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The “Zanette” struck under Philip III of Spain (1598-1621)

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Abstract: This paper deals with the classification of half carlinos struck under Philip III of Spain (nicknamed by the people of Naples “Zannette”). The author proposes an adequate and complete chronological classification of all of the types known so far, using the mintmaster's initial and the portraits of the king.

Philip III of Spain (cf. Fig. 1 and 2) succeeded his father to the throne of Spain on the 13th of September 1598 when he was 19. In 1599, he married Margherita d'Austria, daughter of Charles II of Styria, by proxy in Ferrara; the marriage was later reconfirmed in Madrid.

During the reign of Philip II and Philip III, there was a particularly acute monetary crisis caused by the constant clipping of the monetary mass in circulation, which led to negative repercussion for commerce and for the tax authorities.

In particular, the monetary mass, made up in prevalence by half Carlinos coins (nicknamed “Zannette”), was subject to a constant clipping process. Clipping is the process consisting in removing part of the border of the coin in order to obtain a certain amount of precious metal for profit. The clipped coin is then reintroduced into circulation with the same face value. Clearly, the obtained coin can be considered as too light and can be refused as legal tender.

On the 6th of June 1609, the viceroy Don Juan Alfonso Pimentel de Herrera, count of Benavante, tried to put a stop to this and other similar illegal practices through a decree (edict). The law stated that clipped or underweight coins could not be used as legal tender anymore, and ordered that only coins of correct weight should be used for payment. Underweight and clipped coins would have to be forcibly exchanged at the mint and at local banks at a set rate in favour of the issuer and not the holder of these pieces.

This unpopular law caused widespread dissatisfaction amongst the people of Naples because the citizens, who were already strained by a deep economic crisis coupled with a bad administration, were left with demonetized clipped coins which could not be spent.

Furthermore, during this period, the workers of the mint committed numerous frauds. Instead of being the guardians of the purity of the alloy, they stole some of the precious metal by issuing coins with lower silver titles.

For all these reasons, riots broke out in the Kingdom of Naples that was later called “zannetta” revolts or bad coins revolts.

This article will deal with the classification of these half carlinos (“Zannette”) struck under Philip III. As these coins did not have a date on them, (except number 26 of the classification proposed in this article, which is dated 1611) the author decided to use the mintmaster's initial together with the king's portrait¹ (shaved young, bearded young, bearded adult) to try to establish the exact chronology of these issues.

¹ Doc. del Conte de Olivares alla Summaria - Datum Neapoli die decimaquinta octobris 1598.



Figure 1: Bust of Philipp III, Palazzo Firrao Naples
(courtesy of <http://www.napoligrafia.it/>)



Figure 2: Statue of Philip III of Spain, Madrid
(courtesy of <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>)

“Mutamento dell’effigie del Sovrano sui conì” – A.S.N. Colleaterale Negotiurum Mameræ Vol. 10 c. 69 –
“Philippus [...] Ill.i et Mag.ci Viri Collateralis etc. Essendo passato da questa presente a miglior vita la Maestà del Re Nostro Signore di gloriosa memoria et con la nova successione della Maestà de Felippo Terzo suo figlio Nostro Signore è necessario mutare l’effigie delli cugini della Regia Zeccha delle monete, et in quelle ponere l’effigie, et inscriptione della prefata Maestà de Felippo Terzo. Perciò ci è parso farvi la presente per la quale ve dicimo et ordinamo, che debbiatè provvedere, et dar ordine al Maestro di Zeccha, ed altri officiali di detta Regia Zeccha a chi spetta, che da qua avanti nelle monete che si zeccheranno in questa Regia Zeccha, debbiano ponere l’effigie, et inscriptione ut supra de la predetta Maestà de Felippo Terzo quale orderete, che con ogni celerità se facciano dette nove effigie che tale è nostra volontà, et intentione”;

These coins were first issued around the end of 1599 or the first few months of the year 1600. They were produced until May 1609 under the direction of the mintmaster Giovanni Antonio Fasulo², who used the initials GF and GI³ in monogram. From 9th of June 1609, these coins carry the letters IAF in monogram or G⁴. The production of these “Zannette” coins was terminated in 1611, when a new coin of “3 *cinquine*” was produced by the mint⁵. These coins were later demonetized on the 2nd of March 1622 with a decree (prammatica) ordered by the then viceroy Cardinal Antonio Zapata, Archbishop of Burgos.

Classification

The following classification uses abbreviated references:

- **Corpus** = AA.VV., Corpus Nummorum Italicorum Vol. XX - Roma 1943
- **Bovi** = Bovi G., BCNN Anno LII Gennaio/Dicembre 1967 - Le monete Napoletane di Filippo III
- **P.R.** = Pannuti M. e Riccio V., Le monete di Napoli, dalla caduta dell'impero Romano alla chiusura della zecca - Lugano 1984
- **Coll. Cagiati** = CAGIATI M. Le monete del Reame delle Due Sicilie - Parte I - Napoli, da Carlo I a Vittorio Emanuele II. Fascicoli da I a V, Napoli, 1911-1912.

Half Carlino - Silver. - Average weight grams: 1,25

1. Monograms GF/GI behind the bust

Obv/ + PHILIPP•III D•G•REX•ARA•VTRS

Bust with shaved young head facing left wearing radiate crown , letters GF and GI behind the bust.

Rev/ + SICILIAE ET HIERVSALE

Fleece “tosone” right.

Corpus 570 - Bovi 64 - P.R. unlisted

Note: Pannuti e Riccio only list the type with the fleece left.

2. Monograms GF/GI behind the bust

Obv/ similar to number 1.

Rev/ Fleece “Tosone” left.

Corpus 571

Note: Pannuti e Riccio nr. 28 listed with the letters GF/GF.

3. Without letters

Obv/• PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•VT

Bust with shaved young head facing right wearing a radiate crown.

Rev/ No legend.

Fleece “tosone” right.

Corpus unlisted - Coll. Cagiati n. 357 - P.R. 29

² Giovanni Antonio Fasulo, was the mintmaster in Naples from 1594 under the reign of Philip II until the 6th of september 1611 , his initials were GF and IAF in monogram

³ Gaspare Giuno, engraver active under the reign of Philip II in 1591 continued his activity until 1609 using GI in monogram as a symbol;

⁴ Francesco Antonio Giuno, was the engraver between 1609 and 1616 , his symbol on the coins was the letter G;

⁵ In the year 1610, the “Collaterale Consiglio” ordered the mint to stop producing half carlino coins and requested instead the production of a “3 *Cinquine*” (7 and ½ grana) using the same weight standard of the half carlino. These coins were struck from 1611 until 1617.

4. Monograms GF/GI behind the bust (cf. Fig. 3)



Figure 3: Auction CNG 96 14th may 2014 lot 1282

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III D•G•REX•ARA•VTR;

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF and GI behind the bust.

Rev/ similar to number 3.

Corpus 576 - P.R. unlisted

Note: the crown comes in 3 varieties, 12 pears (CNI 572) , 12 globes (CNI 580) or 13 globes with different die (CNI 583).

5. Monograms GF - GI below the bust

Obv/• PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•VT•SI

bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF and GI below the bust.

Rev/ similar to number 3.

Corpus 528 (Tav. IX picture 10) - P.R. 29c

6. Monograms GF - GI at the side of the bust (cf. Fig. 4)



Figure 4: Tintinna auction 14th -20th December 2011 lot 3535

Obv/• PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•VTR

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF behind the bust and letters GI on the other side.

Rev/ similar to number 3.

Corpus 558

Note: Pannuti e Riccio nr. 29a listed with letters GF - GF at sides.

7. Monograms GF - GI below

Obv/• PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•VTRI

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF and GI below the bust

Rev/ No legend.

Fleece “tosone” facing left.

Corpus 529 - P.R. 30

Note: Pannuti and Riccio list this type with letters GF - GI behind the bust.

8. *Monograms GF - GI at the side (cf. Fig. 5)*



Figure 5: Private collection

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III•D•G•REX•ARA•VTR•SI

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF behind the bust and letters GI on the other side

Rev/ similar to number 7.

Corpus 552 (Tav. IX foto 14) - Bovi 63 - P.R. 30a

9. *Monograms GI - GF at sides*

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III•D•G•REX•ARA•VTR

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF behind the bust and letters GI on the other side

Rev/ similar to number 7.

Corpus 565 - P.R. unlisted

10. *Monograms GF behind - GI below (cf. Fig. 6)*



Figure 6: Private collection

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•V•

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF behind the bust and letters GI below

Rev/ similar to number 7.

Corpus 597 (= 601) (Tav. IX foto 16) - P.R. 30b

11. *Monograms GF/GI below*

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III D•G•REX•ARA•VTRS

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letters GF and GI behind the bust.

Rev/ similar to number 7.

Corpus 581 (Tav. IX foto 15) - P.R. 30c

Note: 2 varieties for the radiate crown, 11 or 13 globes (CNI582).

12. No letters

Obv/ + PHILIPP•III•D•G•REX•ARA•VT

Bust with shaved young head left wearing a radiate crown

Rev/ similar to number 7.

Corpus 515 – Bovi 59 - P.R. 26

Note: Bovi (BCNN Anno LII Gennaio/Dicembre 1967) reports this variety with a right facing bust.

13. No letters

Obv/ PHILIPP•III•D•G•REX•ARA VTRS

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown

Rev/ no legend;

Fleece “tosone” right.

Corpus 516 - Bovi 60 - P.R. unlisted

14. Monograms GF - GI below (cf. Fig. 7)



Figure 7: Image courtesy of icollector.com

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•VT

Bust with shaved young head left wearing a radiate crown, letters GF and GI below the bust

Rev/ no legend;

Fleece “tosone” left.

Corpus 534 (Tav. IX foto 12) - P.R. 26a

Note: sometimes the letters break the beaded circle.

15. Monograms GF - GI below

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III•DG•REX•ARA•VTR•SI

Bust with shaved young head right wearing a radiate crown, letter GF and GI below the bust

Rev/ Similar to number 14.

Corpus 525 (= 544) - Bovi 61 - P.R. unlisted

Note: Pannuti e Riccio n. 30 list this type wrongly, which instead should be Corpus 529 “young bust radiate” they report that the letters GF and GI are behind the bust when in reality they are below; Bovi reports wrongly that the letters GF are behind the bust while GI is in front of the bust.

16. Monograms GF behind - GI below (cf. Fig. 8)

Figure 8: Private collection

Obv/• PHILIPP III DG•REX•AR•VTR

Bust with bearded young head right wearing a radiate crown, letter GF behind the bust and GI below

Rev/ no legend;

Fleece “tosone” left.

Corpus 601 - P.R. unlisted

17. Monograms GF behind - GI below (cf. Fig. 9)

Figure 9: Asta Artemide XXVIII del mese 10/11 aprile 2010 lotto 1613

Obv/• PHILIPP III DG•REX•AR•VTR

Bust with bearded young head right wearing a radiate crown, letter GF behind the bust and GI below

Rev/ Similiar to number 16.

Corpus 612 - P.R. unlisted

18. Monograms GF behind - GI below (cf. Fig. 10)

Figure 10: Private collection

Obv/ PHILIPP•III• DG•REX•ARA

Bust with bearded young head right wearing a radiate crown, monogram GF behind the bust and GI below

Rev/ No legend.

Two flints and two flames arranged as a cross.

Corpus 614 - P.R. 33

19. Monograms GI behind - GF below

Obv/ PHILIPP•III• D•G•REX•ARA

Bust with bearded young head right wearing a radiate crown, monogram GF behind the bust and GI below

Rev/ similar to number 18.

Corpus 615 - P.R. 33a

Note: Pannuti e Riccio list letters G/GF.

20. No letters (cf. Fig. 11)



Figure 11: Private collection

Obv/ + PHILIPP•III•REX•ARA VT

Bust with bearded adult head left wearing a radiate crown.

Rev/ + SICILIAE•ET•HIERVS;

Fleece "tosone" left.

Corpus 495 (Tav. IX foto 9) - Bovi 58 - P.R. 22

21. Monograms GF behind - GI below

Obv/+ PHILIPP•III•D•G•REX•ARA•VT

Bust with bearded adult head left wearing a radiate crown, monogram GF behind the bust and GI below

Rev/ similar to number 20.

Corpus 545 (Tav. IX foto 13) - Bovi 62 - P.R. 22a

Note: Pannuti e il Riccio list the letters GF and GF.

Coins attributed to the period from 9th June 1609

22. Monograms G behind - IAF below

Obv/ • PHILIPP•III• D•G•REX

Bust with bearded adult head right wearing a radiate crown, letter G behind the bust and IAF below

Rev/ No legend.

Two flints and two flames arranged as a cross

Corpus 621 - P.R. 33b

23. Monograms G behind - IAF below

Obv/ .. PHILIPP•III• DG•REX•A•

Bust with bearded adult head left wearing a radiate crown, letter G behind the bust and IAF below

Rev/ Similar to number 22.

Corpus 616 (Tav. IX foto 17) - Bovi 66 - P.R. 27

24. Monograms G - IAF below

Obv/ . PHI DG•REX;

Bust with bearded adult head left wearing a radiate crown, letter G and IAF below

Rev/ similar to number 22.

Corpus 618 - P.R. 27a

25. Monograms IAF/G behind (cf. Fig. 12)

Figure 12: Private collection

Obv/ PHILIPP•III• DG•REX•AR•

Bust with bearded adult head right wearing a radiate crown, letters IAF and G behind the bust

Rev/ No legend.

Fleece "tosone" left.

Corpus 625 (Tav. IX foto 18) - Bovi 67 - P.R. 31

Note: Pannuti e Riccio and Bovi lists letters Fc/G.

26. Monograms IAF/G behind - date 1611 (cf. Fig. 13)

Figure 13: Civitas Neapolis – Auction Varesi 42, 17th November 2003 lot 270

Obv/ • PHILIPP•III• DG•REX•

Bust with bearded adult head right wearing a radiate crown, letters IAF / G behind the bust below the date 1611 in inverted characters with respect to the main legend

Rev/ similar to number 25.

Corpus 80 - P.R. 32

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