

Then without hesitation her fingers reached into the small dark space and clenched a little round object. Her finger tips patiently scoured the surface of both sides like it was a braille map leading to a mysterious destination. She probed the room with her peripheral vision and then looked back over her left shoulder to the open door. Convinced no one was there, she extracted the object and in the window's light, looked down on a glittering gold coin.

The edges were rounded but irregular due to the handmade process of minting in the early eighteenth century. These were called 'Cob' coins, an abbreviation of the Spanish phrase, 'made from the end of a bar.' Hammered and hand stamped, one side was struck with the phrase, 'By the Grace of God-King of the Spains and the Indies,' while the reverse side showed the coat of arms of Phillip II and the date, 1705 in Roman numerals.