

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Larry Lovell
Director of Public Relations
504-210-1218 direct
504-289-7713 mobile
lovelll@peteramayer.com

1715 Spanish shipwreck treasure coming to market

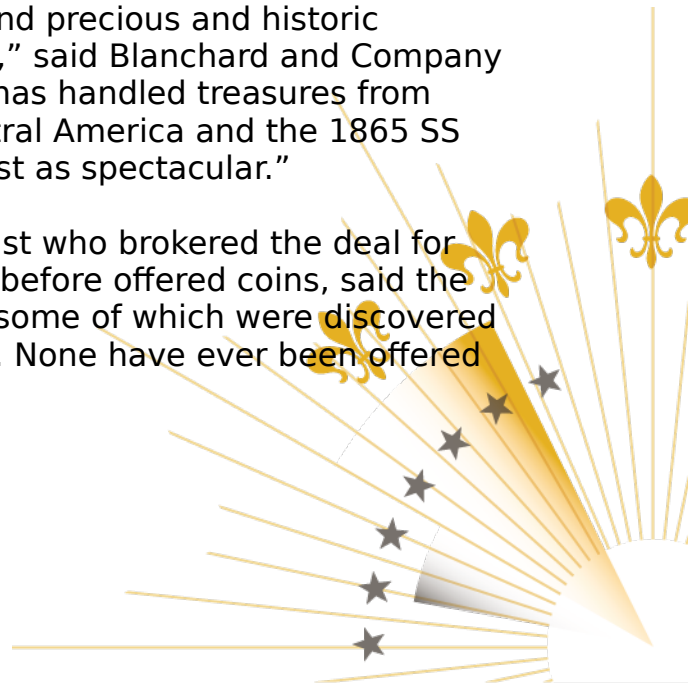
Blanchard and Company offering gold coins from 300-year-old shipwreck discovered off the Florida coast in 2015

NEW ORLEANS (November 2, 2016) – For the first time since their discovery in 2015, gold treasure coins lost in a 1715 Spanish shipwreck and discovered in waters off the Florida coast will come to market offered by Blanchard and Company, the industry’s leading rare coins and precious metals investment firm.

Hailing from the legendary Spanish 1715 Plate Fleet, the find by 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, LLC, includes coins struck in Columbia, Mexico and Peru and are dated between 1692 and 1715 during the reigns of Spanish Kings Charles II and Philip V. They range in denomination from one escudo to eight escudos and were discovered on July 31, 2015 – exactly 300 years to the day after 11 of the fleet’s 12 ships sank in an Atlantic Ocean hurricane. The treasure was found in only six feet of water just one hundred feet off the coast of Vero Beach, Florida.

“Treasure finds of this magnitude are rare indeed, and we are very excited to offer the public the opportunity to own firsthand precious and historic artifacts such as these magnificent gold coins,” said Blanchard and Company President and CEO David Beahm. “Blanchard has handled treasures from other major shipwrecks, like the 1857 SS Central America and the 1865 SS Republic, and the gems in this new find are just as spectacular.”

John Albanese, a New Jersey-based numismatist who brokered the deal for Blanchard and Company to acquire the never-before offered coins, said the collection is highlighted by almost 300 coins, some of which were discovered in two previous expeditions in 2010 and 2013. None have ever been offered for sale before.



“The combined estimated market value of the 295 treasure coins is more than \$1 million,” said Albanese. “These historic treasure fleet gold pieces have been examined and authenticated by Numismatic Guaranty Service (NGC), a leading grading service, and all but five are preserved in mint state condition.”

Standout issues include a 1712 Peru 8 escudos of Philip V, graded NGC MS 64; a 1711 Peru LM 2 escudos of Philip V Peru, graded NGC MS 66; and a 1699 Colombia 2 escudos of Charles II, graded NGC MS 64, that was discovered by 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels inside a recovered bronze cannon, Albanese said.

In addition to the NGC encapsulation, each coin will be accompanied by a certificate of authenticity, along with the original, numbered archeological tag that was used by the expedition crew to denote each item as it was discovered and recovered. The unique tag number is indicated on the certificate of authenticity for each coin.

The fabled 1715 Fleet convoy of 12 ships loaded with New World treasure set sail from Havana, Cuba to Spain on July 24, 1715. In the early morning hours of July 31 a fierce hurricane sank all the ships except one off the eastern coast of Florida. More than a thousand people were killed in the storm and resulting shipwrecks.

Blanchard and Company, Inc. is the largest and most respected retailer of precious metals and American rare coins in the United States, serving more than 425,000 people with expert consultation and assistance in the acquisition of numismatic rarities and gold, silver and platinum bullion. Since 2005, Blanchard has had sales of \$2.5 billion. Blanchard and its predecessor companies have called the New Orleans area home for more than 35 years. For more information about the company, visit BlanchardGold.com or call the company toll free at 1-800-880-4653. Follow Blanchard on Twitter at [@BlanchardGold](https://twitter.com/BlanchardGold).

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