


Certificate of Authenticity

We guarantee that the coin illustrated is genuine and is as described:



Coin Type: SPANISH BUST
Denomination: HALF REAL
Ruler: CARLOS III
Mint: MEXICO CITY
Country: MEXICO
Source: EL CAZADOR

Date: 1783
Assayer: FF
Metal: SILVER
Framing: STERLING SILVER
 Hand Crafted USA
Certificate Number: 36738

El Cazador Shipwreck

CARLOS III
1759-1788

Obverse: Draped bust of Carlos III, date below, legend around circumference of coin.

Reverse: Crowned arms of the House of Bourbon sided by the Pillars of Hercules, assayer and legend around.

In 1784, the ill-fated ship, El Cazador, "The Hunter" was headed toward New Orleans from Vera Cruz, Mexico. The ship was laden with 450,000 pesos, which were intended to solidify Spain's holdings of approximately one million square miles of America's heartland, called the Louisiana Territory. The vessel and her crew disappeared without a trace, never arriving to help stabilize the economy.

Finally in 1800, with no money to pay his troops, King Charles IV of Spain transferred the Louisiana Territory over to Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte for some minor European considerations. In 1803, only three years later, Napoleon and President Thomas Jefferson struck a deal called the Louisiana Purchase. The fledgling United States purchased these one million square miles for fifteen million dollars, a mere 3 cents an acre. The new United States doubles in size, taking on the shape that defines it today, opening up for westward expansion, and establishing America as the land of opportunity.

The El Cazador and its treasure sat on the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico for 209 years before a fishing boat off the coast of Louisiana accidentally discovered it. It's hard to say what would have happened if El Cazador had made it to New Orleans but it could be argued that the loss this ship did contribute to the unifying of the United States of America.

The El Cazador, "the shipwreck that changed the world."

Numismatic Authenticator

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ARCA

