

# AN UNPUBLISHED 5 SOLDI OF MARIA THERESA OF HABSBURG

by Giancarlo Mascher e Tiziano Francesco Caronni

Maria Teresa of Habsburg became Duchess of Milan in 1740, succeeding to her father Charles VI who died on October 20 of the same year. In the Duchy of Milan the wars of succession, first the Spanish one and then the Austrian one, had left many problems and one of these, very serious, was a massive monetary disorder, to which Maria Theresa remedied with the monetary reform of 1778.

The coin object of this study, struck before the aforementioned reform, is part of the so-called "old coinage"; this is a 5 soldi, at the time also called doppia parpagliola, struck in Milan between 1749 and 1763.

This nominal had a copious emission, with the consequence that - to satisfy the requests - many dies were engraved, leading to many variants, in particular in the representation of the bust of Maria Theresa on the obverse.



Img. 1

Maria Theresa of Habsburg (1740-1780) 5 Soldi 1758  
Crippa 11/F var., mm. 20,7, g. 3,11, Private Collection.  
(Double size image)

D/ M·TH·D·G·I·R·H·ET·B bust to r.,  
below • cross with a dot inside •

R/ MLNI | DUX | [17]58 between adornments, in the  
exergue S.V  
Reeded edge.

After checking out the main books, collections and auction catalogs, this 5 soldi specimen dated 1758 (Img. 1) is described as an unpublished

variant; unlike all the other known specimens, it has a cross in the middle of two dots under the bust (Img. 2).



Img. 2  
Detail of the small cross between two dots.

This specimen can be assimilated to the 5 soldi catalogued as Crippa<sup>1</sup> 11 / F also dated 1758 by similarity in the details of the bust, the letters T and H together, and on the reverse for the same form of the number 5.

The only other 5 soldi that presents a symbol under the bust, in this case a glob, was also struck with date 1758 and is catalogued, again from Crippa, 11 / I.

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<sup>1</sup> CRIPPA 1997.