

PORTUGUESE OCCUPATION (1511 - 1641)  
UNLISTED TIN COINS FOUND IN MALACCA

E. E. Sim

In the process of collecting samples of tin coins for the purpose of illustrating Cap. One, Pt. Two of the *Encyclopaedia* <sup>(1)</sup>, State of Malacca, Portuguese Occupation, it became evident that certain samples had not appeared before in any Portuguese numismatic museum catalogue, in any public auction list dealing with Luso-Malacca tin issues, not even in the tin currency section of the Important Collection of Grogan <sup>(2)</sup>. At that time they numbered a mere twenty samples. Being unknown or, to put it at the highest, doubtful coins or tokens, these samples were not listed in the *Encyclopaedia* when it was published in 1986. Also, this was done advisedly in order to avoid confusion among Malaysian collectors of Portuguese-Malacca tin. Only those calaim (tin) issues of the Mint set up in Malacca that had appeared at least once in the past in any numismatic publication found places for themselves, for example, in the *Encyclopaedia*:

«PMN Inventory No.»	refers to	Portuguese Numismatic Museum
		Collection No. <sup>(3)</sup> of Lisbon
«Grogan Coll. No.»	» »	Grogan's Collection No. <sup>(2)</sup>
«British Museum Coll.»	» »	British Museum Collection No.
«Fronteira No.»	» »	Joachim Fronteira Catalogue No. <sup>(4)</sup>
«Vaz No.»	» »	Dinheiro Luso-Indiano No. <sup>(5)</sup>

---

<sup>(1)</sup> *The Encyclopaedia of the Coins of Malaysia, 1400 to 1986*, Sinagapore & Brunei.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Catalogue de la Collection Importante H. T. Grogan & Londres*, J. Schulman, Amsterdam, 1914.

<sup>(3)</sup> *Catálogo das Moedas Indo-Portuguesas do Museu Numismático*, Tomo I, (1511-1657), Lisbon.

<sup>(4)</sup> *Metais Pobres Amoedados na Índia Portuguesa*, Porto, 1972.

<sup>(5)</sup> J. Ferraro Vaz & M. Correia de Sousa, *Dinheiro Luso-Indiano (Indo-Portuguese Money)*, 1980.

As a result, sixty three official tin currency coins, the great majority of them cast at the Malacca Mint, are now illustrated in the Encyclopaedia.

After a lapse of three years it is felt that the time is now right and proper to devote our attention to the so-called 'unknown or doubtful coins or tokens' mentioned above. About forty have now been found in Malacca, all cast more or less in the dimensions and weights of the bastardo, soldo, dinheiro and bazaruco, see Illustrations below.

Many questions still remain unanswered about these coins. They merit further research. They were allegedly also cast in Malacca. Numismatists in Lisbon know precious little about them. A. Gomes in *Moedas Portuguesas* (1128-1988) <sup>(6)</sup> has presented a few of them as issues of Malacca, Índia-Portuguesa, but with the observation «*exemplar duvidoso*» i.e. doubtful samples. They are:

Gomes Se 26.01,	<i>Exemplar duvidoso</i> ,	Sim ASe.5
» Se 30.03,	»	» , Sim ASe.4
» F2 12.01,	»	» , Sim AF2.5
» F2 13.01,	»	» , Sim AF2.6

In the Illustrations below an attempt has been made to list these forty coins under respective Portuguese monarchs.

It must be mentioned that most of the coins illustrated herein surfaced as a result of development carried out inland in 1971 followed by reclamation work at the sea front at the Town & Fort of Malacca in the 1980s, in the same way as the dredger brought up samples during excavations near the mouth of the Malacca river in 1900 and 1905 <sup>(7)</sup> which were «embedded in a kind of blue clay». The last word has not been said of these coins.

The Malaysia Numismatic Society invites other views from collectors <sup>(\*)</sup>.

---

<sup>(6)</sup> Alberto Gomes, *Moedas Portuguesas (1128-1988). Catálogo das Moedas Cunhadas para o Continente e Ilhas Adjacentes e para os Territórios do Ultramar*, Lisbon, 1988.

<sup>(7)</sup> R. Hanitsch, «On a Collection of Coins from Malacca», *Journal Straits Branch*, Royal Asiatic Society, N.º 39, 1903.

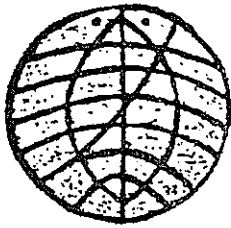
R. Hanitsch, «On a Second Collection of Coins from Malacca», *Journal Straits Branch*, Royal Asiatic Society, N.º 44, 1905.

<sup>(\*)</sup> Some heavier *bastardos* also found in Malacca, not dissimilar to the First and Second Issues of Albuquerque's Coinage, will be the subject of another Research Article.

PORTUGUESE OCCUPATION (1511-1641)  
UNLISTED TIN COINS FOUND IN MALACCA

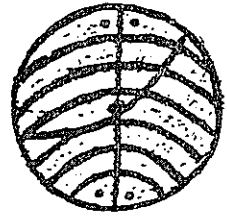
AN ATTEMPT TO LIST THEM UNDER PORTUGUESE MONARCHS

KING MANUEL THE FIRST



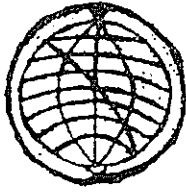
Obv. I: E WANVEL RP ET  
AD GVINE & Cross  
Rev. Armillary sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*

*Sim AM.1*



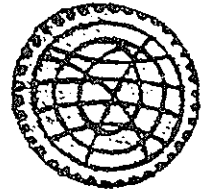
Obv. I: E WANVEL RP ET  
AD GVINE & Anchor  
Rev. Armillary sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*

*Sim AM.2*



Obv. Shield &  
NOSTRE SPES VNICA  
Rev. Armillary sphere  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AM.3*



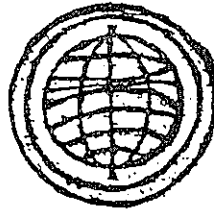
Obv. Anchor &  
NOSTRE SPES VNICA  
Rev. Armillary sphere  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AM.4*



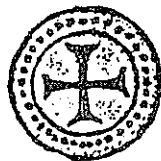
Obv. Shield, uncrowned.  
Rev. NOSTRE SPES VNICA &  
Cross  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AM.5*



Obv. Armillary sphere  
Rev. Cross of the Order of  
Knights of Christ  
Denomination: *Bastardo*

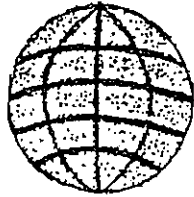
*Sim AM.6*



Obv. Crowned shield  
Rev. Cross of the Order  
of the Knights  
of Christ  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AM.7*

KING JOHN THE THIRD



Obv. IOHANNES REX &  
Cross of Calvary  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*

*Sim AJ3.1*



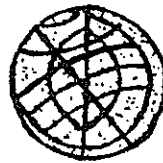
Obv. IOHANNES REX &  
Ship-carrack  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*

*Sim AJ3.2*



Obv. IOHANNES REX &  
two arrows  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*

*Sim AJ3.3*



Obv. Armillary Sphere  
Rev. St. Catherine's Wheel  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AJ3.4*



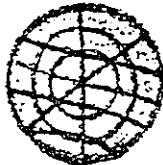
Obv. Cross of Calvary  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
& Zodiac  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AJ3.5*



Obv. Cross of Calvary  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
& Zodiac  
Denomination: *Dinheiro*

*Sim AJ3.6*



Obv. Crude shield with  
ornaments,  
legend undecipherable  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim AJ3.7*



Obv. Crude shield with  
ornaments, alternate  
stars and dots  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Dinheiro*

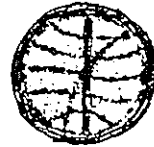
*Sim AJ3.8*

KING JOHN THE THIRD (continued)



*Sim AJ3.9*

Obv. Nau (ship)  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*



*Sim AJ3.10*

Obv. Nau (ship)  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AJ3.11*

Obv. Shield & ornaments  
Rev. Nau (ship)  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AJ3.12*

Obv. Shield, uncrowned  
Rev. Crossed arrows between two dots.  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AJ3.13*

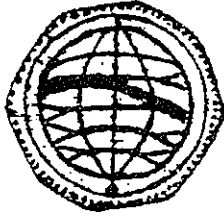
Obv. Armillary Sphere  
Rev. Carrack (ship)  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AJ3.14*

Obv. Shield  
Rev. St. Catherine's Wheel  
Denomination: *Bazaruco*

KING SEBASTIAN THE FIRST



*Sim ASe.1*

Obv. Shield  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Bastardo*



*Sim ASe.2*

Obv. Uncrowned shield between letters BA  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Soldo*

KING SEBASTIAN THE FIRST (continued)



Obv. Crowned shield  
between letters BA  
Rev. Armillary Sphere  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim ASe.3*



Obv. Three crossed arrows  
between letters BA  
Rev. Armillary Sphere &  
Zodiac  
Denomination: *Soldo*  
Gomes: Se 30.03 — *Exemplar  
duvidoso*

*Sim ASe.4*



Obv. Shield (on concave  
surface)  
Rev. Anchor between stars  
Denomination: *Soldo*  
Gomes: Se 26.01 — *Exemplar  
duvidoso*

*Sim ASe.5*



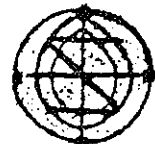
Obv. Shield  
Rev. Anchor between dots  
(on concave surface)  
Denomination: *Dinheiro*

*Sim ASe. 6*



Obv. Shield  
Rev. Anchor between dots  
Denomination: *Bazaruco*

*Sim ASe.7*



Obv. Crowned shield  
Rev. Armillary Sphere & Zodiac  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim ASe.8*



Obv. Crowned shield  
(on concave surface)  
Rev. Armillary sphere & Zodiac  
Denomination: *Soldo*

*Sim ASe.9*

KING PHILIP THE SECOND (OF PORTUGAL)



*Sim AF2.1*

Obv. Crowned shield  
Rev. Monogram — PHILIPVS  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AF2.2*

Obv. Shield with decorations  
Rev. Cross of the Holy Sepulchre  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AF2.3*

Obv. Uncrowned shield  
between letters GA  
Rev. Cross potentada  
Denomination: *Soldo*



*Sim AF2.4*

Obv. Shield between letters OV  
Rev. Cross potentada  
Denomination: *Dinheiro*



*Sim AF2.5*

Obv. Shield  
Rev. Cross potentada  
Denomination: *Bazaruco*  
Gomes: F2 12.01 — *Exemplar duvidoso*



*Sim AF2.6*

Obv. Shield  
Rev. Cross  
Denomination: *Meio Bazaruco*  
Gomes: F2 13.01 — *Exemplar duvidoso*



*Sim AF2.7*

Obv. Armillary sphere  
surrounded by stars  
Rev. Cross (on concave surface)  
Denomination: *Bazaruco*



*Sim AF2.8*

Obv. Crowned shield  
Rev. Cross (on concave surface)  
Denomination: *Bazaruco*

OBSERVATIONS ON ILLUSTRATIONS.  
ATTEMPTED LISTINGS UNDER PORTUGUESE MONARCHS

A. *Coins listed under King Manuel the First (1511-1521)*

Two bearing the Royal Style and Titles of the King; three having the legend NOSTRE SPES VNICA (Our only hope), this legend occurs on coins of King Manuel; — two with Cross of the Order of Knights of Christ — an Order created by King Manuel.

B. *Coins listed under King John the Third (1521-1557)*

Three having the royal title John the Third, King of Portugal; two bearing the Cross of Calvary and Zodiac sign; two bearing the crude shield with «pieces of silver» usually associated with King John the Third coins; four carrying picture of a ship (nau); two bearing the crude shield and St. Catherine's Wheel — (St. Catherine was the patron saint of Goa, India); and one with crossed arrows and knot.

C. *Coins listed under King Sebastian (1557-1578)*

One with shield of seven castles, typical of coins of King Sebastian; three bearing letters BA for Sebastian (Sec Gomes Se 30.03); three depicting anchor (or combination of cross & anchor) (See Gomes Se 26.01); and two with zodiac sign.

D. *Coins listed under King Philip the Second (1598-1621)*

One with monogram of name of the King in Latin — PHILIPVS; four bearing the cross — Holy Sepulchre or Potentada; and three bearing the cross seme.

*Acknowledgment:* Rubbings of most of coins or tokens courtesy of Mr. Tony Lye Fong Nge.