



**PHILIPPINE
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METAL" or "CONDIN" for short. The earliest account on the Condines (mis-read by Blair and Robertson as "bandines" in the original document) dates back to July 31, 1591 in the memoria of the expedition of Don Luis Perez Dasmariñas, son of Governor General Dasmariñas, to the Province of Tuy and Dangla (now part of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya). Don Ildefonso Santos in his article "Tagalog Terminology for Monetary Values During the Spanish Regime" said he has been looking for the clue to the origin of the word "CUNDING" but to no avail. Well, the clue is here for all numismatists to know. The copper coin "CONDIN" has given birth to the Tagalog word "CUNDING" written in the old Tagalog alphabet as "ꣳꣳꣳꣳ". This "CONDIN" or "CUNDING" appears to be the first copper coin ever minted by the Ayuntamiento de Manila which was established on June 24, 1571. (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Uniface "Condines de Metal" with incused Seal.

The earliest mention of "CUNDING" in a Tagalog book was in the "Memorial de la Vida Christiana" by Don Francisco de San Josef, first published in 1605, thus:

"Ang Teniente ang dayingan tauaran ang calagpangao, nang bauasan cucunding man".

With the above revelation, Dr. Gilbert Perez is proven wrong beyond reasonable doubt in his claim that the uniface "BARILLA Año De 1728" was the first known copper coin in the Philippines. He missed it by a century.

A century later these "cundings" were replaced with a small round uniface specimen with the inscription "CONDIN AÑO DE 1728" (Fig. 2) with the Seal of the



Fig. 2 - Uniface 1728 Condin.

City of Manila at the center. These became contemporaneous with the uniface barrillas of Dr. Perez. Sad to say, Dr. Perez's uniface specimen is probably an antique counterfeit.

Don Tomas Dasi in his book "Estudio de los Reales de a Ocho"

hypothesized that there was a mint in the Philippines before 1763 that took care of the minting of copper coins. That hypothesis is not correct according to archival documents. However, manuscripts revealed there was a "minting authority" alright, the Ayuntamiento de Manila (Cabildo) to whom the Governor General granted authority to mint copper coins on the condition that these were to be used only for local trade in the provinces of Manila, Tondo and Cavite.

There is so much confusion as to what the monogram "B" signified. This author has a full dissertation on the metamorphoses of the said monogram that will directly link the diface barrillas of 1773 and 1743 to the 1766 Barrilla, thus documenting them as early barrilla coins.

Dr. Perez has claimed that the



Fig. 3A - 1766 Barrilla.

1766 Barrilla (Fig. 3) has an exchange value of one centavo because of the figure "1" on the reverse. That is pure conjecture.



Fig. 3B - Reverse of 1766 Barrilla.

The 1766 Barrilla had an exchange value of 12 barrillas to 1/2 Real with an intrinsic value of 1 adarme as approved by the Royal Audiencia. Was the 1766 Barrilla minted in 1765 as claimed by Blair and Robertson on account of the Royal Fiscal's approval of the Ayuntamiento's request for minting on February 16, 1765 as noted down by Viana in his Respuestas? The very minutes of the Cabildo's proceedings are presented in the book of this author to clear up this mystery.

Don Octaviano Gil Farres in his book "Historia de la Moneda Española" mentioned that these 1766 Barrillas were minted in a taller in Cavite. Like Perez, this one is a historical error by Sr. Farres because as prescribed by the Ayuntamiento and documented in the proceedings, the 1766 Barrillas were minted in the Cabildo House by the Cabildo appointed *fiel contraste*, Señor Maestro Melchor Antonio Varela y Seylas, to prevent counterfeiting. Fact is as a safeguard procedure, these locally made dies were kept in a safe in the



Fig. 8 — Reverse of 1835 2 Quartos.



Fig. 10A — Italy 1809 Crown showing "Sastre" countermark.



Fig. 9 — Reverse of 1835 4 Quartos.



Fig. 10B — Reverse of Italy crown.

3. SASTRE COUNTERMARK MYSTERY:

The mystery lies in the fact that although the Superior Decree of October 27, 1832 ordered an oval counterstamp, all the known specimens are round rather than oval.

In the July 1949 issue of the Numismatist, Don Xavier Calico reported to the numismatic world an ovaloid "F 70" countermark on a 1809 Italian 5 Lire Crown (Fig. 10) from the Sastre Collection

which according to Don Calico is a pattern of the Superior Decree of October 27, 1832.

In the January 1950 issue of the Numismatist, Dr. Gilbert Perez and Dr. Pablo de Jesus ventured that the Sastre Countermark was neither prepared nor struck in Manila because: (1) there were no trained engravers in Manila at the time the countermark was struck. (2) the royal crown in the Sastre Countermark is wider, lower in height and delicately modeled which attests that the die was made

in Madrid, unlike the crude thick crowns of dies made by Chinese die sinkers of Manila.

However, this author's researches showed that the dies of the Sastre Countermark were prepared by Señor Maestro Fundidor y Grabador Francisco (Diego) de los Reyes, whose office was located in Quiapo, Extramuros. That as per contract by the Real Hacienda with Don Francisco de los Reyes, for a fee he was to counterstamp coins with the above dies by means of the "golpe de martillo" (Fig. 11).

4. MEDALLAS:

In the Golden Jubilee and 6th National Numismatic Convention, the PNAS auctioned a Gold Medal Commemorating the Centenary St. Teresa, October 15, 1882 (Fig. 12). This medal was one of the 4 gold medals minted for this event by the Casa de Moneda de Manila.



Fig. 11A — Peru 1927 Crown, the second known specimen of ovaloid countermark.



Fig. 12A — Gold Sta. Teresa Medal of 1882.



Fig. 11B — Reverse of Peru crown.



Fig. 12B — Reverse of Sta. Teresa Medal.

The author's Volume IX — MEDALLAS' carries the Casa de Moneda certificate of mintages of the different medals struck by the Mint.



I-18



I-19



I-20



III-2



III-4



IV-2



V-1



V-3



V-4



VI-4



VI-5



VI-9



VI-11



VI-13



VI-18



VI-21





VI-106



VI-109



VI-113



VI-118



VI-123



VI-128



VI-129



VI-130





VIII-54



VIII-63



VIII-64



VIII-69



VIII-70



VIII-72



VIII-73



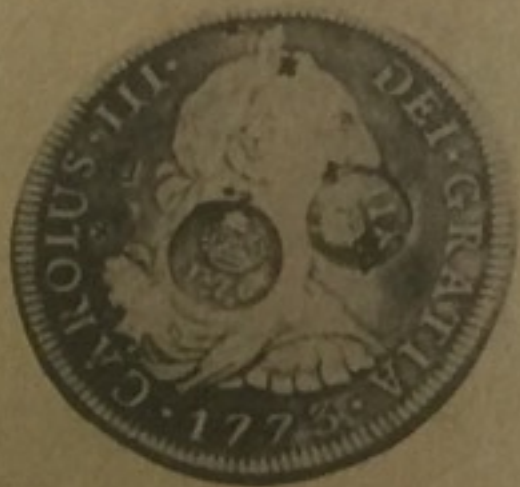
VIII-74



IX-1



IX-3



IX-5



IX-7



IX-11



IX-12



IX-13



IX-15





X-7



X-8



X-9



X-10



X-11



XI-2



XI-4



XI-6





35



47



50



51



Plate 2



62



98



136



144



Plate 3



188



196



202



205



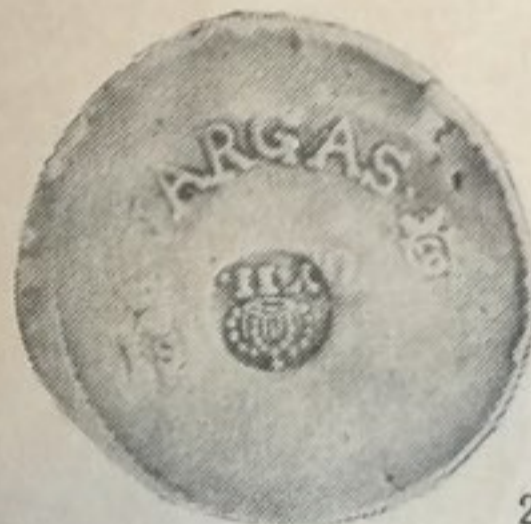
Plate 4



218



226



228



234



Plate 5