

AN ITEMIZED LISTING OF THE PUBLISHED MEXICAN ROYAL EIGHT ESCUDOS

By

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Originally this listing started out as research on the two coins appearing in the C.I.C.F. Y2K auction and eventually expanded into a listing of all the published Royal Eight Escudos I could find. It's very likely that I have not listed a few pieces which have been published, due to the publications not being available to me, or my not being aware of such publications. There are probably also a few specimens in private collections which remain unpublished as appears to be the case with the two coins present in this auction (until now). If you know of other specimens which are published or unpublished and not present in the following listings, and wish to share information, please send me photographs so that I may add them to my research.

The goal of my research is to learn exactly how many Royal Eight Escudos have survived over the years and how available they are to the collector today. The number of surviving specimens however does not necessarily represent the number of coins available to the collector. This is very apparent when, for example, you look at the listings for the 1702 Royals; I have found eight different 1702 Royal Eight Escudos listed. Three of them, however are in the State of Florida collection and one of the remaining five is reported to have been acquired by a different museum. This indicates that only four of the above listed 1702 Royals are available to the numismatic collector today.

What is such item worth? I listed a few of the auction records where I could find the prices realized, so one might be able to make some kind of comparison. A specimen dated 1717 was auctioned by Spink America in December of 1995 (The Pablo Gerber Collection). Its condition was very fine with damage from being in jewelry and it realized \$68,000.00 plus the buyer's fee. Another specimen dated 1713 was auctioned in January of 1991 by Swiss Bank Corporation; the condition of this piece was FDC or Fleur de Coin (meaning Uncirculated); this piece realized 108,000 Swiss Francs plus the buyer's fee.

I found my search for information on this subject to be quite frustrating. The lack of published information made it hard to properly research and much of what I found published was either speculation or incorrect. In this respect I have tried to include in this article only what I know as fact.

The first known date for a Royal Eight Escudos that I was able to locate is 1695 and the last date 1729. This is a span of thirty-five years, and they were conceivably struck before and after this time frame. The Mexico City mint was striking Royals for more than three decades, yet I was only able to track down thirty-two examples of only twelve dates. It is unlikely that anyone will ever put together a

An itemized listing of the published Mexican Royal Eight Escudos Con't:

complete set of these by the dates that are known to exist. Many of the dates are unique, or only a couple of examples are known. These coins are offered so seldom that it is truly a prestigious thing for a collector to say that he or she even has one in their collection.

It is interesting to note that for the 1702 there is only one obverse die but two reverse dies. One might automatically assume that they were all made with the same dies, but this is not the case. For examples of this see "Florida Archaeology" by Alan Craig. See Plate six; there are three examples of this coin plated, all with the same obverse die, two have the same reverse die and the third has been made with a different reverse die. This is what I find interesting: there are three dies for 1702 Royal Eight Escudos yet no circulation strikes of this date are known to me.

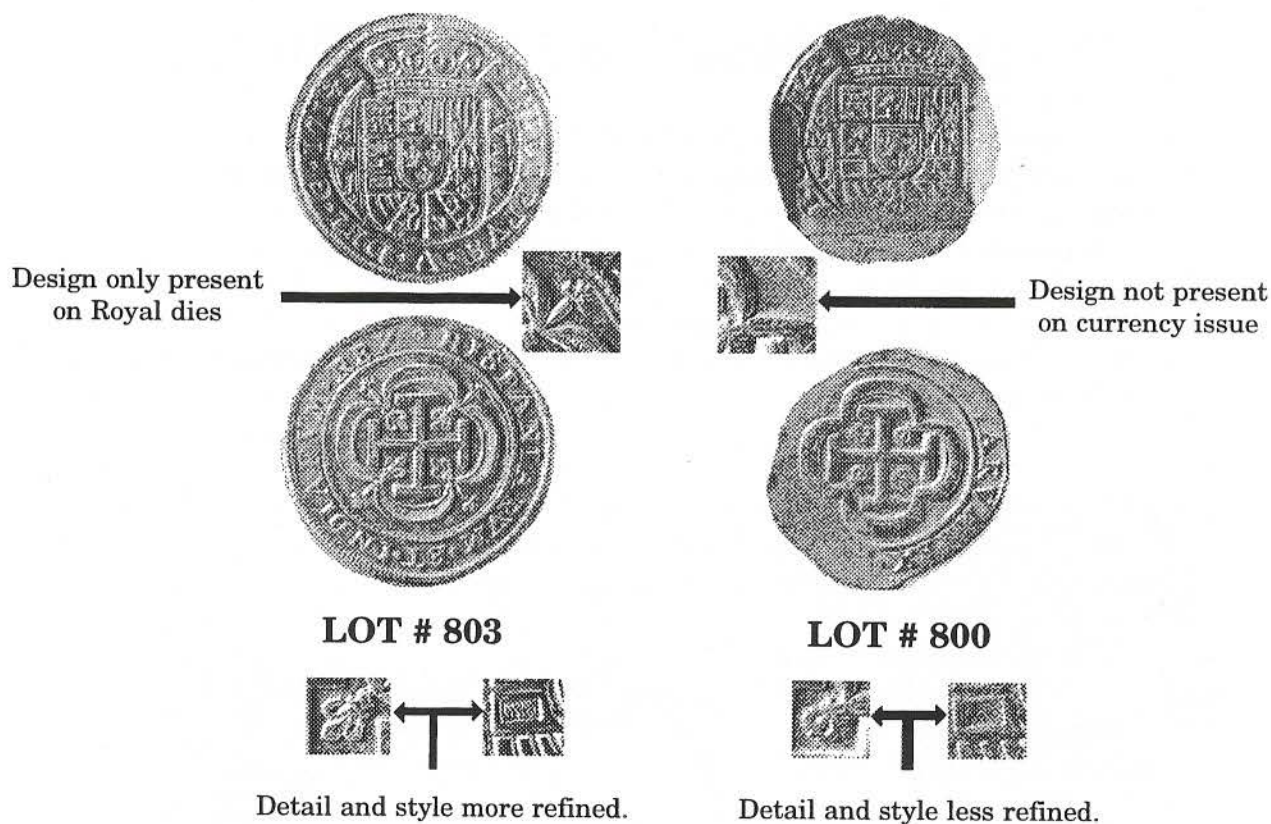
There are a few distinct characteristics that separate the gold cob coin dies from silver cob coin dies in this period. First of all the gold cobs of Mexico of this time were denominated in Roman numerals and the silver cobs are different; the gold cobs have fleur de lis between the arms of the cross, while on the silver cobs from Mexico the crosses always are ornamented at the end, or to put it simply they have balls at the end of the crosses. This is usually not the case for the gold cobs but there is an exception. Except for the gold cobs between 1711 and 1713 all of the crosses on gold cobs end in crossing bars. Also, the quatrefoil or arc around the cross on the reverse is usually of different style on gold and silver.

Royal coin dies differ from the dies used to strike regular gold cobs. Much more time, effort and detail were put into their manufacture than was put into dies for currency issues. Royal coin dies also have some subtle yet very distinct design differences. For examples of this, please see the photographs at the end of this article.

This concluded my article for this sale, however I plan to continue the research I have started on this subject. If you have further information or corrections on some of the listed information (i.e., some of the entries may be duplicated due to poor quality of photographs in some of the publications cited) please feel free to contact me. I would greatly appreciate your opinions or constructive criticism on this subject. I hope you find this article as fun and informative as it was for me to write.

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Die differences between 8 Escudos Royal issues and currency issues of 1714



ITEMIZED LISTING OF THE PUBLISHED MEXICAN ROYAL EIGHT ESCUDOS

1695-L

Henry Christensen "The Ubilla-Echevez Collection" auction, October 1964, Lot # 196;
 "The Onza Main Book" by Calio 1986 # 249;
 "Numismatica Espanola" by Calio, 1998 ninth edition # 53.

1698-L

"Plus Ultra" newsletter vol. 16 no. 4, 1998;
 "Treasure Quest" magazine vol. IX-6, 1998, page 48, also plated on front cover.

1702-L

"Florida Archaeology A Numismatic Study of the State of Florida Collection" by Alan Craig, 1988, inventory # 11.01269.

An itemized listing of the published Mexican Eight Escudos Con't:**1702-L**

"Florida Archaeology: A Numismatic Study of the State of Florida Collection" by Alan Craig, 1988, inventory 11.01276;

"Sunken Treasure" by Robert Burgess, 1988;

"Florida's Golden Galleons" by Robert Burgess and Carl Clausen, copyright 1976 and reprinted in 1982;

"Contributions of the Florida State Museum" by Carl Clausen, 1965.

1702-L

"Florida Archaeology: A Numismatic Study of the State of Florida Collection" by Alan Craig, 1988, inventory 11.00370.

1702-L

Schulman "Spanish Galleon Treasure" auction, November 1972, lot # 47;

Christie's "The Norweb Collection" auction, May 1985, lot # 1 (the lot description pedigrees this coin to the Henry Christensen auction in 1964, but the plates in the catalog show it to be a different coin).

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, # 367;

Pictured in Coin World, January 1989, page 24;

"Numismatistica Espanola" by Calico, 1988, ninth edition;

"The Standard Catalog of Mexican Coins" by Krause Publications.

1702-L

"Acunaciones de la Casa de Borbon" by Jesus Vico and Fernando Segarra, page #86 tipo 225.

1702-L

Henry Christensen "The Ubilla-Echevez Collection" auction, October 1964, lot # 209.

1702-L

Schulman "Spanish Galleon Treasure" auction, November 1972, lot # 48.

1702-L

Ponterio & Associates auction # 106, April 2000, lot # 802;

"Plus Ultra" newsletter vol. 17 no. 4, 1999.

1711-J

"Catalogo de la Onza Espanola by Leopoldo Lopes Chaves Y Sanches, 1961;

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, # 378;

"Numismatica Espanola" by Calico, 1988 ninth edition, # 137.

An itemized listing of the published Mexican Royal Eight Escudos Con't:**1712-J**

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, # 380;

"Numismatica Espanola" by Calico, 1998 ninth edition #138

"Numismatic History of Mexico" by Pradeau, 1938, plate IV. # 1

(probably the same coin but unable to determine).

"Acunaciones de la Casa de Borbon" by Jesus Vico and Fernando Segarra. Page # 87 tipo 228.

1712-J

"Plus Ultra" newsletter vol. 5 no.3 1987;

"Sunken Treasure on Florida Reefs" by Robert Weller, first edition 1987, revised in 1993, page #3 101.

1713-J

"Plus Ultra" newsletter vol. 17 no.1, 1999;

"Treasure Quest" magazine vol. IX-6, 1998, page 48, also plated on front cover.

1713-J

Kurt R. Krueger "F.U.N." Auction 1985, Orlando Florida, lot #3331 (front cover coin);

Swiss Bank Corp. auction January 1919, lot # 140 (front cover coin);

"Practical Book of Cobs" by Daniel and Frank Sedwick, 1995 third edition, page 106;

"Numismatica Espanola" by Calico, 1998, ninth edition, # 139;

"The Standard Catalog of World Coins, Eighteenth Century edition" by Krause Publications;

"The Standard Catalog of World Gold Coins, third edition" by Krause Publications.

1714-J

"Catalogo de La Onza Espanola" by Leopoldo Lopes Chaves Y Sanches, 1961;

"Catalogo de La Coleccion de Monedas Y Medallas Videl Quadras Y Ramon", 1892, reprinted in 1975;

"Monedas y Medallas Hispano-Americanas" by J. T. Medina, 1981, plate 92 # 1 (line drawing unable to determine, but probably the same coin).

1714-J

"Florida Archaeology: A Numismatic Study of the State of Florida Collection" by Alan Craig, 1988, inventory # 11.01319;

"Contributions of the Florida State Museum" by Carl Clausen 1965.

An itemized listing of the published Mexican Royal Eight Escudos, Con't:**1714-J**

Schulman "Spanish Galleon Treasure" auction November 1972, lot # 520;
"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, # 389;
"Numismatica Espanola" by Calico, 1998 ninth edition, #153;
"The Standard Catalog of World Coins, Eighteenth Century edition" by Krause Publications;
"The Standard Catalog of World Gold Coins", third edition by Krause Publications;
"The Standard Catalog of Mexican Coins" by Krause Publications.
con't:

1714-J

"Treasure of the Spanish Main" color pamphlet by John Harmer and Lund Humphries (undated);
"Pieces of Eight" Recovering the Riches of a Lost Spanish Treasure Fleet. By Kip Wagner; National Geographic" vol. 127, no. 1, 1965, page 29.

1714-J

"The Treasure Divers Guide" by John Potter Jr., copyright 1960, reprinted in 1988.

1714-J

Henry Christensen "The Ubilla-Echevez Collection" auction, October 1964, lot #246.

1714-J

"Acunaciones de la Casa de Borbon" by Jesus Vico and Fernando Segarra. Page #87 tipo 229.

1714-J

Ponterio & Associates auction # 106, April, 2000;
"Plus Ultra" newsletter vol. 17 no. 4 1999.

1714-J

Parke-Bernet "Treasure of the Spanish Main" auction February 4, 1967, lot #190.

1715-J

Ponterio & Associates auction # 47, March 1991 lot # 625;
Jesus Vico auction February 1996, lot # 228.

1715-J

"Treasure" magazine vol. 6, no 9 September 1975, front cover coin;
"Plus Ultra" newsletter vol. 7 no. 2 1989;
"Practical Book of Cobs" by Daniel and Frank Sedwick, 1995, third edition, page # 102;
"Shipwrecks Near Wabasso Beach" by Robert Weller and Ernie Richards, 1996, page # 84;
"Treasure Quest" magazine vol. IX-6, 1998, page 48, figure # 3.

An itemized listing of the published Royal eight Escudos, con't**1715-J**

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, ## 391.

1715-J

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, # 392;

"Discover" Magazine July/August 1975 (only reverse is plated, but it is fairly certain to be the same coin).

1717-J

Spink America "The Pablo Gerber Collection" auction, December 1995, Lot # 138;

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, by Calico, 1986, #396

1723-J

"The Onza Main Book" by Calico 1986, # 408

1728-D

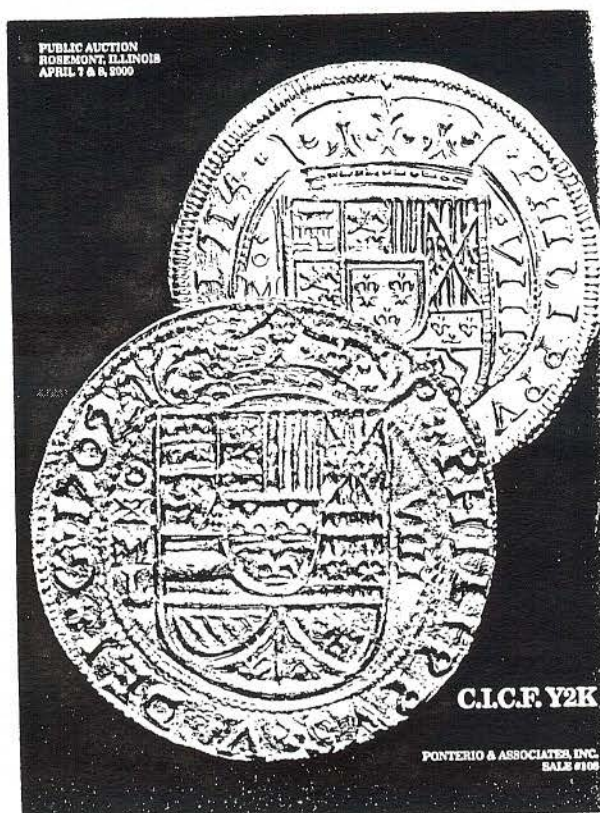
"The Onza Main Book" by Calico, 1986, # 538;

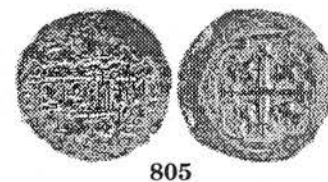
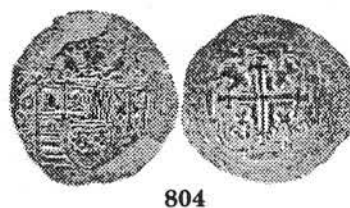
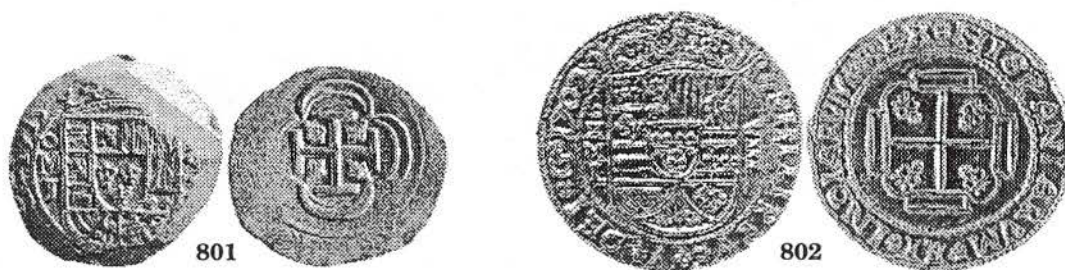
"Numismatica Espanola" by Calico, 1998 ninth edition, #158.

1729-R

"Catalogo de la Onza Espanola" by Leopoldo Lopes Chaves Y Sanchez, 1961;

"The Onza Main Book" by Calio, 1986, # 542.





801. 8 Escudos, 1715-J. Fr-6; KM-57.2; Cal-145. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". Nice **EXTREMELY FINE**. [4500.-6000.]

For more information on lots #802 & 803 refer to the article at the front of this catalog.

802. 8 Escudos Royal Presentation Strike, 1702-L. Fr-7; KM-57.1; Cal-133; Onza Main-367. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". **VERY RARE** and one of the most sought after types of Spanish colonial gold coins. Sharply struck and exceptionally choice with virtually full luster. This magnificent example will certainly be the centerpiece of the new owner's collection. Essentially **MINT STATE**.[50,000.-75,000.]
803. 8 Escudos Royal Presentation Strike, 1714-J. Fr-7; KM-57.2; Cal-153; Onza Main-389. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". **VERY RARE** and one of the most sought after types of Spanish colonial gold coins. Sharply struck and exceptionally choice with virtually full luster. This magnificent example will certainly be the centerpiece of the new owner's collection. Essentially **MINT STATE**.[50,000.-75,000.]
804. 4 Escudos, ND (Type of 1713)-J. Fr-7a; KM-55.1; Cal-232. "1715 Plate Fleet". **VERY FINE**.[2000.-3000.]
805. 4 Escudos, ND (Type of 1713). Fr-7a; KM-55.1; Cal-type 52. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". **VERY FINE**.[2000.-3000.]
806. 4 Escudos, 1714-J. Fr-7a; KM-55.2; Cal-233. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". Full 4 digit date. Lustrous **EXTREMELY FINE**.[4500.-5500.]
807. 2 Escudos, (1)714-J. Fr-7b; KM-53.2; Cal-336. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". EX: Pablo Gerber collection. Sharply struck & lustrous, nearly **MINT STATE**.[2500.-3500.]
808. 2 Escudos, 1714-J. Fr-7b; KM-53.2; Cal-336. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". Tops of date are off the flan. Sharply struck & lustrous, nearly **MINT STATE**.[2000.-3000.]
809. 2 Escudos, ND. Assayer J. Philip V. Fr-7b; KM-53.2; Cal-type 80. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". Sharply struck & lustrous, nearly **MINT STATE**.[1500.-2000.]
810. 1 Escudo, 1714-(J). Fr-7c; KM-51.2; Cal-470. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". Full 4 digit date. Sharply struck & lustrous, nearly **MINT STATE**.[1500.-2000.]
811. 1 Escudo, (1)714-(J). Fr-7c; KM-51.2; Cal-470. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". EX: Pablo Gerber collection. Sharply struck & lustrous, nearly **MINT STATE**.[1400.-1800.]
812. 1 Escudo, 1714-J. Fr-7c; KM-51.2; Cal-470. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". Tops of date are off the flan. Sharply struck & lustrous, nearly **MINT STATE**.[1400.-1800.]
813. 1 Escudo, ND (1714)-J. Fr-7c; KM-51.2; Cal-type 99a. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". **EXTREMELY FINE**.[1000.-1500.]
814. 1 Escudo, ND (1714)-J. Fr-7c; KM-51.2; Cal-type 99a. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". **EXTREMELY FINE**.[1000.-1500.]
815. 1 Escudo, ND (1714)-J. Fr-7c; KM-51.2; Cal-type 99c. EX: "1715 Plate Fleet". **EXTREMELY FINE**.[1000.-1500.]
816. 8 Escudos, 1744-MF. Fr-8; KM-148. Lustrous **EXTREMELY FINE+/ALMOST UNCIRCULATED**.[2500.-3500.]