

Cobs and the Maritime Silk Road:

A Survey of Cobs found in Yemen

By: Kyle Ponterio

The Spanish Piece of Eight; the first universal currency used on a global scale for centuries. Recognized for being of good purity metal, consistency of weight, obtainable in quantity and easily identifiable designs perfectly suited the Spanish gold and silver of the mainland and her colonies to be utilized in domestic and international commerce. The far reaching implications of the specie produced from these Spanish mints can be seen the world over, from the Galleon trade to the Silk Road trade routes. In Yemen, a varied group consisting of Philip II & III cobs from Spanish and Spanish colonial mints was discovered and cataloged. The Spanish piece of eight and its various iterations saw extensive use and circulation dispersing to the farthest reaches of the globe. In times of need the Piece of Eight was destined to be imitated.

Clearly trade routes worked both ways. Goods, specie and culture traveling to important cities bound to trade multiple times before reaching their final destinations. Many merchants would barter for goods and services while others preferred coinage as payment. The Silk Road; a vast centuries old network of overland and maritime trade routes connecting East and South-East Asia to the Middle East, West Africa, the Mediterranean and ultimately Europe. The overland route begins in East Asia spanning thousands of miles joining historic cities such as Chang'an (Xi'an), Aksu, Kashgar, Samarkand, Teheran, Bagdad, Palmyra, Damascus, Aleppo, Mosul, Gaza and Constantinople. While the maritime route more commonly referred to as the Incense route or Spice route has its origins in East and South-East Asia stretching across the Pacific and Indian Oceans from Nagasaki, Malacca, Calcuta, Goa, Barbarikon(Karachi), Ormuz, Aden, Mocha, Jeddah and Berenice. The maritime and overland routes worked in conjunction converging on key port cities along the complex network further dispersing valued commodities. The cities of Calcuta, Karachi, Ormuz and Aden played an integral role in connecting the two routes as major trading hubs. Some of the most valuable merchandise to traverse the Spice routes included pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamom, turmeric, sandalwood, musk and camphor. Many of these precious commodities often worth many times their weight in gold were highly prized in Europe for a number of reasons including adding exotic flavors to food, religious ceremonies and medicinal purposes.

From Ancient times till now the Arabian Peninsula is quite familiar with producing coinage either of local design or in imitation of current circulating specie. Athenian Owls for example were used quite heavily and saw significant use throughout the ancient world. In fact there exists many known examples of Arabian imitations of Athenian Owls, some very crude in execution while others are more refined with more artistic engraving; some were struck with good purity metal and some were quite debased. Below is a crudely engraved example where the patterned lines and dots on the reverse on a very remedial level resemble the iconic owl.



Stack's Bowers & Ponterio N.Y.I.N.C. January 8, 2013 Lot # 269

ARABIA. AR Drachm (3.86 gms), North Arabian Mint, 4th Century B.C.

Huth-Qedar, NC 1999, pl.26, 1. Head of Athena right, wearing a round crest decorated with annulets. Reverse: Disjointed owl standing left facing, Aramaic characters to left. Types clearly imitative of Athens, the eyes, beak, head feathers, legs and tailfeathers of the owl are clear but disjoint, the olive sprig turned into a cross with two bars. Aramaic characters are different from coin cited by Huth & Qedar and possibly different from a much inferior specimen in a 2008 NAC auction.GOOD VERY FINE.

The Axumites, contemporaries to the Romans who ruled ancient Ethiopia and parts of the Arabian Peninsula, produced gold, silver and bronze coinage on the same standard as the Romans only in equivalent fractional denominations.



Stack's Bowers & Ponterio N.Y.I.N.C. January 10, 2014 Lot # 94

AKSUMITE KINGDOM. Ebana. AV Unit (1.61 gms) ca. 440-470 A.D.

Fr-8; Aksumite-34; Munro-Hay-71; BMC Axum-306. Crowned bust right; Reverse: Draped bust. EXTREMELY FINE.

In Yemen's western provinces of Sana'a and Thammar (Dhamar) mining has been active since the ancient Sabaeans were searching for gold, silver and other precious commodities. In the late 16th and early 17th century Yemen under the Ottoman Empire did produce their own coinage, but it consisted of tiny little silver coins weighing about half a gram each predominantly for local use only. If mining was so active in this area why produce such small coins? Perhaps the Ottomans had other ideas what they wanted to use the money for. Or that the distance between the mines and the major port cities of Aden and Mocha was just too great, being about 250 miles to Sana'a from either city or over 150 miles to Thammar. The reasons are unknown to the author as to why larger coins weren't produced.

Though no official large silver coins were issued during this period, this apparently didn't hinder trade. As shown above in times of need attempts to mitigate the pressures of commerce caused imitations to come to market. Now there is a difference between an imitation and a contemporary counterfeit, being that an imitation was made to circulate for commerce while a contemporary counterfeit was made to fool and cheat. The Spanish and Spanish colonial cobs contained in this group consisted of a varied gathering of 2, 4 and 8 Reales from Mexico, Bolivia and Spain struck at the Mexico City, San Luis Potosi, Granada, Segovia, Seville, Toledo and Valladolid mints. All are or either Philip II or Philip III no later than ca. 1615. When found they were totally encrusted and is why many from this group exhibit signs of corrosion. The group was also accompanied by two strange looking 8 Reales that as it turns out are local imitations manufactured in the same process as legitimate Spanish pieces of eight.

The manufacturing of cobs is a fairly simple process where the metal needed to make the planchets was cut from a poured bar leaving sheared edges, where the planchets were cut from the bar, on opposing sides (i.e. 12 o'clock & 6 o'clock) as well as beveled edges, original edges from when the bar was poured, on the other opposing sides (i.e. 3 o'clock & 9 o'clock). After the planchets were cut they were struck by hand and is the reason why so many are uneven, have misaligned or muled dies. The fact that the imitative cobs were manufactured in an identical fashion to legitimate pieces shows a higher level of sophistication not associated with contemporary counterfeits made to cheat some unsuspecting patron or merchant. Furthermore, the fact that the weights, purity, severe die deterioration of the "OMF" obverse die and linking of the reverse dies of these imitations is suggestive of prolonged use and that their intended purpose was to circulate alongside the then current specie.

Survey

Philip II

Mint	2 Reales	4 Reales	8 Reales	Total
Mexico City	1	-	7	8
Potosi	-	-	3	3
Granada	-	-	-	-
Segovia	-	1	1	2
Seville	-	1	4	5
Toledo	1	-	2	3
Valladolid	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	2	2	17	21

Philip III

Mint	2 Reales	4 Reales	8 Reales	Total
Mexico City	-	1	2	3
Potosi	-	-	-	-
Granada	3	1	-	4
Segovia	-	-	-	-
Seville	1	2	2	5
Toledo	1	-	-	1
Valladolid	1	-	-	1
Uncertain	-	-	1	1
Imitations	-	-	2	2
Sub-Total	6	4	7	17
Total	8	6	24	38

Colonial Cobs

Mexico City Mint

Inventory # 40289 Fig. 1

Mexico. 8 Reales (26.18 gms), ND (ca.1556-98)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (oMF – 8)

Philip II (1556-98)

cf.Cal-Type 110 # 154; KM-43; Cayon-3914; cf.Calb-612;

Grove-127; cf.Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-Type I #478;

Her-516.

Obverse: (PHILIPPVS II DE)I (G)R(AT)IA

Reverse: (+HISPANIARVM ET IN)DI(ARVM REX)

Virtually complete shield with good definition of the details, Clear Assayer's letter and mintmark, **two Fleur de lis side by side**. Virtually complete cross, clear lion and castle on left side. Beaded border on obverse, reverse appears to have a solid border.



Inventory # 40285 Fig. 2

Mexico. 8 Reales (27.23 gms), ND (ca. 1556-98)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (oMF – 8)

Philip II (1556-98)

cf.Cal-Type 110 # 154; KM-43; cf.Cayon-3914; cf.Calb-

611; Grove-132; cf.Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-Type I # 478;

Her-517.

Obverse: P(HILIPPVS 8 II 8)DEI GRA(TIA)

Reverse: +HIS(PAN)IARVN(8 ET 8 INDI)ARVN 8 REX

Broad flan with a bold complete shield, mintmark and assayer's letter, **Fleur de lis stacked one over two**. Bold full cross, lions and one castle, much legend. Stops in legends "8", "N" in place of "M" in "INDIARVM". Beaded borders. There appears to be a shadow of a crescent atop the mintmark "8", but it is too degraded to verify.



Inventory # 40292 Fig. 3

Mexico. 8 Reales (26.08 gms), ND (ca. 1556-98)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (oMF – 8)

Philip II (1556-98)

cf.Cal-Type 110 # 154; KM-43; cf.Cayon-3914; Calb-not

listed; cf.Grove-132; cf.Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-Type I #

478; cf.Her-517.

Obverse: (PHILIPPVS II DEI GRATIA)

Reverse: (+HISPANIARVM) 8 ET 8 INDIARVN 8(REX)

Bold full shield with clear mintmark, Assayer's letter and denomination, **Fleur de lis stacked one over two**. Full cross and octolobe with decent lions and castles. Stops in legends "8", "N" in place of "M" in "INDIARVM". Beaded borders. The crescent atop the mintmark, "8", is quite an interesting feature. The existence of multiple dies and rotations clearly shows this characteristic was used for a prolonged period of time.



Nearly complete shield with clear mint mark and denomination "8" as a composite number, **Fleur de lis stacked one over two**. Nearly complete cross with clear lion and castle on the right side. Stops in legends ":". Beaded borders. **Shares same reverse side die as # 40313.**



Reverse: (+HISPANIARVM 8 ET 8 INDIARVN) **8 RE(X)**
 Bold partial shield with clear mintmark and Assayer's letter, **Fleur de lis stacked one over two**. Nearly complete cross with clear lower lion and castle. Stops in legends "8", "N" in place of "M" in "INDIARVM". Beaded border. **Shares same reverse side die as # 40287.**



Bold partial shield with clear mintmark and Assayer's letter, **Fleur de lis stacked two over one**. Nearly full cross with clear lions and castles, top two well executed. Stops in legends "8", "N" in place of "M" in "INDIARVM". Beaded borders.



Inventory # 40291 Fig. 7

Mexico. 8 Reales (26.40 gms), ND (ca. 1556-98)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (OMF – 8oD)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 111 # 155; KM-43; cf.Cayon-3914; Calb-not listed; cf.Grove-132; cf.Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-478; cf.Her-517.

Obverse: (PHILIPPVS II DEI GRATIA)

Reverse: (+HISPANIARVM 8 ET 8 INDIARVN) **8 RE(X)**

Nearly complete shield with bold mintmark and assayer's letter, **fleur de lis staggered (two, one, two)**. Virtually complete cross with nice lions and castles, **castles punched over lions** in upper left quadrant and lower right quadrant of cross. Stops in legends "8". Beaded border. **VERY RARE** with added "D" below denomination and is suggested to be in the later years of Philip II.



Inventory # 40280 Fig. 8

Mexico. 2 Reales (6.37 gms), ND (Prior to 1588)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer O (oMO – ij)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 329 # 501; KM-31; Cayon-3601; Grove-105.

Virtually complete shield and crown with bold mintmark and clear Assayer's letter. Bold complete cross with decent lions and castles. Stops in legends "8". Beaded border.



Inventory # 40306 Fig. 9

Mexico. 8 Reales (26.35 gms), ND (ca. 1599-1606)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (oMF – 8)

Philip III (1598-1621)

cf.Cal-Type 44 # 85; KM-44.1; cf.Cayon-4837; cf.Calb-614; cf.Grove-182; cf.Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-Type III # 481; cf.Her-519.

Obverse: P(HILIPPVS) + III(+ DE)I G(RATIA)

Reverse: +(HISPA)NIARVM +(ET + INDIARVM + RE)X

Nearly complete shield, **fleur de lis staggered (two, one, two)**, **apparent king's ordinal at 6 o'clock "III"**, **arms of Naples and Sicily in the style of Philip II**. Nearly complete cross with decent lions and castles. An interesting example with the arms of Spain in the style of late Philip II, fleur de lis (see Fig. 7), and crown of middle-late Philip II (see Fig. 2-5) and apparent ordinal of Philip III. Further research and comparison is needed for more precise attribution.



Inventory # 40284 Fig. 10

Mexico. 8 Reales (27.42 gms), ND (ca. 1599-1606)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (oMF – 8/small 8)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 44 # 85; KM-44.1; Cayon-4837; Calb-614;
cf. Grove-182; Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-481; Her-519.

Obverse: (PHILIPPVS) * III * (DEI * GRATIA *)

Reverse: (+HISPANIARVM * ET * I) **NDIA** (RVM * REX)

Nearly complete bold shield, mint mark, Assayer's letter and denomination, **Fleur de lis stacked one over two, four-pointed stars, “*”, as stops**. Nearly complete cross and octolobe with finely detailed castles. Beaded border.



Inventory # 40281 Fig. 11

Mexico. 4 Reales (12.76 gms), ND (ca. 1599-1606)

Mexico City Mint, Assayer F (oMF – 4)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 78 # 222; KM-37.1; Cayon-4706; Grove-165.

Bold partial shield with clear mintmark and weak Assayer's letter. Partial cross faint lions and castles. Beaded borders.



Potosi Mint

Inventory # 40276 Fig. 12

Bolivia. 8 Reales (26.63 gms), ND (ca. 1578-86)

Potosi Mint, Assayer B (PB – oVIII)

Juan Ballesteros Narvaez (1556-98)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 114 # 158; KM-0005.1; Cayon-3926;

cf.Calb-954; cf.Paoletti-Group B6 #85;

cf.Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-907; Her-876.

Obverse: **PHILIPPVS** (.D.G.) **HIS(PANIAR)VM**.

Reverse: **+E(T I)NDIA(RV)M (RE)X**.

Virtually complete shield with **king's full name**

"PHILIPPVS" from 1 o'clock to 4 o'clock. Nice full cross with good definition of lions and castles, stylized cross at 12 o'clock as stop. **Beaded borders** on both obverse and reverse.



Inventory # 40290 Fig. 13

Bolivia. 8 Reales (26.62 gms), ND (ca. 1589-98)

Potosi Mint, Assayer B (PB – OVIII)

Juan Ballesteros Narvaez with his brother

Hernando Ballesteros (1589-1603)

Philip II (1556-98)

cf.Calb-Type 114 # 158; KM-0005.5; Cayon-3927;

Calb-960; Paoletti-Group B7 # 99 (Same obverse die);

cf.Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-907; Her-876.

Obverse: **PHILIPPVS o D G o HIS(PAN)IARV(M.)**

Reverse: **+ET INDIA(RVM REX.)**

EXTREMELY RARE. Nearly complete shield with weakness in center, tops of king's full name "PHILIPPVS" off flan between 1 o'clock to 4 o'clock, nearly full crown. Full cross though slightly weak with remnants of minor doubling. **Linked "X" borders** on both obverse and reverse.



Inventory # 40277 Fig. 14

Bolivia. 8 Reales (26.37 gms), ND (ca. 1589-98)

Potosi Mint, Assayer B (PB – oVIII)

Juan Ballesteros Navaez with his brother

Hernando Ballesteros (1589-98, first period)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 114 # 158; KM-0005.1; cf.Cayon-3926;

Calb-975(under Philip III); Paoletti-Group B9 # 107;

cf.Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-907; Her-876 pl.XXI # 2.

Obverse: (PHILIPPVS .D.G. HISPANIARVM.)

Reverse: (ET IN)D(IAR)V(M REX)

Nearly complete shield. Nice cross with signs of slight doubling. **Diamond borders** on both obverse and reverse.



Mainland Cobs

Granada Mint

Inventory # 40295 Fig. 15

Spain. 4 Reales (13.23 gms), 1612

Granada Mint, Assayer M (III vertically – GM)

Francisco Minguez (1597-1621)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 72 # 209; KM-53.2; Cayon-4769.

Four digit date on reverse at 12 o'clock with tops of numbers off flan. No beaded border.



Inventory # 40297 Fig. 16

Spain. 2 Reales (6.82 gms), ND (ca. 1603-04)

Granada Mint, Assayer M (= – GM)

Francisco Minguez (1597-1621)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 1046; KM-17.3; cf. Cayon-4593.

Based on stylistic comparison with **remnants of "M"** near lower right quadrant of shield, the presence of the **arms of Portugal** and **triple border octolobe** on the reverse positively identifies this example to the ascribed date range and assayers/mint/denomination combination. No beaded border.



Inventory # 40299 Fig. 17

Spain. 2 Reales (6.76 gms), ND (ca. 1600-13)

Granada Mint, Assayer M

Francisco Minguez (1597-1621)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 104; KM-17.3; cf. Cayon-4576/4651.

The presence of the **arms of Portugal** coupled with the **triple border octolobe** positively identifies this example to Philip III, but the **absence** of assayers letter, mint mark or denomination prevents further identification without more extensive research. No beaded border.



Inventory # 40301 Fig. 18

Spain. 2 Reales (6.50 gms), ND (1613)

Granada Mint, Assayer M (.G.M. – II)

Francisco Minguez (1597-1621)

Philip III (1597-1621)

Cal-Type 104c # 329; KM-17.3; Cayon-4651

Full clear shield, oblique die break from the arms of Portugal, through the arms of Aragon terminating half way through the arms of Naples and Sicily directly across from "II". Full cross, octolobe and lions and castles with remnants of legend and faint partial date "61" at 12 o'clock. No beaded border.



Segovia Mint

Inventory # 40309 Fig. 19

Spain. 8 Reales (26.88 gms), 1590

Segovia Mint, Assayer I

(ol/I M above Aqueduct – 1590 vertical above VIII)

Juan de Ortega (1590-97)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 124 # 168; Cayon-4013; Calb-1450;

Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-164; Her-1290.

Obverse: (P)HILI(PP)VS . II . DE(I . GR)ATI(A)

Reverse: (HI)SP(ANI)A(RV)M (. REX)

Bold full shield, assayer's letters and mintmark, full four digit date, last two digits "90" slightly muddled and "VIII" doubled. Parts of king's name visible with clear ordinal "II" at 5 o'clock. Bold full cross with decent lions and castles; beaded border on both obverse and reverse.



Inventory # 40294 Fig. 20

Spain. 4 Reales (13.58 gms), ND (ca. 1591-95)

Segovia Mint, Assayer I (.I above Aqueduct – olIII, IIII or iiiii)

Juan de Ortega (1590-97)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 240/41; Cayon-3783

The order of the assayer's letter and the lack of the arms of Portugal date this example to 1590-95.

Beginning in 1587 the milled coinage from Segovia began bearing the arms of Portugal

and cob coinage followed suit in 1596. Nearly complete shield with areas of weakness, faint portions of assayer's letter. Nearly complete cross with clear lions, one clear castle and faint castle in lower right quadrant of reverse. No beaded border.



Seville Mint

Inventory # 40308 Fig. 21

Spain. 8 Reales (27.21 gms), ND (ca. 1586-92)

Seville Mint, Assayer P Horizontal (lower right quadrant reverse, not visible) (S – oVIII)

(1586-92)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 165 # 235; Cayon-3946; Calb-1545/46; Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-Type IV # 1395; Her-207.

Obverse: **PHILI(PPVS) . II . DEI GR(ATIA .)**

Reverse: **+HIS(PA)NIARV(M RE)X+**

Nearly complete shield and crown with clear bold mint mark and clear denomination; important parts of the legend such as the first portion of kings name and ordinal clear, Fleur de lis evenly spaced in the arms of Burgundy. Full cross with nice lions and one finely detailed castle. Legend begins and ends with “+”. Beaded border.



Inventory # 40312 Fig. 22

Spain. 8 Reales (27.19 gms), ND (ca. 1586-92)

Seville Mint, Assayer P Horizontal (lower right quadrant reverse) (S – oVIII)

(1586-92)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 165 # 235; Cayon-3949; Calb-1545/46; Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-Type IV # 1395; Her-207.

Obverse: **PHIL(IPP)VS . II (. DEI . GRAT)IA .**

Reverse: **(HISPANI)AR(VM R)EX+**

Virtually complete shield with clear mintmark and bold denomination, important parts of legend such as beginning of king's name and ordinal clear, Fleur de lis evenly spaced in the arms of Burgundy. Bold full cross with intricately engraved castles and lions, assayer's letter in lower right quadrant. Beaded border.



Inventory # 40288 Fig. 23

Spain. 8 Reales (27.01 gms), ND (ca. 1586-92)

Seville Mint, Assayer P Horizontal (lower right quadrant reverse) (S – oVIII)

(1586-92)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 165 # 235; Cayon-3949; cf. Calb-1545; Lopez-Chavez-Yriate-Type IV # 1395; Her-207.

Obverse: **PH(I)LIPPVS o II o DEI GR(A)TI(A)**

Reverse: **HISPANIAR(VM) R(EX)**

Bold complete shield, crown, mintmark and denomination, nearly complete legend with clear ordinal, though tops of letters off flan, Fleur de lis evenly spaced in the arms of Burgundy. Full cross and nearly complete octolobe, slightly doubled, nice lions and castles with much legend. Beaded border.



Inventory # 40310 Fig. 24

Spain. 8 Reales (27.22 gms), 1596

Seville Mint, Assayers B (S oVIII B – 1596)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1592-1612)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 173 # 253; Cayon-4044; Calb-1558; Lopez-Chavez-Yriarte-Type V # 1407; Her-not listed.

Obverse: **PHILIP(PV)S o II o DE(I o GRAT)I(A o)**

Reverse: **(H)I(SPANIA)R(V)M RE(X+)**

Complete shield displaying good definition of details with bold full four digit date and ordinal, Fleur di lis staggered in the arms of Burgundy. Nice full cross with minor doubling on the right side. Beaded border.



Inventory # 40302 Fig. 25

Spain. 4 Reales (13.53 gms), (16)00

Seville Mint, Assayer B (S B – IIII vertically)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1592-1612)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 90 (date not listed); KM-36.2 (date not listed);

Cayon-date not listed.

Nearly complete shield with clear mintmark and assayer's letter, "O(MN)IVM" between 8 o'clock and 11 o'clock. Decent cross with missing portions of the castles, bold last digit of the date "0" with portion of the digit "0" to the left. Though this date seems to be unpublished in the standard reference material it makes perfect sense that it should exist



Inventory # 40314 Fig. 26

Spain. 8 Reales (26.40 gms), ND (ca. 1611-12)

Seville Mint, Assayer B (S B – VIII Vertically)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1595-1612)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 67; KM-18; cf. Cayon-4849/4899; Calb-1560/69; cf. Lopez-Chevez-Yriarte-Type VIII # 1414 (dated 1612, Assayer D); cf. Her-211 (dated 1611).

Obverse: **PH(ILI)PPVS . D . G (. OMNI)VM**

Reverse: **(H)ISPAN (RE)G NO RVM R(EX)**

Nearly full shield, with linked chain base ornate crown. Bold full cross with clearly detailed castles and one clear lion, **triple boader octolobe**. The chain design at the base of the crown positively identifies the present example to the late-middle years of Philip III. Solid border.



Inventory # 40307 Fig. 27

Spain. 8 Reales (27.24 gms), (1)599

Seville Mint, Assayer B (S B – VIII Vertically)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1592-1612)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 67 # 168; KM-18; Cayon-4849; Calb-1560;
Lopez-Chevez-Yriarte-Type VI # 1409; Her-not listed.

Obverse: (PHILIPPVS . D. G) . **OM**(NIVM .)

Reverse: (H)**S**(PANREG) **N**(O RVM REX)

Bold partial shield, assayer's letter and mintmark. Bold full cross with good definition of the lions and castles, triple border octolobe, bottoms of last three digits of the date "599" visible at 12 o'clock. Solid borders



Inventory # 40304 Fig. 28

Spain. 4 Reales (13.07 gms), ND (ca.1611-15)

Seville Mint, Assayer B (S B – IIII Vertically)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1592-1612)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 90; KM-36.2; cf.Cayon-4763.

Bold full shield, mintmark and assayer's letter, partial ordinal "IIII". Bold cross with nice clear lions and castles. The omission of "OMNIVM" in favor of the full spelling of the king's name inclusive of ordinal "IIII" would suggest a circa date of 1611-15 which corresponds with the 8 Reales.



Inventory # 40303 Fig. 29

Spain. 4 Reales (13.80 gms), ND (ca. 1611-15)

Seville Mint, Assayer B (S B – IIII Vertically)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1592-1612)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 90; KM-36.2; cf.Cayon-4763.

Nearly complete shield, clear Assayer's letter, denomination and mintmark, partial ordinal at 8 o'clock. Triple struck cross muddling most of the design, one clear lion. The omission of "OMNIVM" in favor of the full spelling of the king's name inclusive of ordinal "IIII" would suggest a circa date of 1611-15 which corresponds with the 8 Reales.



Inventory # 40296 Fig. 30

Spain. 2 Reales (6.73), ND (ca. 1602-1612)

Seville Mint, Assayer B (S B – =)

Juan Vicente Bravo (1592-1612)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 122; KM-17.6; cf.Cayon-4589/4655

Nearly complete shield, with decent mintmark. Nearly complete cross with full castles and one full lion. When compared to the plates in Calico the present example matches closest to Type 122 which ranges in date from 1602-12.



Toledo Mint

Inventory # 41982 Fig. 31

Spain. 8 Reales (27.43 gms), ND (ca. 1590)

Toledo Mint, Assayer M (•T M within O – •VIII)

Alejo de Montoya (ca.1590-92)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 177b #260; Cayon-3955; Calb-1724/5;

Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-Type III # 1539; Her-291.

Obverse: :+:PHI(LI)PPVS : II : (DEI :) GR(AT)IA+

Reverse: +HISPANIA(R)VM . REX

Virtually complete shield with pointed upper corners, clear bold mint mark, assayer's letters and denomination all within beaded border, partial king's name with clear ordinal "II" at 6 o'clock, **legend begins with "+::" and ends with "+"** dating this example to ca. 1590. Full cross with clear lions and castles, pellets evenly spaced around octolobe (two per quadrant), all within a crude beaded border, much legend visible with about half as full letters.



Inventory # 40311 Fig. 32

Spain. 8 Reales (27.07 gms), ND (ca. 1590)

Toledo Mint, Assayer M (oT M within O – OVIII)

Alejo de Montoya (ca.1590-92)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 177c #261; Cayon-3955; Calb-1723/5;

Lopez-Chaves-Yriarte-Type III # 1540; Her-291.

Obverse: :+: (PHIL)IPPVS (II DE)IGRA(TIA)

Reverse: + HISP(ANIARV)M : REX

Complete shield with squared upper corners, clear mint mark, assayer's letter and denomination. **Legend begins with ":(+):" dating** this example to ca.1590. Nice full shield with clear lions and castles, "o's" evenly spaced around octolobe (two per quadrant), all within beaded border.



Inventory # 40300 Fig. 33

Spain. 2 Reales (6.67 gms), ND (ca. 1595-98)

Toledo Mint, Assayer C

(.II. vertically – oT ɔ {C in retrograde})

Melchor Rodriguez del Castillo (1593-1614)

Philip II (1556-98)

Cal-Type 359 # 554; Cayon-4568.

Virtually complete shield with clear mintmark and assayer's letter, partial legend. Full cross with clearly defined lions and castles. The presence of the arms of Portugal and assayer's letter/mint mark combination dates this example to between 1595-98. Solid border on obverse and reverse.



Inventory # 40293 Fig. 34

Spain. 2 Reales (6.83 gms), ND (ca. 1600-14)

Toledo Mint, Assayer C (oTC – =)

Melchor Rodriguez del Castillo (1593-1614)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 127/29; KM-17.7; Cayon-4598.

Partial shield, mint mark, assayer's letter and denomination. Decent cross with portions of lion's and castle's in their perspective quadrants, first digit of date "1" visible at 12 o'clock. Beaded border on obverse and reverse. More in depth comparison and research is necessary for further identification.



Inventory # 40298 Fig. 35

Spain. 2 Reales (6.91 gms), ND (ca. 1599-1606)

Valladolid Mint, Assayer D (oD [flag] - =)

(ca. 1595-1606)

Philip III (1598-1621)

Cal-Type 133; KM-17.8; cf. Cayon-4590.

Nearly complete shield, full clear assayer's letters with remnants of mintmark below. Small portions of the legend at 9 o'clock (...NIV...). Bold cross with good definition of the lions and castles; small portions of legend from 4 o'clock to 7 o'clock (...R...D...V/C...)? Interesting to note that it appears the portions of the octolobe in the angles of the cross seem to have "horns" as seen on the lower right quadrant with just a faint shadow of one on the lower left quadrant just below the curve of "C" (V/C) in the legend. This identifying "horn" feature is unique to this mint and denomination seen sporadically beginning in 1595 until 1606. The attribution to Philip III is based on the placement of the arms of Portugal and the arms of Flanders and Tyrol when compared to examples of Philip II.



Inventory # 40278 Fig. 36

Spain. 8 Reales (26.53 gms), ND (ca. 1591-1621)

Mintmark and Assayer's letter not visible.

Philip II or III

Based on style this was probably struck at Seville mint under Philip III. The arms of Portugal were added beginning in 1591 at the Madrid mint spreading to the mints of Barcelona, Burgos, Cuenca, Granada, Segovia, Seville, Toledo, Valladolid and La Coruna until about 1700.



IMITATIVE COBS

Inventory # 40283 Fig. 37

Yemen. Imitation 8 Reales (27.12 gms), ND (ca. mid-late 1610's)

Uncertain Local Mint "Mexico City", Assayer Ƨ (OMF – 8{CO vertically})

Philip III (1598-1621)

cf. Cal-Type 49 (dated 1607, for style); cf. Cayon-4879 (dated 1610, for style); cf. Calb-614 (for style).

Obverse: n/a

Reverse: n/a (same die as # 40282)

Nearly complete shield, bold mint mark, Assayer's letter and denomination, no legend. Nearly complete cross, lions and castles, no legend. Crude rendition of the arms of Spain in the style of Philip III, but the execution at the time of manufacture was good enough to pass.

Crude rendition of a Mexican cross. Style of manufacture is identical to that of legitimate Spanish pieces of eight, two corresponding beveled edges, rounded edges of a poured silver strap, and two corresponding cut edges, sheer marks where it was cut to weight. Severe obverse die degradation and linking of the reverse die to # 40282, die chip at the left-hand base of castle in upper left quadrant, is suggestive of significant production. The lack of legends could be due to the nature of local manufacture in a primarily Islamic country where Latin legends were unfamiliar.

Purity:

Ag (Silver): 93.18%

Cu (Copper): 6.51%

Pb (Lead): 0.31%



Inventory # 40282 Fig. 38

Yemen. Imitation 8 Reales (24.04 gms), ND (ca. mid-late 1610's)

Uncertain Local Mint (– 8)

Philip III (1598-1621)

cf. Cal-Type 180 (Toledo mint, under Philip II for style);

cf. Cayon-3954 (Toledo mint, under Philip II for style);

cf. Calb-1724 (Toledo mint, under Philip II for style).

Obverse: (...) I (...) [at 3 o'clock]

Reverse: n/a (same die as # 40283)

Bold partial shield in the style of Philip III with crown in the style of Philip II most closely resembling that of the Toledo mint, but could also be in imitation of early Granada, Seville or Valladolid mints. Single apparent letter "I" in the legend at 3 o'clock. Bold partial cross, lions and castles, no legend. **Crude rendition of a Mexican cross.** Style of manufacture is identical to that of legitimate Spanish pieces of eight, two corresponding beveled edges, rounded edges of a poured silver strap, and two corresponding cut edges, sheer marks where it was cut to weight. New obverse die with apparent legend added and linking of the reverse die to # 40283, die chip at the left-hand base of castle in upper left quadrant with further degradation, is suggestive of significant production. The addition of an apparent legend is also suggestive of sophistication of execution.

Purity

Ag (Silver): 91.26%

Cu (Copper): 8.10%

Pb (Lead): 0.64%



Beveled and Sheared Edges

