



## Santa Fe 2 Escudos 1668 CAROLVS Reverse

### Herman Blanton

#### Abstract:

This paper discusses a 2 escudo (doubloon) variety from Santa Fe de Nuevo Reino (Bogotá, Colombia) that carries the name of King Charles II on both sides of the coin.

#### Background:

The official design of the 2 escudo coin is based upon the *Nueva Estampa* (New Die) orders of Philip II dated November 23, 1566 at Madrid [Dasí II: IX, 370] and extended to the American colonies by orders of March 8, 1570 [Dasí II: XVIII, 391] (to replace all dies in use) and May 10, 1570 [Dasí II: XVIII, 392] (same legal fineness, value, weight and without difference in dies, punches and arms). This design is called by different names. In Spanish numismatic literature it is frequently called *Escudo-Cruz* (Shield-Cross) and *Escudo Coronado* (Crowned Shield) to distinguish it from designs used in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic Monarchs. While the silver coin changed to the columnar design by Philip IV's orders of 1650 the gold was not changed and remained the same as it had been since the first 2 escudo dies were sent from Madrid to Santa Fe in 1621-22 until 1756 when cob production stopped in Santa Fe. Fortunately for us a few specimens struck from the original 1622 dated dies are extant testifying to the intended design. Illustrated below is Stacks Bowers Galleries "Eldorado Collection" lot 11004, a specimen of the original issue Santa Fe 2 escudos 1622. Obverse "PHILIPPVS III DG" and reverse HISPANIARVM REX 1622. The only element missing is the assayer mark under the SF mintmark. For our purposes here we see the king's name on one side and HISPANIARVM REX on the opposite side.



22-23 mm diameter



**Santa Fe 2 Escudo 1668 error coin with the king's name on both sides**

**CHARLES II, 1688**  
**Ponterio & Associates, 144-539**



**Ponterio & Associates auction 144, November 6, 2007, lot 539**  
2 Escudos Charles II, 1668, CAROLVS II (obverse & reverse)  
Restrepo 5th edition M66-4a, 1668 (projected catalog entry)

Ponterio & Associates lot description:

“2 Escudos, (1)668. Fr-4; KM-14.1; RL-M66S; Cal-type 38. King's name on reverse. EXTREMELY FINE. [1700.-2200.]”

**Observation:**

The obverse mintmark NR left of shield has the separator dot distinctively nested under the N. The value “II” and assayer are not visible. The reverse clearly shows the first two letters of the king's name CA(ROLVS II). The king's name on the reverse is an error. While we do not see the king's name on the obverse there is no reason to doubt it was in the die, just not visible on this specimen due to small planchet diameter. Therefore we confidently presume that the king's name CAROLVS II is on both the obverse and reverse. The last 3 digits of the date are clear enough to determine it as 1668.

Provenance:

- Ponterio & Associates auction 144, November 6, 2007, lot 539.

**CHARLES II, 1688**  
**Aureo & Calicó, Caballero 131**



**Aureo & Calicó sale “Caballero de las Yndias, la colección mas importante de moneda de oro española reunida en manos privadas, Primera Parte, America y Filipinas”, April 8, 2009, lot 131**

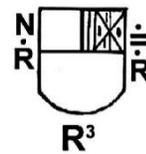
2 Escudos Charles II, 1668, CAROLVS II (obverse & reverse)  
Restrepo 5th edition M66-4a, 1668 (projected catalog entry)

Aureo & Calicó lot description:

“(1675-76). Santa Fe de Nuevo Reino. R. 2 escudos. (Cal. tipo 38, no señala esta variante) (C.C. 1414). Anv.: (N) y R a izquierda del escudo, = y R a d recha. Nombre del rey en anverso y reverso. Muy rara. MBC. Est. 1.000”

**Observation:**

The coin sold for hammer price of 850 euro plus buyer fee 18%. The catalog description did not date the coin but rather provided a date range. From what is visible of the obverse design the find the mint mark (N)R left of the shield and II • R right of the shield; this is Restrepo diagram R3. The only visible part of the peripheral legend is the “C” of CAROLVS. The center of the reverse has the standard design cross but the peripheral legend is not the standard “HISPANIARVM REX date” but instead shows the king’s name “CAROLVS...” with the bottom half of the ultimate digit of the date.



Provenance:

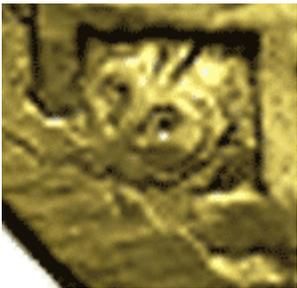
- Aureo & Calicó “Caballero de las Yndias”, April 8, 2009, lot 131.
- Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC, Treasure Auction 7, April 7, 2010 lot 29.  
“Bogota, Colombia, cob 2 escudos, (167)6R, Charles II, unique error with king's name in reverse legend. S-B21a; KM-14.1. 6.9 grams. Broad flan with full shield and crown (bold) and cross, weak but certain assayer R to right and bottom of 6 of date, clockwise to which is ‘CARDLVS’ (the O as a D) for the

king's name, an unlisted variety, VF with toning on fields.” Hammer price USD 1400 plus 15% buyer fee.



**Die study and markers**

Ponterio 144-539 and Aureo “Caballero” 131 specimens are from the same dies which can be verified by a careful die study. A few die markers are below.

	Ponterio 144-539	Aureo “Caballero” 131
Obverse die markers		
Die chips in Aragon		
Hash marks under lower lion’s foot		
Reverse die markers		
Double or triple punched flower (bottom left)		



Due to the effort spent researching for his book *Las monedas coloniales hispano-americanas* José Toribio Medina referred to it as his collection regardless if the coins were in his personal collection or not. (Medina: VII) *Por tal razón, en esa parte bien podría llamarle Catálogo de mi colección de monedas hispano-americanas* I feel the same way towards my own virtual collection and in his honor I am emulating some features of his book including the use of selected graphics—*author*.