

Marco Island Historical Museum
One of Five Collier County Museums
Website: www.colliermuseums.com
Where: 180 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island.
Get There: Collier Blvd (SR-951) to Marco Is. South on Bald Eagle Dr. Becomes Heathwood Dr. Museum is on right across from Marco Library.
When: Tuesday-Sat 9am to 4pm.
Admission: Free.

What: Traces the settlement of Marco from Calusa (500 AD), to Spanish, to Seminoles (and Seminole Wars), to permanent settlement in 1870. From there, the museum covers Marco's agricultural history (fishing, clamming, and pineapple farming), growth of the village (early 20th c), and major property development (1920s and again beginning in 1960s).



On exhibit is the famous Key Marco Cat: one of the most remarkable and influential discoveries in Northamerican archaeology.
 On loan from Smithsonian. Wooden. Carved by Calusa. Cat statuette, less than 6" high. Estimated to have been made 500 to 1,500 years ago. Discovered 1896. Exhibition includes other Pre-Columbian artifacts.



Brief History of Marco Island
500 AD: Calusa Indians arrived. Possibly descendants of the Mayans (Yucatan).
Mid-1500s: Spanish explorers arrived. By mid-1700s Calusa were wiped out or fled.
Late 1700s: Creek Indians arrived from Georgia and Alabama. (Later renamed Seminoles.)
1816 to 1858: 3 Seminole Wars vs US Army. Most Seminoles wiped out or fled.
1845: Florida statehood.

1870: First permanent settler William Collier arrived. Village of Marco founded.

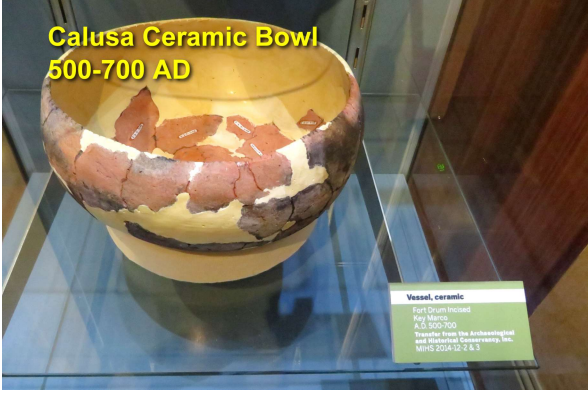
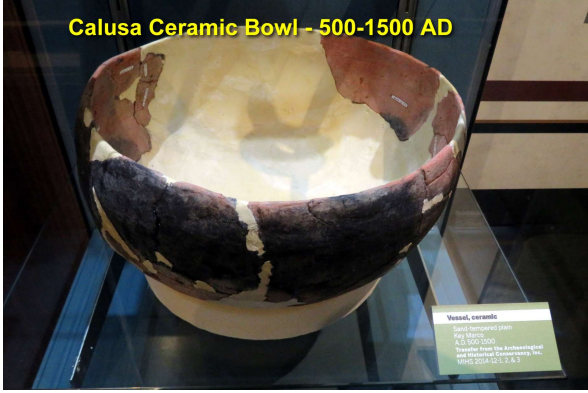
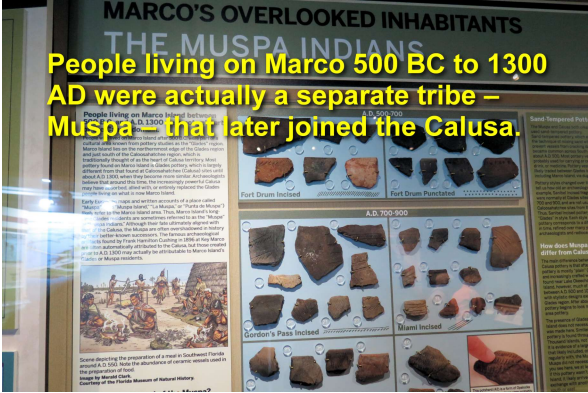
1896: Old Marco Inn opened by Colliers. Still stands.

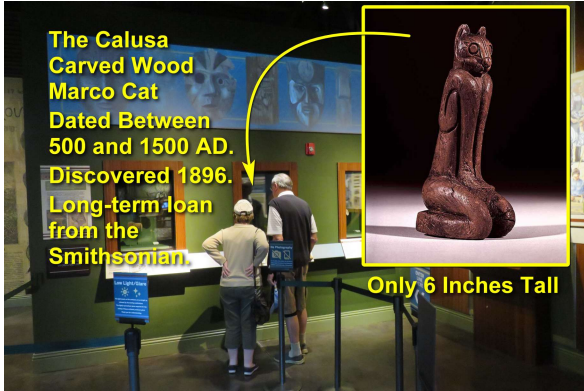
1912: Ferry service to Marco began.

1920s: Barron Collier bought large amount of land. Incorporated Marco as Collier City. Development rush began. But failed in Great Depression. 1957 name reverted to Marco.

1938: First bridge to Marco (Goodland).

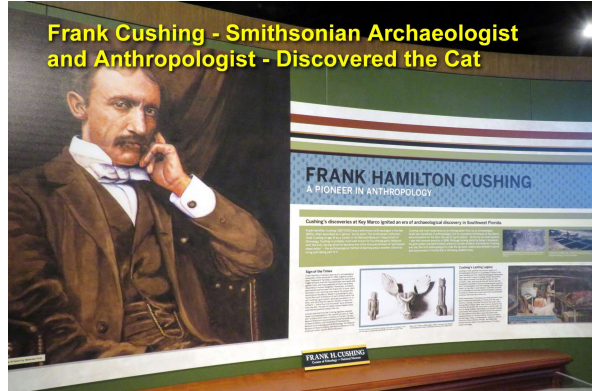
1960s: Mackell Bros. bought most of Barron Collier's land. Development took off.





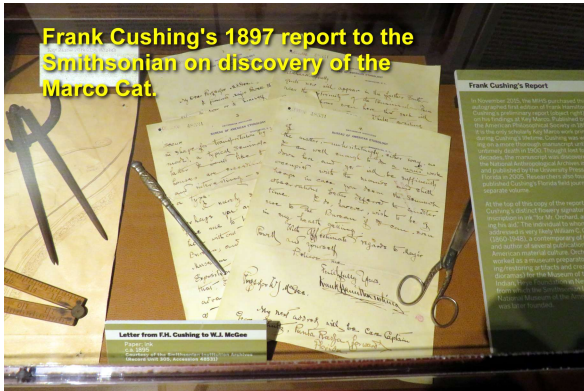
The Calusa Carved Wood Marco Cat Dated Between 500 and 1500 AD. Discovered 1896. Long-term loan from the Smithsonian.

Only 6 Inches Tall



Frank Cushing - Smithsonian Archaeologist and Anthropologist - Discovered the Cat

FRANK HAMILTON CUSHING
A PIONEER IN ANTHROPOLOGY



Frank Cushing's 1897 report to the Smithsonian on discovery of the Marco Cat.

Letter from F.H. Cushing to W.E. McGee



Spanish coin dated 1469-1566 – the time the Spanish were on Marco. Found on Marco 1974.

Coin (1 real)

Silver, Spanish
A.D. 1469-1566
Found on Marco Island in 1974

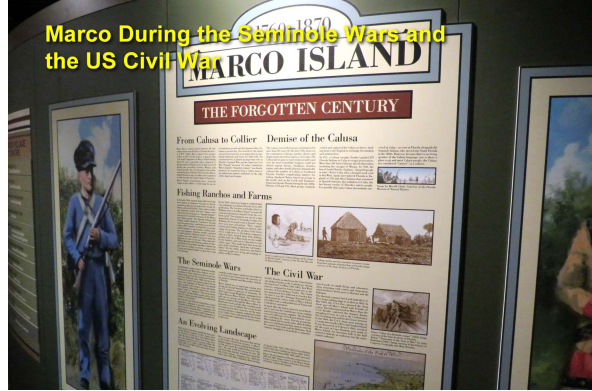
Donated by John Tateo
MHS 2013-31

This coin bears the royal insignia of the Catholic Kings, Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II, who ruled Spain together between 1469 and 1504. They are forever known for authorizing Christopher Columbus's historic voyages (1492-1504) to the New World. This coin was likely

minted in Seville, Spain during this time, but could also have been minted posthumously by Isabella and Ferdinand's successors between 1537 and 1566. Just like the coins in use today, this one probably changed hands many times before winding up on Marco Island.

What happened to the Calusa?

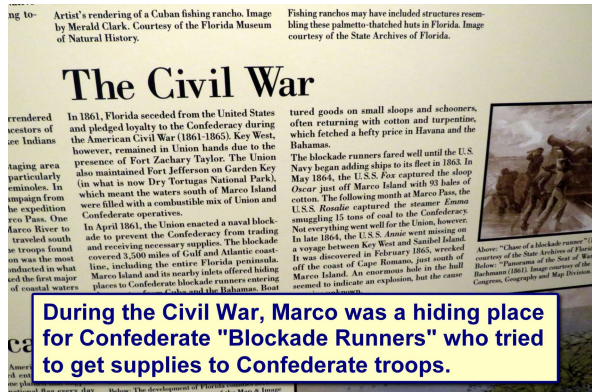
- 1513 Spanish explorers (Ponce de Leon etc) arrived in SW Florida.
 - Weapons easily defeated the Calusa. Took land and took Calusas as slaves.
 - Brought diseases (smallpox, measles, typhus) that were fatal to Calusa.
- Early 1700s Creek and Yemasee Indians (now known as Seminole) invaded from Alabama and Georgia. Conquered Calusa. That was the end of the Calusa.



Marco During the Seminole Wars and the US Civil War



Museum has extensive exhibits on Seminole culture.



The Civil War

rendered
sectors of
the Indians

In 1861, Florida seceded from the United States and pledged loyalty to the Confederacy during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Key West, however, remained in Union hands due to the presence of Fort Jefferson on Garden Key (in what is now Dry Tortugas National Park), which meant the waters south of Marco Island were filled with a combustible mix of Union and Confederate operatives.

In April 1861, the Union enacted a naval blockade to prevent the Confederacy from trading and receiving necessary supplies. The blockade covered 3,500 miles of Gulf and Atlantic coastlines, including the entire Florida peninsula, Marco Island and its nearby inlets offered hiding places to Confederate blockade runners entering

goods on small sloops and schooners, often returning with cotton and turpentine, which fetched a hefty price in Havana and the Bahamas.

The blockade runners fared well until the U.S. Navy began adding ships to its fleet in 1863. In May 1864, the U.S.S. Fox captured the sloop *Osceola* just off Marco Island with 93 bales of cotton. The following month the U.S.S. Koonie captured the steamer *Emma* smuggling 15 tons of coal to the Confederacy. Not everything went well for the Union, however. In late 1864, the U.S.S. *Annie* went missing on a voyage between Key West and Sanibel Island. It was discovered in February 1865, wrecked off the coast of Cape Romano, just south of Marco Island. An enormous hole in the hull seemed to indicate an explosion, but the cause

During the Civil War, Marco was a hiding place for Confederate "Blockade Runners" who tried to get supplies to Confederate troops.

