

Treasure Salvors, Inc.

Certificate of Authenticity

Artifact recovered from the Sunken Spanish Galleon

SANTA MARGARITA

This is to Certify that the coin described here was recovered from the sunken Spanish Galleon, SANTA MARGARITA, by Treasure Salvors, Inc.

On September 6, 1622, the heavily laden galleon of King Philip IV's Terra Firme Fleet, grounded and broke up in a raging hurricane near the Florida Keys. More than one hundred, twenty persons and her entire cargo of silver, gold and other precious items were lost to the sea.

The coins minted in the new world are usually irregular in shape and are referred to as "Cobs". They were manufactured by slicing coin blanks from the end of crudely cast bars of refined bullion. Then they were clipped to the requisite weight, heated, and hand-hammered between crudely engraved dies. The rough surface and irregular circumference of the blanks prevented well defined strikes. Consequently the legends are frequently missing or only partially shown. The Spanish authorities were not interested in the shape of the coins, or having them show dates. The important feature to them was the assayers mark as it guaranteed the fineness of the bullion and the proper weight. The penalty for not showing this mark was severe. Although Cobs were never intended to circulate in Europe they became a major currency all over the world, including the North American Colonies.

Coins of Philip II (1556-1598) and Phillip III (1598-1621) bear a simplified Hapsburg Shield on the Obverse. The legend, if complete reads "PHILIPPVS II (III), DIE GRATIA" "Philip II (III) By The Grace of God". The Reverse has a cross with castles and lions in the quarters. The legend reads "HISPANIARVM: ET: INDIARVM: REX"; "King of Spain and the Indies".

The SANTA MARGARITA Shipwreck was awarded to Treasure Salvors, Inc. by the Admiralty Jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and its artifacts have remained in Treasure Salvors, Inc. possession until this time.

Mel Fisher
Melvin Fisher, President

No: **9102**
Denomination 8 REALES
Reign PHILIP III
Mint POTOSI
Assayer NOT VISIBLE
Date 162x
Weight 19.75
Grade III



Certified this
1st Day of September
1982

Richard L. Megard
Appraisal Official
Raymond J. ... Ph.D.
Historian
Stephen M. Mackerson III
Archaeologist

Collector _____
Date _____