

A VARIANT AND AN ERROR IN THE QUATTRINI OF CARLO II

Tiziano Francesco Caronni

Two "quattrini" of the Milan mint under Charles II, one with a legend variant and the other with a noticeable error of coinage.

In this study we focus our attention on two specimens of quattrino struck in the mint of Milan under the duchy of Charles II, King of Spain in the second period of his regency from 1675 to 1700. The first specimen shows an unpublished variant of legend and the second one an important strike-error. Both specimens are of the type cataloged by Crippa at 14 / B and by CNI vol. V at numbers 135-140.

D/CAROLVS•II•REX•H | Bust facing right.

R/MLNI | DVX | Within laurel wreath.

Now we see in detail the variant of the first sample (Pic. 1), where the legend of the obverse ends with the letter M instead of the H of HISPANIARVM.



Pic. 1

Carlo II (1675- 1700), Milan, quattrino
Crippa 14/B var., 1,66 g., Private Coll.
(Double sized picture)

D/CAROLVS•II•REX M | Bust facing right.
R/MLNI | DVX | Within laurel wreath.

II. The specimen, perhaps due to poor preservation, is described as a possible counterfeit also by considering the incorrect reverse legend (not completely legible).

Other considerations regarding the variant here presented:

- In the legends of all the other nominals struck under Charles II it was not found the use of the letter M instead of H.

- The letter M in the legend of the obverse has the same shape of the one used in the legend of the reverse.

In all the quattrini examined (where the coin is not clipped and the reliefs are clear) between REX and H there is always a dot, not present in this specimen. In my opinion, the quattrino described, given the good preservation that let us to make a comparison with the other specimens and the correct weight, is not a contemporary forgery but rather an error of the employee of the mint responsible for preparing the dies.

Nowadays it is not common to come across a quattrino with this variant probably due to the bad coinage of coins in the final period of Spanish domination and the particularity of the square-shaped flan.



Pic. 2

Carlo II (1675- 1700), Milano, quattrino
Crippa 14/B var., 1,62 g., Private Coll.
(Double sized picture)

D/CAROLVS•II•[R]EX•H | Bust facing right.
R/ Obverse minted incuse.

Belonging to this variant there is a specimen, poorly preserved, in the Civic Numismatic Collections of Milan and described in volume¹ dedicated to the coinage of Philip IV and Charles

The second specimen (Pic. 2) of quattrino presents on the reverse the incuse of the obverse. The error was caused by the oversight of the striker of the mint at the time of striking, where the coin previously struck remained on the anvil

¹ MARTINI 1997, pag. 78 n. 148. Image in Tab. XLIII.

die; so, when the new flan was placed in for been struck it received on the reverse the incuse of the obverse of the coin below.

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