

Currency, Weights, and Measures

The basic unit of account in seventeenth-century Spain was the *maravedí* (*mr.*). In the documents cited in this book, most payments are recorded in *reales* or *ducados*, with the following relative values:

$$1 \text{ real} = 34 \text{ mrs.}$$

$$1 \text{ ducado} = 11 \text{ reales} = 375 \text{ mrs.}$$

Maravedises, *reales*, and *ducados* could be either silver (*plata*) or less valuable copper (*vellón*); the documents do not always specify. The silver peso (*peso de plata*) was worth 8 *reales* (272 *mrs.*) before the currency reform of 1686; thereafter it was known as the *peso escudo* or *escudo* and was worth 10 *reales* (340 *mrs.*).

Weights were measured by the *onza* (1 oz.), *libra* (1 lb.), and *arroba* (25 lbs.).

The standard unit of linear measurement was the *vara* (33").