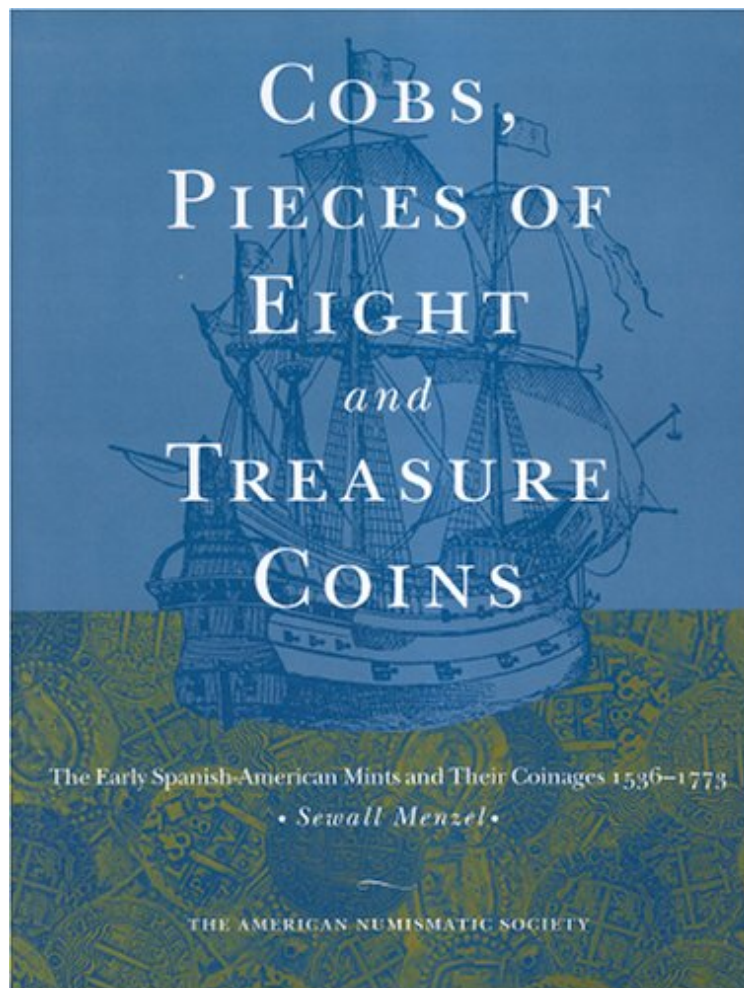


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Cobs, Pieces of Eight and Treasure Coins: The Early Spanish-American Mints and their Coinages 1536-1773

Sewall Menzel

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3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Cobs, Pieces of Eight and Treasure Coins has been invaluable to my own researchBy Carol L. TedescoHaving been in the profession of historic shipwreck research, search, and recovery since 1992, I am considered to be one of the foremost authorities on shipwreck recovered New World Spanish colonial cob-style coins. Two things an expert most appreciates are access to as much data as possible (ideally in an orderly format) in order to test theories and cross-reference for accuracy, and access to a source of broader knowledge and

experience to increase one's own education. All this Sewall Menzel provides in depth as well as breadth with 484 pages, which include over 4,400 photos and diagrams, as well as over 500 references from the Spanish archives in Spain, Panama and Peru, along with some 167 additional bibliographic sources. He denotes hundreds of types and subtypes of the coins encountered in the field for the ten early Spanish mints (Mexico, Santo Domingo, Lima, La Plata/Potosi, Panama, Santa Fe de Bogota, Cartagena, Cuzco, Guatemala and Cuba), which enables the collector to virtually match each and every one of their own cob coins to an identified style by mint, type, date, and assayer's initial(s). As such, its utility to dealers, collectors, auction houses, museums, treasure hunters, professional historic shipwreck salvors, historians, and nautical archaeologists the world over is of supreme value. Cobs, Pieces of Eight and Treasure Coins covers the field in its entirety in both text and photos and diagrams as a fully professional work should do. This is a well-researched and scholarly effort and very likely to remain the most comprehensive one-volume work in its field for many years to come. It is, indeed, a veritable "Bible" in this fascinating field.

Carol Tedesco
President, Historic Research and Certification, Inc.

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This is a fine book, presenting information that is otherwise available only in scattered numismatic publications. Menzel clearly knows his stuff and his treatment of each of the mints is excellent.

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By Howard Feltham
Great on-line book description, and book condition meet my expectations, price was right, delivery was perfect, love this book for its information.

In the 1520s the Spanish crown began to realise through expanded explorations of the likes of Hernando Cortez and Francisco Pizarro that it was in charge of an enormous empire requiring extensive settlement and systems of control. Royal mints were founded to control, evaluate and tax gold and silver coming from the mines, as well as to produce the coins needed for everyday commercial transactions. For some 250 years the mints churned out millions of cob-style coins, many of which found their way into the treasure galleons of the day. Soon mints such as Mexico and Potosi became known as the financial 'pillars of empire' and enabled Spain to engage in seemingly endless wars of conquest and plunder. Geography, crown intransigence, bureaucratic incompetence, royal intrigues and outright scandal all had an impact on the mints and their productions. In this comprehensive and fully referenced study, Sewall Menzel brings out the critical detail and information needed to understand the ten early Spanish mints of Mexico, Santo Domingo, Peru, Potosi, Panama, Santa Fe de Nuevo Reino (Bogota), Cartagena, Cuzco, Guatemala and Cuba and their respective coinages. Through the use of some two thousand photos and diagrams the coins are identified by mint, king, denomination, mint assayer and type.

About the Author by Sewall Menzel