

Reproduction of the helmet of Charles V, able Commander and mightiest monarch of the sixteenth century. Fashioned by an unknown craftsman, it has been passed on to posterity as a brilliant example of the art of its day. In it, as in all enduring works, the perfection of detail stands forth as its outstanding attribute.

1516-1556 Charles V



Eminence in the realm of manufacturing, as in art, is builded upon the skillful execution of detail. It is this skill which exalts a work above the level of the commonplace— which has lifted great artists to fame and immortality. It has contributed, probably more than any other factor, to the brilliance of the New Commander Eight.

Spanish art, craftsmanship and culture reached high standards



1721

This Spanish "duro" of the year 1791, picked up near the shores of El Quisñador, is reminiscent of the early visits of the old-world Conquistadores. It was this coin that was cut into eight equal portions like a pie for small change. Thus came into existence the "pieces of eight", so familiar to every lover of pirate stories. The pieces were also called "bits"—whence the expression of "two-bits" for twenty-five cents, or the quarter of a dollar.

Spanish art, craftsmanship and culture reached high standards
shown in the
1500-1800
how two bits original
This coin from an earlier
the custom device (conquistador)
the Pillars of Hercules
the Crown
an earlier coin, 1500, on the
of the Pillars of Hercules