

Collecting Colombian Cob 2 Escudos (Ongoing Research—a Supplement to *Arce's Doubloons*)

by Daniel Frank Sedwick

If you like puzzles, and you appreciate coins that present different clues every time you look at them, then Colombian gold cobs are for you. Because of the way these coins were designed and struck, it is a challenge to find definitively attributable examples. Even when you “see” a date on one of these coins, it is rarely full and usually requires confirmation with other details. In some cases, believe it or not, the date you see is not even the year that coin was struck!

It used to be that these coins were just too difficult, and advanced collectors contented themselves with only trophy-quality type-coins whose attribution was unambiguous. But in recent years our collective knowledge about these coins has increased dramatically with the ability to study high-quality photos of thousands of examples in auction archives and museum collections. Third-party certification has also been a boon, and while the grading companies still struggle with accurate identification of these coins, their online photo-archives and census data are invaluable nonetheless. These enabled me to complete a die-study of the Colombian gold cobs from 1692 to 1714, although, to be fair, this is the period with the greatest known population of extant examples, due to recoveries from the Spanish 1715 Fleet off the east coast of Florida. But the picture is coming into focus for other periods as well, starting with the first issues of 1622 and ending with Colombia's final gold cobs in 1756. This article covers all of that and supersedes the traditional standard reference, *Coins of Colombia* (2012), by the late Dr. Jorge Emilio Restrepo, a pillar of inspiration whom I first met when I bought my first coin in 1978. I am honored to continue his work.

Like the other major Spanish colonial regions of Mexico and Peru, Colombia struck the full spectrum of gold-cob denominations: 1, 2, 4, and 8 escudos. However, the 4 and 8 escudos cobs were rare latecomers, not beginning till the 1740s, albeit generally well attributed, while the 1 escudos, struck throughout the period of 1622-1756, are so rare and small-sized that only a handful are known with visible dates. The only truly collectible denomination is the 2 escudos, which also happens to be the main gold coin of its time, for which even the pirates had a common term: doubloon.

Years ago a colleague told me it is impossible to put together a complete date-set of Colombian 2 escudos cobs, saying “there are just too many dates.” He had a point: The date-range is 120 years, which is a lot, but the bigger point is that it used to be much harder to distinguish the dates on the coins. In truth, it has never been done, the closest attempt being the Joseph Lasser Collection, with a fair showing by the Santa Fe Collection as well. Today, however, the task seems more feasible, with enough patience and diligence, and it would not require a huge sum of money.

If this has peaked your interest, then keep reading and let this article be your guide to getting started in recognizing design styles and other clues to accurately attribute and collect these coins.

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All Colombian gold cobs are of the “shield and cross” design, meaning the obverse shows a crowned coat-of-arms (shield) while the reverse shows a cross potent containing fleurs-de-lis in its quadrants within a quadrilobe or tressure. Both sides have a legend, which begins on the obverse with the king's name and ordinal and continues on the reverse, terminating in the date. With the exception of the Arce issues of 1693 to 1720, the side spaces between the shield and legend are filled with a combination of mintmark, denomination, and assayer.

The first thing to sort out is the mint, which in theory is easy, as there are just two: Cartagena and Bogotá. The former was a branch mint of the latter, both considered to be Nuevo Reino (NR), and Cartagena struck gold cobs only in the initial years of 1626 to 1635, under just one assayer (E). That said, Cartagena used three different mintmarks (NR, RN, C) and a multitude of different variants of mintmark-assayer-denomination placement and ornamentation like dots and x's. Confusingly, for the first four years (1626-29), Cartagena used the same mintmarks as the Bogotá mint (NR and RN). So right off the bat, there is already a lot of information needed just to distinguish the two mints.

Cartagena only operated under Spanish king Philip IV, but the Bogotá mint lasted through for more monarchies. Here are the five kings with their reigns and spellings in the legends of the coins:

Philip III (1598-1621): PHILIPPVS III

Philip IV (1621-1665): PHILIPPVS IIII

Charles II (1665-1700): CAROLVS II

Philip V (1700-1746, two reigns): PHILIPPVS V

Louis I (1724): LVDVVICVS I [sic]

Ferdinand VI (1746-1760): FERDINANDVS VI

Note that in most cases the dates do not exactly line up with the coins, as it took some time for news of a change in monarchy to reach the colonies and then to create new dies.

The next level is the assayer, which is the mark (usually a single initial) of the person responsible for the weight and fineness of the coins. The following (again, superseding Restrepo's 2012 reference) lists all the assayers known for Colombian gold cobs (note there were other assayers who only made silver cobs) and their date ranges on extant coins:

Bogotá trial coinage

1. No assayer (mintmark SF, used only for this year), 1622

Cartagena

2. Juan de la Era (E), 1626-35

Bogotá

3. Miguel Pinto Camargo (P), 1627-32
4. Alonso de Anuncibay (A), 1632-42
5. Pedro Ramos (R), 1642-76
6. Pedro García de Villanueva (oP, GP, G, AG), 1st tenure, 1678-86
7. José Martínez (sM), 1687 only
8. Pedro García de Villanueva (G, P), 2nd tenure, 1687-92
9. Buenaventura de Arce Penagos (A, ARCE, AR8E, no assayer), 1692-1722
10. José Sánchez de la Torre (S), 1722-32
11. Miguel Molano (M), 1732-43
12. Sebastián de Rivera (S, SR), 1743-56

Typically collectors seek to complete a set of “types,” meaning one from each mint and monarch, and then by assayer, which is what I use here as the basis for sorting the different mintmark and denomination placements and other variations. These variations mainly concern the types of fleurs in the quadrants of the cross, as these are prominently visible and made from discrete punches that changed at specific times, as opposed to the myriad small differences in shield designs not covered here. **Accordingly, the numbering in this article goes by assayer name.** This is the best way to collect: Try to complete a set of types (mints and monarchs), then fill in with different assayers, and finally use this guide to complete the varieties for each assayer. Beyond that is collecting all the dates.

There is another level beyond the varieties that you see here, namely identifying the individual dies (particularly the shield sides) in what is known as a “die study,” which is what I have already done for the issues of assayer Arce in my book *Arce's Doubloons* (2025); but there are not enough dated coins known (yet) to do that accurately for all the other assayers. What you see here is simply a list of dates and varieties.

* * *

1. Bogotá 2 Escudos, 1622, Philip III, no assayer, mintmark SF (Santa Fe)

The first gold coins of Colombia were struck in 1622 using dies prepared in Spain while Philip III was alive prior to 1621, hence it is a posthumous issue. It is also widely acknowledged to be the “first gold coinage struck in the Americas,” predating Mexico City by 57 years. It is distinctive for lacking an assayer-mark, and the assumption is that an assayer had not been appointed yet. The mintmark is SF for Santa Fe, and while all SF 2 escudos are struck from the same dies, there is evidence (see ERA-NR1 and PINTO-1) that other 2-escudos dies made in 1622 were re-used later. There is also an associated series of silver and billon coins in 1621-22 showing mintmark S or RN and assayer A, whose name is uncertain, but no gold coins are known with these marks.



SF-1 (1622, SF)

SF #	Left of shield	Right of shield	Cross design	Known dates
1	SF	•II•	early style	1622 only

2. Cartagena 2 Escudos, Philip IV, 1626-1635, assayer Juan de la Era

The cob 2 escudos of Cartagena began in 1626 with a reverse very similar to the 1622 issues (in fact probably modified from an unused secondary die from that year) mated with a new obverse sporting mintmark NR for Nuevo Reino (since Cartagena, of course, is not Santa Fe) and assayer E. For the next three years the mintmark alternated with RN until permanently changing to C in 1630, continuing until 1635, all under the same assayer. Throughout, Cartagena used a myriad of different arrangements of mintmark, assayer, denomination, and ornaments on both sides. It would be great if we could say for certain that a given arrangement dictates the year in which it was made, but the fact is that new varieties are appearing all the time with different dates. Until we have a full die study (working on it), for now the best we can do is tabulate the main types, leaving aside the arrangement of • and + in and around the mintmark-assayer. One date, however, is easier to distinguish from the others: In 1635 the mint changed the fleurs in the quadrants of the cross from double-loops to large leaves.



ERA-NR1 (1626/2?, NRE)

ERA-NR2 (1627, RNE)

<u>ERA #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
NR1	•II•	NRE	early style	1626/2(?)
NR2	•II•	RNE	• inside, + outside	1627, 1629
NR3	•II•	RNE	+ inside, • outside	1628/7
NR4	•II•	RNE	+ inside, + outside	1628
NR5	•II•	NRE	+ inside, + outside	(1628-9)
NR6	•II•	NRE	• inside, • outside	(1628-9)
NR7	•II•	RNE	special: three dots for each fleur	(1628-9?)

Note: The + is sometimes a quadrilobe, and outside the tressure it can be oriented as an x.



ERA-NR7 (special cross, RNE)



ERA-C6 (1631 EC)



ERA-C17 (1635 CE, large-leaf fleurs)

<u>ERA #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
C1	•II•	CE	• inside, + outside	1630, (1633?)
C2	•II•	CE	• inside, • outside	1630, 1631
C3	CE	•II•	• inside, • outside	1630, 1631
C4	•IIE	?	• inside, • outside	(1630-1?)
C5	CE	•II•	• inside, + outside	1631(/0?), 1632, 1634
C6	•II•/upright I (1E shield)	EC	• inside, + outside	1631
C7	•II•/upright I (1E shield)	EC	• inside, • outside	(1631?)
C8	upright •I•	CE (retro E)	+ inside, + outside	1632
C9	•II•	CE (retro E)	+ inside, + outside	1632
C10	CE (retro E)	•II•	floret inside, floret outside	1632
C11	+II+	CE	+ inside, + outside	1632, 1633
C12	CE	+II+	+ inside, + outside	(1633?)
C13	upright +II+	CE	+ inside, + outside	1633, 1634
C14	+II+	CE	• inside, • outside	(1634?)
C15	+II+	CE	• inside, o outside (large-leaf fleurs)	1635
C16	•II• or •II•/upright I	CE	• inside, o outside (large-leaf fleurs)	1635
C17	•II•	CE	+ inside, o outside (large-leaf fleurs)	1635

3. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Philip IV, 1627-1632, assayer Miguel Pinto Camargo

While the silver coinage from this assayer is well represented with dates from the whole range of his tenure from 1627 to 1632, there are very few known Pinto gold cobs, and in fact only two are known with visible dates, 1628 and 1629. Of the 2 escudos without visible dates, at least three are known from the same obverse die.

With so few dated coins, the key to organizing Pinto's 2 escudos is following die details, particularly the arrangement of the mintmark, the form of the denomination, and the style of cross. The known 1628 issue has an early cross that resembles Cartagena's 1626 (which in turn resembles the first 1622 coinage), so any 1627's that appear in the future will probably be the same. The known 1629 issue has a much thinner, open cross with tiny fleurs, and it resembles the undated examples in every way except for the mintmark, hence we tentatively attribute those undated coins to 1629-32.

Note these are just varieties; no doubt there are individual sub-varieties within each type, particularly regarding the placement of dots.



PINTO-1 (1628 P)
(Restrepo M50-5)



PINTO-2 (1629 P)
(Restrepo M50-7)

<u>PINTO #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	NRP	2 facing inward	early style	(1627?)-1628
2	RNP	upright 2	thin with tiny fleurs	1629
3	NRP	upright 2	thin with tiny fleurs	(1629-32?)



PINTO-3

4. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Philip IV, 1632-1642, assayer Alonso de Anuncibay

The next assayer's gold starts out logically, with a 1632 issue similar to the last ones of assayer Pinto except with an inner border of dots added on the obverse (as seen on some contemporary silver cobs of this assayer). Then, confusingly, in 1633 Anuncibay struck 2 escudos with a re-used 1-escudo reverse from 1628, leading modern experts to believe that Anuncibay (or some other assayer A) acted in Pinto's place in 1628. However, documents prove that Anuncibay did not become assayer at the mint until 1632, and fortunately there are other Anuncibay 2 escudos from 1633 that show an obverse struck from the same die as the 1628 mules but with a different early style 1-escudo reverse with the date changed to 1633. Another Anuncibay issue (possibly as late as 1634 but none with visible date so far) has the same new cross as the 1632 but with the inner border of dots moved from obverse to reverse. Then, presumably starting in 1635, the cross changed to a normal style that continued throughout the rest of the century.

While this listing does not cover variations of placement of dots around the mintmark and assayer, some important dot-varieties are observed on the cross side. In 1636 we see dots inside the ringlets in the dimples of the tressure, and in 1637 the dots appear instead inside and outside the tressure, like on contemporary Cartagena 2 escudos. The coins known with date 1642 have tiny tressure-dimple ringlets. It is important to note that a reported 1642 with assayer R to left is actually one of these Anuncibay issues, just with the R of the mintmark doubled and the A to right off the flan.



ANUN-1 (1632 A)



ANUN-2 ("1628" A struck in 1633)



ANUN-2 (1633 A)



ANUN-3 (1632-34? A)

<u>ANUN #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	NRA	•II•	thin with tiny fleurs	1632
2	NRA	•II•	early style, 1E size	"1628" (1633), 1633
3	NRA	•II•	thin with tiny fleurs, inner border of dots	(1632-1634?)
4	NRA	•II•	normal (see photo)	1635
5	NRA (small RA)	•II•	normal	(163?)
6	NRA (small RA)	•II•	normal with dots in dimple rings	1636
7	NRA	•II•	normal with dots inside and outside	1637
8	NRA	•II•	normal	1638, 1639, 1640/39, 1641
9	NRA	•II•	normal with tiny dimple-rings	1642



ANUN-4 (1635 A)



ANUN-6 (1636 A, dotted ringlets)



ANUN-7 (1637 A, dots inside and outside)



ANUN-9 (1642 A, tiny ringlets)

5. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Philip IV-Charles II, 1642-1676, assayer Pedro Ramos

The next assayer, Ramos, struck 2 escudos for over three decades, starting with Philip IV and ending with Charles II. The style of cross began the same as Anuncibay's, followed by three new varieties: fleurs with separate ball-tips in 1667-1673; spikes past crossbars in 1673-1676; and crude new fleurs in 1676. There is much die-study work to be done in this long series, but for now we can assemble a list of varieties vis-à-vis placement of mintmark, assayer, and denomination on the shield side.



RAMOS-1 (1646 II-R to left)



RAMOS-2 (1654 II-R to right)



RAMOS-5 (1662/1 Z-R to right)



RAMOS-6 (1667 II-R to right, ball-tip fleurs)



RAMOS-8 (1672 R-II to right, ball-tip fleurs)



RAMOS-11 (1676 II-R to right, crude fleurs, CAROLVS on both sides)

Philip IV

RAMOS #	Left of shield	Right of shield	Cross design	Known dates
1	II-R	NR	normal	1643, 1644/3, 1644, 1646, 1647, 1654, 1655
2	NR	II-R	normal	1644, 1645, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650/49, 1650, 1651, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1657, 1659, 1660/59, 1660, 1661, 1662/1, 1662, 1664
3	NRR	II	normal	(1642-1666)
4	NR	upright 2-R	normal	1655
5	NR	upright Z-R	normal	1662/1

Charles II

RAMOS #	Left of shield	Right of shield	Cross design	Known dates
6	NR	II-R	ball-tip fleurs (see photo)	1667, 1671
7	NR	II-R	normal	1668, 1669
8	NR	R-II	ball-tip fleurs	1672
9	NR	II-R	ball-tip fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure	1673, 1676
10	NR	II-R	crude fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure	1668
11	NR	II-R	crude fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure, king's name on both sides	1676

6. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Charles II, 1678-1686, assayer Pedro García de Villanueva (1st tenure)

Long-time assayer Ramos died on September 19, 1676, and while mintage records show no break, we cannot confirm any gold cobs struck in 1677 or 1678, even though no fewer than four interim assayers (Joseph de Olmos, Gaspar de los Reyes, Pedro Pinto Camargo, and Joseph Silvestre de Soto Maldonado) are known for that period. It is tempting to attribute 2 escudos with various assayer initials to these people, as some experts have done; however, in all cases the initials have been either misread or eventually found with dates outside the period in question.

The permanent new assayer, starting in 1678, was Pedro García de Villanueva, who worked until his resignation in 1686. As before, mint records say that gold coins were struck every year, but we can only confirm a few known dated examples. These coins tell us that García apparently used a spectrum of initials to represent his name: oP, GP, G, and AG. The key in this period is to observe the types of fleurs in the cross, as they abruptly change to a crude version in 1685, as already seen in 1668 but now with the ends of the tressure arcs joined by x's that connect to the ringlets (o).



GARC¹-1 (oP)



GARC¹-4 (1683/2 G)

<u>GARC¹ #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	NR	II-oP	ball-tip fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure	1679, 1681
2	RN	II-oP	ball-tip fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure	1679?
3	NR	II-GP	ball-tip fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure	(1679-82?)
4	NR	II-G	ball-tip fleurs with spikes from bars to tressure	1683/2
5	NR	II-AG	crude fleurs with x's to o's, spikes from bars to tressure	1685, 1686



GARC¹-5 (1686)

(photo courtesy of the State of Florida Collection)



MARTI-1 (1687 sM)

7. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Charles II, 1687 only, assayer José Martines

García's eventual replacement, from February to June in the year 1687, was José Martines, whose 2 escudos show sM for the assayer-mark. Two different cross types are known for this assayer, both with crude fleurs but one *without* the ends of the tressure arcs joined by x's that connect to the ringlets.

<u>MARTI #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	NR	II-sM	crude fleurs with x's to o's, spikes from bars to tressure	1687
2	NR	II-sM	crude fleurs with no x's, spikes from bars to tressure	1687

8. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Charles II, 1687-1692, assayer Pedro García de Villanueva (2nd tenure)

For reasons unknown, García must have returned to his post after Martines in 1687, this time using just initial G. As before, the fleurs in the cross are crude, and the earlier dates tend to have the ends of the tressure arcs joined by x's that connect to the ringlets, an aspect that disappears by the 1690s.



GARC2-1 (1687 G, with x's)

GARC2-2 (1690 G, no x's)

GARC ² #	Left of shield	Right of shield	Cross design	Known dates
1	NR	II-G	crude fleurs with x's to o's, spikes from bars to tressure	1687, 1689/8, 1689
2	NR	II-G	crude fleurs with no x's, spikes from bars to tressure	1690, 1692/1, 1692

9. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Charles II-Philip V, 1692-1722, assayer Buenaventura de Arce Penagos

With assayer Arce we finally come to a population of 2 escudos that is large enough to study by die, due to massive recoveries from the Spanish 1715 Fleet off the east coast of Florida. This die study is presented in my 2025 book *Arce's Doubloons: A Die Study of the Colombian Gold Cob Coinage of Assayer Arce in the name of Charles II, 1692-1714*.

Arce started with simply putting his letter A over the previous G for García in 1692-3, but then discarded the concept of mintmark-denomination-assayer flanking the shield altogether, and instead put his whole name ARCE in the legend—these are known as the **Charles II Lifetime** issues. The death of Charles II in 1700 prompted the War of the Spanish Succession and a new king, Philip V. For four years (1701-4), Arce experimented with both king's names in the legends in what we call the **Charles II Transitional** type, occasionally using VA (for Ventura de Arce) for his initials. At that time, faced with the challenges of a prolonged war and critical coinage demand, it seems Philip V ordered the Bogotá mint to reduce the fineness in secret, and we believe Arce only agreed to that if his name was left off the coinage and the king's name in the legend reverted to the previous king, Charles II. This went on all the way until the end of the war in 1714, in a series we call **Charles II Post-Transitional**. Following that (no coins known so far from 1715 to 1717), the fineness returned to normal, Philip V's name found a permanent place in the legend (hence the **Philip V** issues), and by 1721 Arce saw fit to represent himself again with letter A flanking the shield, just like when he started in 1692. In 1722 the mintmark returned, but this time as F for Santa Fe instead of NR.

The shield designs through 1704 varied so chaotically—with transpositions, inversions, and substitutions—that you can almost determine the date just by looking at the shield! On the cross side, Arce changed the fleurs dramatically in 1693 to something that resembles bows or scissors, which is how they remained for the rest of gold cob production at the mint.

For this article I will simply show samples of the three main types and refer the reader to my book to learn more about all the Arce varieties (171 in all for just the 2 escudos).

Charles II Lifetime (1692-1699)



1693 A/G



1693 ARCE
(Restrepo Plate M66-28)



1694/3 ARCE



(1697) CARLOS D/ARC, 1E shield
(Restrepo Plate M66-28)



1699/8 with retrograde digits AR8E
(Restrepo Plate M66-20)



(1699) ARSE with retrograde S

Charles II Transitional issues (1700-1704)



1701/0
obv PHILIPVS V DG VA / CAROLVS II ARCE
rev legend reading counterclockwise + date



1702 (backwards and facing outward)
obv PHILIPVS V DG VA / CAROLVS II ARCE
rev PHILIPVS V DG VA + date



1704/1702 (backwards and facing outward)
obv CAROLVS II DG, rev PHILIPVS V DG VA + date



1704/3 ARCE on reverse

Charles II Post-Transitional issues (1703-1714)



1708/6 no assayer



1708 (date at 12 o'clock) no assayer



1709 (ball-tip cross) no assayer



1713 no assayer

Philip V (1718-1722)



1719 (dots in ringlets) no assayer



(1721?) (dots in ringlets) A to left



(1722?) (no dots in ringlets) F to left, A to right

10. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Philip V-Louis I, 1722-1732, assayer José Sánchez de la Torre

This assayer struck gold cobs for two years under Philip V (1722-23) before changing to Louis I for another two years (1724-25), then back to Philip V until the end of his tenure in 1732. The arrangement was usually mintmark F (for Santa Fe) to left and assayer S to right of the shield; on the cross side the fleurs continued as “scissors” but the cross thickened and the ringlets became C’s. Also note that most of the dates on Sánchez’s 2 escudos lack the first digit 1.

Philip V (1st period)

<u>SANC #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	F	S	as prior (no dots in ringlets)	1722, 1723



SANC-2 (1724 S to left, Louis I)

Louis I

<u>SANC #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
2	S	F	as prior (full ringlets)	1724
3	F	S	as prior (full ringlets)	1724, 1725



SANC-4 (1727/6 S full ringlets)

SANC-6 (1730 S half ringlets)

Philip V (2nd period)

<u>SANC #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
4	F	S	full ringlets	1726, 1727/6, 1727, 1728/7, 1728, 1729/8, 1729
5	F	S	¾ ringlets	1729/8, 1729
6	F	S	½ ringlets	1730, 1731/0, 1731, 1732

11. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Philip V, 1732-1743, assayer Miguel Molano

Assayer Molano stuck with the arrangement of mintmark F to left and assayer to right, the latter in this case now M. What did change, however, was the orientation of the M, starting as upright and then changing in 1735 to facing inward.



MOLA-1 (1734 M facing inward)



MOLA-2 (1735 M upright)

<u>MOLA #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	F	M facing inward	½ ringlets	1732, 1733, 1734/3, 1734, 1735/4
2	F	M upright	½ ringlets	1735, 1736, 1737, 1738/7, 1738, 1739, 1740/39, 1740, 1741/0, 1741, 1742, 1743/2, 1743

12. Bogotá 2 Escudos, Philip V-Ferdinand VI, 1743-1756, assayer Sebastián de Rivera

The final assayer of gold cobs at the Bogotá mint, Sebastián de Rivera, mostly used an S for his mark except for a brief period in 1748-49 when he found room to put SR or RS instead. At the same time, he changed the mintmark from F (as previously) to FS. On the cross side, the former ringlets start as arcs and then disappear completely, while the “scissors” fleurs expand into that area and in later years their “ribbons” split into four.



SEBA-1 (1743 S)

Philip V

<u>SEBA #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
1	F	S	arcs around large “scissors”	1743, 1745, 1746



SEBA-5 (1748 SR to left)



SEBA-10 (1754 S to right)

Ferdinand VI

<u>SEBA #</u>	<u>Left of shield</u>	<u>Right of shield</u>	<u>Cross design</u>	<u>Known dates</u>
2	FS	S	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1747
3	FS	SR	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1748
4	FS	RS	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1748
5	SR	FS	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1748
6	RS	FS	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1748
7	FS	SR	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1749
8	S	FS	no arcs, large scissors, split ends	1750/49, 1750, 1751, 1752/1, 1752 1753
9	S.*	FS	four-ribbon fleurs	1754
10	FS	S	four-ribbon fleurs	1754, 1755, 1756/5

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In so many ways, the study of Colombian cob 2 escudos is still in its infancy. For generations, collectors and researchers have been hobbled by mistakes in attribution on these difficult coins. My hope is that this article will not only fix the mistakes but also inspire the next generation of researchers and collectors. Take the challenge and have fun!