list is the Lasser specimen (1992). In fact, the impetus of this revised listing was my observation that the specimen Lasser (1992: plate 13, no. 1) illustrated is a distinct specimen not included in Richards' census. The Lasser specimen was donated to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and with their permission we publish fresh images of their coin.

Lasser Specimen



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Gift of the Lasser Family



(#1) Calicó Specimen
Image Courtesy of Aureo & Calicó

- Plate coin:** *Monedas Española desde Juana y Carlos a Isabella II, 1504 a 1868* by Calico, F., Calico, X., Trigo, J., Barcelona, 1985 (6th edition), as Type 15a, No. 36a, p. 118. According to the catalog description this is the first specimen known and the first image published. “*Unico ejemplar conocido y por primera vez ilustrado.*”
- Plate coin:** *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1989, p. 3 “Specimen One – 1622 Bogota 2 Esc.”
- Plate coin:** *Las Monedas Españolas desde Fernando e Isabel a Juan Carlos I años: 1474 a 1998* by Ferrán Calicó, Xavier Calicó y Joaquín Trigo, Barcelona, 1998 (9th edition), as Felipe III Cartagena Tipo 17, núm. 38 p. 207 (formerly Santa Fe).
- Plate coin:** *Las Monedas Españolas, Del tremis al euro, Del 411 a nuestros días* by Adolfo, Clemente y Juan Cayón. Madrid: 1998. p. 614 Tipo 81a No. 4745.
- Plate coin:** *Macuquinas de Colombia (The Cobs of Colombia, South America)*, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo and Joseph R. Lasser. Medellín: 1998. p. 4 no. M10-1B.
- Plate coin:** *The Cob Coinage of Colombia 1622-1756* by Joseph R. Lasser (and) Jorge Emilio Restrepo. New York: Pertinax Press, 2000. p. 40 no. M10C-1B, p. 133 no. M10C-1B.
- Plate coin:** *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 “Calicó Specimen”
- Plate coin:** *Cobs, pieces of eight and treasure coins: the early Spanish-American mints and their coinages, 1536-1773* by Sewall Menzel. New York: American Numismatic Society, 2004. p. 385 (top right).
- Plate coin:** *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista* by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2006. p. 69 M10-1B.
- Plate coin:** *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 2nd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2007. p. 69 M10-1B.
- Plate coin:** *Numismática Española, Catalogo General con Precios de Todas las Monedas Españolas Acuñadas desde los Reyes Católicos hasta Juan Carlos I, 1474 a 2001* by X. Calicó. Barcelona: 2008, as Felipe III Cartagena Tipo 11,

núm. 16 p. 246.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2008 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 3rd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2009. p. 69 M10-1B.

Plate coin: *Escudos macuquinos, Imperio Español, Catálogo 2 Escudos*, Web Edition (*CatalogGeneralParaWEB2.pdf*) by Rafael Tauler Fesser. 2011. p. 38 No. 74. On-line <http://www.onzasmacuquinas.com/pdf/D-FIII-2ESC.pdf>, p. 41 No. 74 (accessed 2013.11.22).



(#2) Sedwick Specimen 1
Image Courtesy of Daniel Sedwick LLC

FUNTopics Winter 1984 (unconfirmed). A publication of Florida United Numismatist.

“Ejemplar de 2 escudos 1622 Santa Fe hace ‘brujitos’ en Miami” in *Numis-Notas No. 44*, edited by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: Círculo Numismático Antioqueño, Febrero 1985, pp. 1-2.

Illustrated: “Informe Adicional 2 escudos 1622 Santa Fe” in *Numis-Notas No. 45*, edited by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: Círculo Numismático Antioqueño, May 1985, pp. 1-2, 4.

Plate coin: *The Practical Book of Cobs* by F. Sedwick, Florida 1987, p. 61

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1989, p. 3 “Specimen Two – 1622 Bogota 2 Esc.”

Plate coin: *Macuquinas de Colombia (The Cobs of Colombia, South America)*, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo and Joseph R. Lasser. Medellín: 1998. p. 4 no. M10-1C, p. 93 no. M10-1 (right).

Plate coin: *The Cob Coinage of Colombia 1622-1756* by Joseph R. Lasser (and Jorge Emilio Restrepo. New York: Pertinax Press, 2000. p. 40 no. M10C-1C, p. 133 no. M10C-1C.

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 “Sedwick Specimen”

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista* by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2006. p. 69 M10-1C.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 2nd

Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2007. p. 69 M10-1C.

Plate coin: *The Practical Book of Cobs 20th Anniversary Edition (Fourth Edition)* by Daniel Sedwick and Frank Sedwick, Florida 2007, p. 127

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2008 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 3rd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2009. p. 69 M10-1C.

Plate coin: *Coins of Colombia (Spanish Colonial and Republican) 1619-2012 (Monedas de Colombia 1619-2012) Notes of a Collector*, Fourth Edition-First English Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2102. p. 66 M10-1.

No Image

(#3) Christie's Specimen (6.69 grams)

Ex: Christies Sale June 14 & 15, 1988 lot 113

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1989, p. 3 "Specimen Three – 1622 Bogota 2 Esc."

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 "Christie's Specimen"



(#4) Swiss Bank Specimen

Image Courtesy of UBS

Ex: **Swiss Bank Corporation**, Auction 27 *The Emilio M. Ortiz Collection of Spanish Colonial and Spanish Coins*. Basel, Jan 24, 1991, lot 71.

Plate coin: "Las primeras monedas Colombianas" by Jorge Emilio Restrepo in *Boletín Numismático* 53 1er Semestre 1992, pp. 3-6 (ill. p. 4).

Ex: **Spink America** (A member of the Christie's Group) *The Norweb Collection of Brazilian, Bolivian, Colombian and Chilean Coins*. New York, Monday, 3 March and Tuesday, 4 March 1997, Lot 275.

Plate coin: *Macuquinas de Colombia (The Cobs of Colombia, South America)*, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo and Joseph R. Lasser. Medellín: 1998. p. 4 no. M10-1A, p. 93 no. M10-1 (left).

Plate coin: *The Cob Coinage of Colombia 1622-1756* by Joseph R. Lasser (and) Jorge Emilio Restrepo. New York: Pertinax Press, 2000. p. 40 no. M10C-1A, p. 133 no. M10C-1A.

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 “Spink Specimen”

Plate coin: *Cobs, pieces of eight and treasure coins: the early Spanish-American mints and their coinages, 1536-1773* by Sewall Menzel. New York: American Numismatic Society, 2004. pp. 384 & 385 (top left).

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista* by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2006. p. 69 M10-1A.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 2nd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2007. p. 69 M10-1A.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2008 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 3rd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2009. p. 69 M10-1A.



(#5) Lasser Specimen

Image Courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Gift of the Lasser Family

Plate coin: 1992. “The Cobs of Cartagena, 1622-1655” by Joseph Lasser in *American Journal of Numismatics Second Series* 3-4 (1991-2), pp. 117-122, plates 13 no. 1.

Museum Collection: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation accession number 2010-63, 111.



(#6) Danny Lee Specimen

Image Courtesy of Ponterio & Associates, Inc.

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 3 (6.75 g) and p. 11 “Lee Specimen”. According to this article the coin was certified by Treasure Salvors in 1982 as recovered from the Santa Margarita.

Ex: Ponterio 2003 Auction 124 lot 1237. Jan 17-18, 2003 (NY International).



(#7) Ponterio Specimen

Image Courtesy of Ponterio & Associates, Inc.

Ex: Ponterio 2008 Auction 146 lot 872. April 25-26, 2008 (CICF)

Plate coin: “Nuestras primeras acuñaciones” by Jorge Becerra L. in *Boletín Numismático* 84 1er Semestre 2008, pp. 26-27 (ill. cover & p. 26).

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. 2 (2nd Quarter, 2012): 4.



(#8) Sedwick Specimen 2
Image Courtesy of Daniel Sedwick LLC

Ex: Sedwick TA3 lot 23 May 29, 2008.

Ex: Sedwick TA6 lot 41 Oct 15-16, 2009.

Plate coin: *Escudos macuquinos, Imperio Español, Catálogo 2 Escudos*, Web Edition (*CatalogGeneralParaWEB2.pdf*) by Rafael Tauler Fesser. 2011. p. 38 No. 74a. On-line <http://www.onzasmacuquinas.com/pdf/D-FIII-2ESC.pdf>, p. 41 No. 74a (accessed 2013.11.22).

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. 2 (2nd Quarter, 2012): 4.

Treasure Salvors Incorporated certified as Artifact 178-M-80 (meaning the coin was recovered from the Margarita site in 1980). The certificate is dated 1 Nov, 1982 from the *Santa Margarita* by the Fisher salvage team. The certificate has the mint field as “SF” the date field as “16- -” and weight at 6.75 grams.

Database records

Coin No.	Denom.	Mint	Reign	Assayer	Coin Date
80M-107	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	1622
80M-121	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	1622
80M-157	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	162#
80M-178	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	16##
80M-180	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	1622

These records found for 1622 Santa Fe de Bogota Philip III 2 Escudos did not have photos but they ought to match coins for this census (now or yet to be observed); 80M-178 is census #8. Mel Fisher’s Treasures Historic Shipwreck Research Database accessed 2013.11.28. <http://www.melfisherartifacts.com/>

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- Richards, Ernie. “First New-World Gold Coins Surface, One...Two...Three!” *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4 (4th Quarter, 1989): 1-3.
- . “First Gold Coin of the Americas—5th-Known Specimen Emerges” and “First Gold Coin of the Americas Reunion.” *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 20, No. 4 (4th Quarter, 2002): 3, 11.
- . “Two ‘Cousins’ that Missed the 2002 Family ‘Reunion’ (PLVS VLTRA 4th-Q Issue.” *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. 2 (2nd Quarter, 2012): 4.
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NOTE: Other citations and photos are likely published and more will most likely appear in the future.

Soli Deo gloria