



OCEAN COUNTY COIN CLUB, INC.

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Wouldn't it be interesting to search out what coins were used during the days when pirates roamed the seas? This would have been during the early 1600's through the early 1800's and this information is available by looking in the World Coin catalogs for the countries of Martinique, Mexico and Peru among others. This JNN gives you some information concerning "Pirates, treasure and medals."

Most of you school children have read about the Spanish Conquistadors. The exploits of Cortez in Mexico and Pizarro in Peru. Many lesser Conquistadors, roamed North America from Florida to California and from Panama to St. Louis. A conquistador is a leader in the Spanish conquest of American and especially of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century.

With all this exploration, Spain controlled many rich mines in the New World. Gemstones and precious metals were being shipped by the boatload from the early 1600's through the early 1800's. SPAIN rapidly became a very wealthy nation. So wealthy that there was little need for it to produce much itself. Spain began to purchase it's nations needs, right down to the ships the Spanish heros sailed, from the poorer European countries to the north.

Soon England, Holland and France came to the conclusion that it was not necessary to own mines and dig previous wealth from the ground, when it could be easier, captured at sea in transit. These countries began to engage in Government sponsored "privateers. Along with these, a wide variety of private entrepreneurs began their looting of the Spanish Main. After all, with no communication, who would know if a single ship failing to arrive at its destination, was captured by pirates, or lost to the caribbean storms?

Pirates such as JOHN HAWKINS and FRANCIS DRAKE became so successful that the Spanish began to gather treasure ships into large armed armadas (warships). This stopped many of the individual pirates, but provided an ultimate challenge for the Government sponsored ones with greater resources.

For more than 100 years, the game of chasing Spanish galleons would continue with the encounters becoming small naval wars. In 1628, a Dutch Armada, commanded by PETER HEYN, attacked a Spanish treasure armada in the Bay of Matanzas on the NORTHERN COAST OF CUBA. Holland issued a series of 7 superbly executed MEDALS TO MEMORIALIZE THE SUCCESS. A whole Caribbean series of medals were issued over the years commemorating the various treasure battles. Others with more than one medal per event issued are: 1687 at Santo Domingo; 1702 at Vigo Bay and 1745 at Lima, Peru - all issued by England.

The following pirate battles with commemorative issues in which ENGLAND was the victor are: 1687 at Jamaica; 1739 at Cartagena; 1759 at Guadeloup; 1762 at St. Lucia, Granada and Havana; 1773 at St Vincent and 1781 at St. Eustatia.

The FRENCH were the victors in 1666 at St. Christopher; in 1674 at Martinique; 1676 at Cayenne; 1677 at Tobago and 1697 at Cartagena.

FOUNDED IN 1970 AT LAKEHURST, NJ

National Coin Week Show/Exhibit in April --- Annual Show/Exhibit in September

There medals are readily available with only a few being scare and none are considered rare. Many are priced in the range of \$50. to \$100. All are under \$1,000. with the exception of the first Dutch ones for MATANZAS, which may go \$1,500. and up.

(SOURCE: "The American Numismatic Association Anthology" Edited by Carl W. A. Carlson & Michael J. Hodder - copyright, 1997 A.N.A. and Karen Pritchett - Dec 1997 - added: O.C.C.C. Inc. 1998)

FOLLOWING IS YOUR QUIZ FOR FREE COINS - Match the answer in Column "B" to the Column "A" - -

<u>ANSWER</u>	<u>COLUMN A</u>	<u>COLUMN B</u>
_____ (1)	Cortez	(A) Sponsored Privateers
_____ (2)	Pizarro	(B) Peter Heyn
_____ (3)	Spain	(C) North Coast of Cuba
_____ (4)	England, Holland, France	(D) Most "Pirate" medals cost
_____ (5)	Dutch Armada	(E) Peter Heyn
_____ (6)	Francis Drake & John Hawkins	(F) Mexico
_____ (7)	Martanzas	(G) Became very wealthy
_____ (8)	Caribbean series of medals	(H) Dutch medal
_____ (9)	\$50.00 to \$100.00	(I) Very successful pirates
_____ (10)	\$1,500.00 or more	(J) Peru

FOR A BONUS COIN: List the places where the French won: _____

 (date) (name - please print) (age)