

GOLD COINS
OF THE
TRICENTENNIAL
DISCOVERY



1715 FLEET

GUTTUSO

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Gold Coins of the Tricentennial Discovery

1715 Fleet



**1715 – 2015 – 2025
Ten Year Anniversary**

1.0 INTRODUCTION and STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

2025 marks the ten-year anniversary of the discovery of over 400 Spanish gold coins from the 1715 Treasure Fleet. They say, “gold shines forever” and this is made evident when you gaze over this hoard that, even after laying hidden in the salty sea for 300 years, shines like the day it was struck.

The goal of this publication is to provide a reference of this discovery in its entirety for future research, education and enjoyment. These coins now reside in private collections as well as the State Museum in Tallahassee. A collection of this size provides a wealth of information on the numismatics of the Spanish Colonial period.

This volume will analyze the collection as well as examine each coin in detail. It’s the next best thing to bringing the collection back together, which at this point would be extremely difficult if not impossible. Additionally, the missing gold coins of the Tricentennial Discovery will be discussed here in detail for the first time.

Special thanks to:

1715 Fleet – Queens Jewels, LLC, for the use of their records and for providing the environment for this amazing discovery to take place.

Archaeologist, Rob Westrick – Much of the research and work he did on the 2015 archaeology report has been included in this volume.

Brent Brisben – Always quick to respond to my questions and requests for images from 2015.

1715 Fleet Society for providing such a great educational resource on the subject which proved quite useful in the creation of this volume.

Dedicated to Captain Chris Tisack



To gain perspective, let's briefly dive into a bit of 1715 Fleet salvage gold coin recovery history.

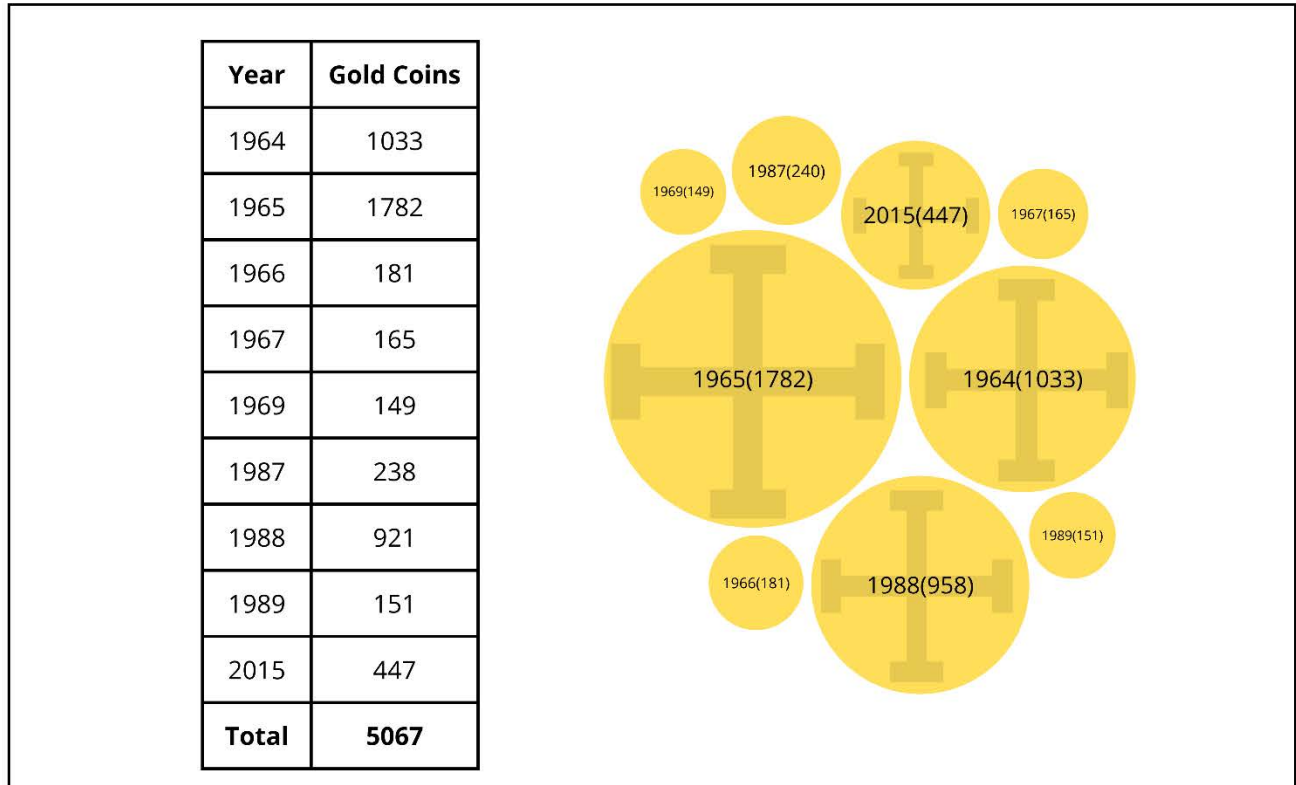


Table 1: Largest Gold Coin Discovery Seasons (Burgess and Clausen, 1982; 1715 Archeology Reports, 1964-2024)

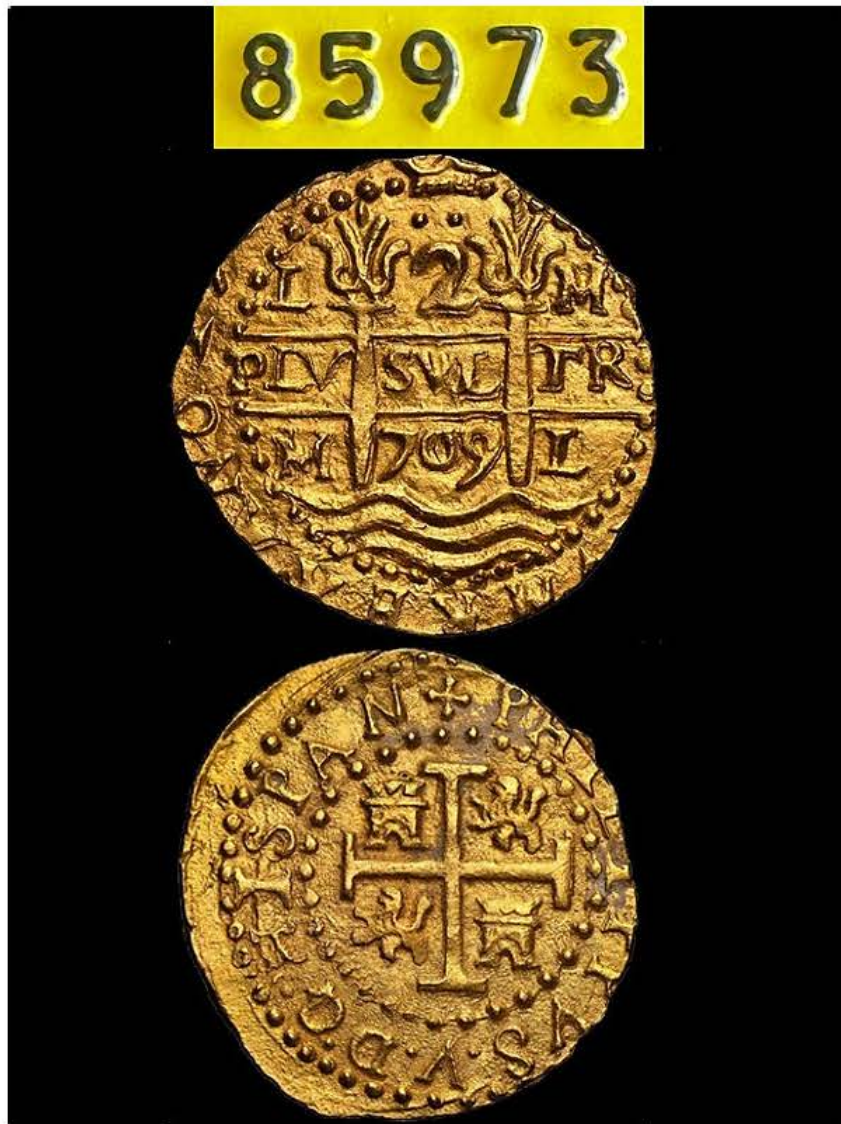
Table one only includes seasons where the gold coin count was above 100. There were quite a few seasons over the years that were close to reaching that point. That said, these nine years represent most of the gold coins recovered from the 1715 Fleet by modern day salvors. At over 5000 gold coins that is very impressive. This makes 2015 an even more exceptional year in terms of gold coin recovery. The Tricentennial season represents the fourth largest gold coin season to date!

Historically, most of the gold coins have been recovered from Douglass Beach. A lesser number from Corrigan's, Cabin, Rio Mar and the other sites. The 2015 discovery was mostly from Corrigan's (79%) with the remainder from Douglass (21%). This represents the largest gold coin discovery to date on Corrigan's.



Closer look at 85973:

PERU, Lima, gold cob 2 escudos, 1709 M, pillars side struck from 2 Reales Royal (galano) die, no other known examples, 6.69 grams.



5.0 CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICATION



The above certificate was used for the 354 gold coin discovery at Corrigan’s. This was given the name, “Tricentennial Hoard - 1715-2015”. Many of these coins went on to get professionally conserved, graded and encapsulated by the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation. Below are three examples.



6.0 PRESS PICTURES AND RELEASES



Dan, Jonah, Bill and Brent, 2015



1715 - 2015

