

FCv 1-A

Obverse



39.0 mm
AE, AE gilt
R-5
M-G 186

Adams Collection

Reverse



Legend: VICE · AD : RL · OF THE BLEW ; & COM : ER · IN CHIEF · OF · ALL HIS · MAI : SHIPS IN THE WEST · INDIES | Right of head, A · VIEW · / OF · FORT · / CHAGRE | In ex. below corded line, THE · HON : EDWARD / VERNON · ESQ
Devices: Leafy, curving tree left; Vernon three-quarter length facing, baton in left hand. To right a row of buildings with signal tower on top, ship right below. Dentillated edge.

Comments: Differs from obverse of FCv 2 by the HON vs HON^{LE} in exergue, as well as positioning of the signal tower. Same reverse. This pairing comes first in the Fort Chagre series given that the stunning gilt example of 1-A is no doubt a specimen striking. Lot 560 in the Ford XIII sale, the selfsame piece was described with equal enthusiasm over a hundred years earlier (“W.C.,” “An Undescribed Vernon,” *American Journal of Numismatics* 36 [1901], p. 10). There may be half a dozen candidates for the title of “finest of all the Vernons,” but the medal plated above is certainly one of them. Milford Haven remarked that the tree on the medal is probably an old tree used as a navigation mark, on an island at the mouth of the Chagres River.

Legend: At top, PORTO BELLO · TAKEN BY ADMIRAL VERNON · WITH SIX MEN OF WAR ONLY · NOV · 22 · ANNO DOM · 1739 ·
Devices: Ships two above four curved below, all right. Four ships inside harbor, all left. Elaborate town at top with semicircular harbor guarded by three heavily gunned forts. Tower between Q · and P. Signal tower between O and B.

FCv 2-A

Obverse



38.7 mm
AE
R-7
M-G 185

Adams Collection

Reverse



Legend: VICE AD : RL OF THE BLEW ; & COM : DER · IN CHIEF OF ALL HIS MAI : SHIPS IN THE WEST INDIES | Right of head, A VIEW · / OF · FORT · / CHAGRE | In ex. below corded line, THE HON^{LE} EDWARD / VERNON · ESQ : ·
Devices: Leafy, curving tree left; Vernon three-quarter length facing, baton in left hand. To right a row of buildings with signal tower on top, ship right below. Dentillated edge.

Comments: As the above, a well-composed and well-executed obverse design, with same reverse. Crumbling letters place this variety after FCv 1-A.

Legend: At top, PORTO BELLO · TAKEN BY ADMIRAL VERNON · WITH SIX MEN OF WAR ONLY · NOV · 22 · ANNO DOM · 1739 ·
Devices: Ships two on top with four curved below, all right. Four ships inside harbor, all left. Elaborate town at top with semicircular harbor guarded by three heavily gunned forts. Tower between Q · and P. Signal tower between O and B.