

ANS Correspondence

Espaillat de la Mota, Francisco
[St Thomas, Danish West Indies,

+ Barranquilla, Colombia]

1910-1912

(3) Saint Thomas, Antillas Danesas, 29 Agosto 1910.

The American Numismatic Society,
Nueva York.

Muy Srs míos:

Tiene por objeto la presente poner en conocimiento de Vds, poseo una monedita de plata de un gran valor numismático, no por su antigüedad, sino por su rareza. Me consta que dicha monedita es ejemplar único en el mundo conocido hasta la fecha i que por consiguiente debe tener gran valor entre los coleccionistas o museos públicos que desearan completar su colección.

Yo he recibido infinidad de ofertas, pero ninguna me ha dejado satisfecho, pues no estoy dispuesto a venderla en menos de \$ 10,000-oro am^o.

Y no solo tiene el mérito de ser ejemplar único, sino el de llevar una fecha que no está de acuerdo con la historia, lo cual le da un aspecto marcadamente misterioso.

Esta monedita fue encontrada en las ruinas de La Vega Real,

República Dominicana. De un lado
tiene el escudo de las barras de Aragón
i dice: Dei Gt Philippus II.
a i

i del otro lado tiene un círculo con una
cruz, cuatro calizas i las inscripciones
siguientes: Aragonum Rex + 1101.

La fecha está bastante
clara, pero el cero puede haber sido primi-
tivamente un 6 o un 9, i además, leyéndola
ya precedida de la cruz o ya con esta
al final, resulta la duda entre las
fechas siguientes: 1101, 1191, 1011, 1611.

¿Cuál debe ser la verdadera
fecha de esta moneda?

No debe ser 1011, 1109 ni 1191,
pues aunque en esas épocas existía, como
Estado independiente, el reino de Aragón,
no vivía ningún rey llamado Felipe II.
Tampoco debe ser 1611, pues a la inversa,
en esta época, habría existido Felipe II,
pero el reino de Aragón habría desa-
parecido, pasando a ser provincia
de España. Si a pesar de todo

admitimos como verdadera esta última fecha, debió entonces ser emitida dicha moneda durante el reinado de Felipe II, pues su antecesor murió en 1598; i según tengo entendido, las monedas llevan siempre la inscripcíon del monarca reinante i no la del antecesor. La monedita, de acuerdo con la historia, debería decir, Felipe III, Rey de España 1611; i no Felipe II, Rey de Aragón 1611.

Un español ilustrado residente en esta localidad i al cual mostré la monedita, opina que la verdadera fecha es 1011; pues la historia del reino de Aragón es muy melancólica sin saberse á ciencia cierta como se formó dicho reino, no dudando existiera en Aragón dos reyes llamados Felipe I i Felipe II antecesores de Ramiro I reinante en 1035.

En fin, Vds. se darán cuenta exacta de la importancia de esta monedita, cuando examinen las grandes colecciones de monedas i noten la falta de una igual á la precedida por mí.

Si esa honorable sociedad desea hacer un estudio detenido de tan importante cuestion histórica, sírvase avisarme para hacer sacar

Copia fotográfica de la monedita
i enviársela por próximos correo.

En la espera de su
contestación soy de Vd. atto S. S.
Fco. Esparillat de la Hota

COPY

St. Thomas,
Danish West Indies.

The American Numismatic Society,
New York.

August 29, 1910

Dear Sirs:

The present letter has for its object to bring to your knowledge the fact that I possess a little silver coin of great numismatic value, not from its antiquity, but from its rarity. It is clear to me that the said little coin is the only copy known in the world today, and that in consequence it ought to have a great value among collectors or public museums that would desire to complete a collection.

I have received an infinity of offers, but no one has satisfied me, since I am not disposed to sell it for less than \$10,000, American gold.

And it has not only the merit of being the only copy (ejemplar unico), but that of bearing a date which is not in accord with history: a fact which gives it an aspect markedly mysterious.

This little coin was found in the ruins of La Vega Real, Dominican Republic. On one side it has the shield and the bars of Aragon, and says:-

DEI GT PHILIPPUS II

and, on the other hand, it has a circle with a cross, four heads, and the following inscriptions:-

ARAGONUM REX II0I

The date is sufficiently clear, but the zero may have been originally a 6 or a 9, and besides reading it (the date) either preceded by the cross, or with this at the end, a doubt arises among the following dates:- 1101, 1191, 1011, 1611.

What must be the true date of this coin? It ought not to be 1011, 1101, or 1191, since, although the kingdom of Aragon existed at those dates as an independent state, no king named Philip II was living. Neither should it be 1611, since, on the other hand, at that date Philip II had existed, but the kingdom of Aragon had disappeared, becoming the province of Spain.

If, in spite of all, we admit as true this last date, the said coin must then have been issued during the reign of Philip III, since his predecessor died in 1598, and, as I have understood, coins bear always the inscriptions of the reigning monarch, and not that of his predecessor? The little coin, in agreement with history, ought to say Philip III, King of Spain, 1611, and not Philip II, King of Aragon, 1611.

An intelligent Spaniard, residing in this locality, and to whom I showed the little coin, thinks that the true date is 1011, since the history of the Kingdom of Aragon is very nebulous, without its being known with sure knowledge how the said realm was formed, (he) not doubting that there existed in Aragon two kings called

Philip I and Philip II, predecessors of Ramero I reigning in 1035.

Finally, you will take exact account of the importance of this little coin when you examine the great collections of coins, and note the want of one like that possessed by myself.

If your honourable Society desires to make a detailed study of so important and historic a question, please inform me, that I may have prepared a photographic copy of the little coin, and send it to you by the next post.

In the hope of an answer from you, I am,

Yours very truly,

D. Francisco Espaillat de la Mota

September 28, 1910

My Dear Sir:

I have read with interest your letter of August 29 regarding the little Spanish coin.

The members of this Society who have given most attention to Spanish history and numismatics are now absent, and when they shall be here I can give no guarantee that a willingness to pay \$10,000 will give a numismatic test of the degree of their interest; but if you should choose to send a photograph of the coin I shall with pleasure show it, and return it to you if you wish.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Senor D. Francisco Espaillet de la Mota,
St. Thomas,
Danish West Indies.

October 31, 1910.

Senor D. Francisco Espallat de la Mota,

St. Thomas,

Danish West Indies.

My dear Sir:

I have received your letter of October 13th with the rubbings of the little coin.

The members of this Society who are most interested in Spanish numismatics have not yet returned, but I expect that they will be here in the course of the next month or two, and I will take great pleasure in submitting your letters and the rubbings to them at the earliest possible moment, and will advise you of their opinion regarding the coin.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Saint Thomas, 13 Octubre 1910.

Señor Don Bauman L. Belden,
Director,
The American Numismatic Society,
Nueva York.

Muy Señor mío:

Tengo el gusto de acusar recibo
de su muy grata fechada a 28 Setiembre.

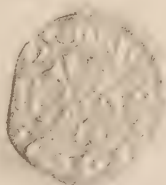
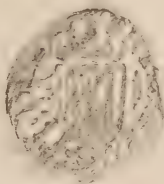
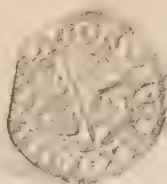
Bajo este mismo sobre le remito
una rústica copia del anverso i reverso de la
monedita española referida en mi anterior
del 29 Agosto; pues en esta ciudad no he
encontrado una persona capaz de dibujarla
exactamente.

Como esta cuestión será
sin duda objeto de un debate en el seno
de la Sociedad que Vd. dignamente dirige,
le suplico transmitirme las opiniones de

sus miembros sobre el particular, así como
la resolución de la sociedad de adquirir
ó no de mis manos i por el precio indicado,
la referida moneda.

Anticipándole las gracias i
en la espera de su grata contestación, soy
de Vd. atto S. S.

Fco. Esquivilat de la Hota



Aragonum Rex
† 1101.

Dei Gt Philipus II.
S L

ST. THOMAS

October 13, 1910

Mr. Bauman L. Belden,
Director,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York.

My dear Sir:

I have the pleasure of acknowledging your favour of September 28th. I send you herewith a simple copy of the obverse and reverse of the little Spanish coin referred to in my letter of August 29th, since in this city I have not found a person capable of sketching it properly.

As this question will be, without doubt, the object of a discussion in the bosom of the Society that you worthily direct, I beg you to transmit to me the opinions of its members regarding the matter, as well as the resolution of the Society to acquire or not from my hands for the price indicated the said little coin.

Thanking you in advance, and in the hope of your favourable answer,

I am

Your obedient servant,

FCO. ESPAILLAT DE LA MOTA

Barranquilla, Colombia, 12 de Enero de 1912.

The American Numismatic Society,
Nueva York.

Muy Señores míos:

Suplico a Vds. se sirvan darme
una contestación definitiva a mi carta de fecha
29 de Agosto de 1910, dirigida desde Saint Thomas.

Hace algún tiempo, me
hallo domiciliado en esta Ciudad de Barran-
quilla, adonde pueden Vds. dirigirme su
contestación.

Anticipando las gracias,
Soy de Vds. atto. S. S.
Fco. Esparillat de la Mota

Baranguilla, Colombia,
January 12th, 1912.

The American Numismatic Society,
New York.

My dear Sirs:-

I beg you to be so good as to give me a definite answer to my letter of the 29th of August, 1910, directed from Saint Thomas. Since some time I find myself residing in this city of Baranguilla, to which you can direct your answer. Thanking you in advance, I am,

Very truly yours,

Francisco Espaillat de la Mota.

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✓ 29, 1, 1910,

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17. 1. 1891

8 - 6 p. Baranguilla, } - V.

(9 x 10)

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Francisco Escaillat de la Mota