

The PLANCHET

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+ 10¢ 1947 MAPLE
LEAF VARIETIES

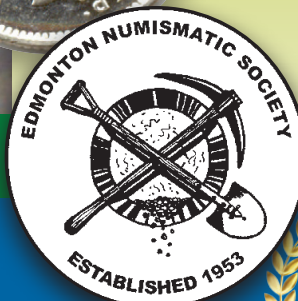


Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 65 · Issue 3



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The PLANCHET

Volume 65 • Issue 3

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

April, 2018

As reported last month, we wrapped up a very successful show. So now we're engaged in discussions to continue that on. We're also still trying to get our new home for fall nailed down. We'll report back when we have some concrete results.

The last meeting we had was the Annual General Meeting. At this meeting we elected a new Executive. Most of the previous executive was re-elected to serve another term. There are a few new faces, I'd like to welcome them on board and I'd also like to give a big "thank you" to all of those who have served and are no longer on the board. I will be convening a Board Meeting in May, probably around the last half, just to get acquainted with the new board and lay out an agenda of what we need to do in the next year. We will be launching the new website in April. We're just putting the finishing touches on it now. I think (and hope) you'll be impressed. The address will remain the same as the old site, so you don't have to change your bookmarks.

Other than that, there isn't much going on.

Though there is one thing that last month's Annual General Meeting did bring out, a serious deficiency that could have severe consequences for our club in the future. As much as we've tried to get a succession plan going we still don't have an adequate one. We are going to need this if we're to survive into the next decade. I do not want this club to end up like so many others, eventually devolving into a kaffeeeklatsch at some senior's home somewhere with the same five people who've always been there. We desperately need younger blood and a new generation of people who are passionate about numismatics and would be willing to carry on. So if you know of any, please bring them along! If you have any ideas as to how to attract younger collectors, let us know. We're hoping that by keeping the Planchet going and a renewed website we can attract more people into the club.

But we need your help in getting the message out, so spread the word! Joe's Planchet and our new website will hopefully do the rest; get them in the door so that we can meet them.

Enjoy the read! ☒

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@ the Next Meeting Edmonton Numismatic Society



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Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Royal Alberta Museum

12845 – 102 Avenue, Edmonton

Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm

- ENS Society Matters
- Show and tell: bring your recent finds to share
- Silent auction
- Presentation: *Strange Things Found on Ancient Greek Coins*
- Refreshments: coffee, tea, pop and cookies
- Door prize draws

For information regarding events, or to add an item to the agenda, please send an email to editor_ens@yahoo.ca

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2018–19 Executive

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Paul Purdie – **Vice President**

Pierre Driessen – **Treasurer**

Mitch Goudreau – **Secretary**

Joe Kennedy – **Editor-In-Chief**

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John Callaghan

Terence Cheesman

Mirko Dumanovic

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Alvaro Rodriguez

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Danny Kachkan

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Show Chair: David Peter

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About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

March 14, 2018 ENS Annual General Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:17 hrs and welcomed the members to the annual general meeting and election night. The purpose of this is to elect ten directors and five members of the executive, who will lead our society for the next year.

March 10–11, 2018 Coin Show

Marc stated that he hoped everyone had a great show last weekend. He gave a heartfelt thank you to the great volunteers of the EPS, without whom, this show wouldn't be possible. Our volunteer pool is extremely dedicated and large.

Our President said that the dealers he spoke with were happy. The trend appeared to be that more lower end offerings were selling rather than high end ones but in large volumes. This may be due to the continued economic downturn in Alberta.

The hotel restaurant was not as good as anticipated, but the hospitality room was great. Pierre Driessen outdid himself getting the food organized.

Our next show will be on November 10 & 11, 2018.

There was some conflicting advertising over the hours of operation of the coin show. It was decided that the hours of operation for the November show will be 10:00 – 17:00 hrs on Saturday November 10 and 10:00 – 16:30 hrs on Sunday November 11.

Elections

Terence Cheesman stated that the nomination committee had no new candidates.

The ENS President put out a call for director nominations.

Director Nominations:

Jim Vanderleest – nominated by Andy Vanderleest, 2nd by Terence Cheesman.

Mirko Dumanovic – nominated by Mike Dudas, 2nd by Arif Sheena.

Greg Wichman – nominated by Pierre Driessen, 2nd by Jules Rach.

Marv Berger – nominated by Marc Bink, 2nd by Pierre Driessen.

Howard Gilbey – nominated by Mitch Goudreau, 2nd by Terence Cheesman.

Dan Gosling – nominated by Mirko Dumanovic, *respectfully declined*.

Alvaro Rodriguez – nominated by David Peter, 2nd by Jim Vanderleest.

Terence Cheesman – nominated by Wayne Hansen, 2nd by Mirko Dumanovic.

John Callaghan – nominated by Pierre Driessen, 2nd by Gunther Schubert.

Ted Abbott – nominated by Del Keown, 2nd by Pierre Driessen.

Andy Vanderleest – nominated by Jim Vanderleest, 2nd by Paul Purdie.

Wayne Hansen – nominated by Terence Cheesman, 2nd by Marc Bink.

Paul Purdie – nominated by Marc Bink, 2nd by Pierre Driessen.

Danny Kachkan – nominated by Marc Bink, 2nd by Howard Gilbey.

Arif Sheena motioned for the nominations to cease, 2nd by Del Keown.

A vote was going to be required since 13 nominations were submitted for the 10 positions available. Before proceeding to a general vote, Marc Bink asked if any of the persons nominated would wish to cancel their nominations. Paul Purdie and Andy Vanderleest stated they would, and Danny Kachkan agreed to be the Youth Director.

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March 14, 2018 ENS Annual General Meeting Minutes continued...

A vote was held to accept the remaining nominations as the new ENS Directors, which passed unanimously.

Executive

Marc Bink put out a call for nominations to the Executive, especially for members who are not currently holding positions. No nominations were received except one, after it was explained that if someone assumes the Vice-President position, David Peter the incumbent would still stay on the Executive as he would automatically take the position of Past-President.

Paul Purdie was nominated for Vice-President by Howard Gilbey, 2nd by Del Keown.

All Executive members other than David Peter agreed to stay in their current positions since no other nominations were received.

Terence Cheesman made to a motion for nominations to cease and to appoint Paul Purdie and all previous Executive members to the new ENS Executive board, 2nd by Howard Gilbey. A vote was held, and the motion passed without opposition.

Marc Bink thanked everyone for participating and welcomed the new board.

Club Business

The website content will have to be updated before we go live with our new upgrade sometime in April 2018.

Presentation

The door prizes were drawn before Terence Chessman gave a presentation on the monuments of Rome on ancient coins.

Show & Tell

Items circulated for Show & Tell included:

- From Sierra Leone, a 1791 penny.
- A 1798 Isle of Man half penny

Conclusion

The silent auction lots were sold, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:59 hrs. ✕

April 11, 2018 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:15 hrs by complaining about the weather! Thirty nine members still showed up, hoping that warmer days will soon descend upon us.

Club Matters

Two sesquicentennial medal sets from the 2017 *Go For Gold* volunteer recognition program were presented to Chris Hale for *The Planchet* and *General* categories.

Pierre Driessen gave the assembly the final attendance numbers for last month's coin show. The grand total is 1011, which is less than November 2017 but about 50 more than our March 2017 show.

The 12 boxes of ENS material located at John Callaghan's house will have to be moved since he is moving to a different residence. Howard Gilbey will pick it up with the ENS truck and then assess options on where to store the material.

The new ENS executive will meet on May 31 at the Howard Johnson hotel. The purpose is to set down the agenda for the upcoming year.

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April 11, 2018 ENS Meeting Minutes continued...

The new ENS website should launch in about one week, at the same address as our current site. A big thank you was passed on to Dan Gosling and his daughter Julaine for setting up the original website in 1998 which was very modern at the time. Updating the site will be much simpler now, and there will also be an area where presentations can be added. Members are encouraged to pass on numismatic resources that we can attach links to from our website. *The Planchet* will also be accessed through the site. Editions published in the last year will be locked for members only, but all the others will be available to everyone. A student will be hired this summer to make all our content searchable on *Google*.

The estate of John Galupe, a long time member who died in December 2016, approached the club for assistance in dealing with his collection. Those interested in helping can contact Marc Bink.

A point was brought up that we should place signs in the hotel lobby identifying the location of our bourse and the kid's auction on the 2nd floor for future coin shows.

Presentation

Pierre Driessen gave a presentation titled "Do you buy the coin or do you buy the holder"? This was followed by a lively discussion on the whole issue of slabs and fakes.

Conclusion

The door prizes were drawn, the silent auction lots were sold and the meeting was adjourned at 20:55 hrs. ☺

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Kid's Auction

by Howard Gilbey

On Saturday, March 10 at the ENS 2018 Show and Sale, a **Kid's Only Live Auction** was held.

- A total of 30 kids registered for the event.
- 40 lots were sold.
(100% of the lots offered.)

Lots for the Kid's Only Live auction were donated by

- The Edmonton Numismatic Society
- George Manz Coins
- Howard Gilbey
- North Edmonton Coin & Currency
- Ron Thompson

Thank-you to the following ENS members for their assistance in organizing and conducting the auction.

- Howard Gilbey
- Dan Gosling
- Henry Nagtegaal
- Ray Neiman

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Silent Auction

by Howard Gilbey

Edmonton Numismatic Society
March 10 & 11, 2018

Silent Auction Summary

TOTALS	
Registered Bidders	27
Successful Bidders	22
ENS Member Consignors	10
Consigned Lots (includes 3 duplicates)	153
Lots Sold	80
Percentage of Lots Sold	52.3%
Value of Lots Sold	\$1780
ENS Consignor Fees Collected	\$127
Returned to ENS Members	\$1653

Range of Amounts for Sold Lots: \$3.00 to \$220.00

Average Selling Price for Sold Lots: \$22.25

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Coming Events

May 9: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

May 18: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 4.

June 8: Issue 4 of the 2018 PLANCHET

June 13: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

September 12: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

September 21: Issue 5 of the 2018 PLANCHET

To list your coming events, send them to editor_ens@yahoo.ca

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Smoke and Mirrors

by Marc Bink



The box from the Interflug medallion. It's actually well-made and looks to be made by the same people who used to supply Iron Cross cases during the war.

It all started when I was in Germany last fall. My young son Alex and I had convinced his mother to allow us a pit-stop in a place called Sinsheim to look at a transportation museum. Those of you that know me, know that besides coins I'm into all things transportation, starting with airlines and working my way to ships and trains. My first love was always aviation; I was a licensed pilot and have been thinking about reactivating my license. I'd need some persuasion and Auto-Technik museum in Sinsheim offered up a lot of airplanes to rekindle my passion. It was as good as an excuse as any!

I never thought I'd ever buy such a thing, but here it is. A black box with a logo on it and inside, a silver medallion; the first in my collection! The medallion was issued by an airline called "Interflug" and it commemorated the introduction of the Ilyushin 62 Jet aircraft to Interflug's lineup. The obverse has a lovely impression of an Il-62 jet, and the reverse features the Interflug tail superimposed over an Aeroflot tail and the legends celebrate the friendship between the Russian and the German peoples. The presentation box also has the Interflug logo on it, and is of fairly good quality. So how did something like this get into my collection?

When we arrived at the museum, the first thing I saw was an Interflug Ilyushin 18 turboprop plane mounted on a plinth. It had a kiddie slide coming down out of it, so it was obviously one of the exhibits. We did get to go into it and a couple of other Soviet era aircraft that were there. For an aviation buff like myself, this was a spectacular side trip, considering I got to tour aircraft that I had never even seen before or would ever have had a chance to fly in. It peaked my interest, and so once we got back to Canada I dug out a couple of old East German model kits from the deepest bowels of the basement and set about learning about it all.

One thing I discovered is that corporate histories can be as interesting as the countries they originate in. One would have thought the story of an airline that was limited by both the equipment it could use or the places it could go would be a crashing drag. Surprisingly enough, that wasn't the case. As with anything that involves people and personalities, it was actually quite interesting.

Interflug was the East German airline. It was formed in East Berlin in 1955 as "Deutsche Lufthansa", about 6 months after a company of the same name appeared in the West. This would eventually lead to trouble for both airlines and lead to a lawsuit which the East Germans eventually lost. So since this is a coin journal and not an airplane magazine, I'll try and keep it... no I won't, here's the history...

In 1945 the German aviation industry was in a total shambles. There was nothing left. The war had been lost and most aviation related activities had stopped months earlier for want of fuel. There were a lot of perfectly good airplanes laying around. The civilian airline, Deutsche Luft-Hansa had more or less survived with quite a bit of its fleet intact. Most of it had been grounded months before because of lack of fuel, and the rest had survived because the aircraft were largely obsolete and militarily worthless. It was a testament to their pilots that they had still flown commercial flights up until early April of 1945. That last flight was to Barcelona Spain. The plane didn't come back because there was nothing to come back to, since the Allies had taken the airfield. The DLH had only lost a couple of aircraft to fighter activity; most of the airplanes that were destroyed were as a result of bombing raids. So with that last flight, operations wound down and the workforce

dispersed. Nobody had any idea what was going to happen next as a result of losing the war; the old joke that was going around was "enjoy the war, the peace will be terrible".

The victorious Allies wanted to make sure that no home-grown German aviation industry could come back and possibly rebuild the war machine again. So they dismantled all the factories, crushed the military equipment and banned all civilian activity.



Interflug Medallion

The medal is made out of brass and then plated. The obverse image shows an Interflug Il-62 and is a good representation. The legend translates to: "Interflug, the airline company of the German Democratic Republic".

The reverse of the medal, features the tails of both Interflug (up front) and the Russian airline "Aeroflot" (to the rear) The Legend translated is the following, from left to right; "A symbol of the friendship of our peoples, DDR-USSR"

It would be close to ten years before civilian flying was allowed to happen again. In the meantime, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, ex-Lufthansa executives were getting things in place, squirrelling resources and money away and lobbying their respective occupiers. In the West, a new airline called "Luftag" started up, using US built equipment. This soon morphed into "Deutsche Lufthansa" and service was inaugurated with DC-3 and Convair 240 equipment. The logo was the old flying crane of the prewar company, and the airplanes featured blue cheatlines on a white body with silver flying surfaces. The new airline was quickly granted a lot of its old route network back and resumed services quickly. The one place they could not go to was Berlin, that remained under Allied control, and due to the arrangements between the powers, only Allied aircraft were permitted to use the transit routes to Berlin-West, no German national aircraft was permitted in that airspace. This would remain in effect until 1989.

The eastern Deutsche Lufthansa started up about 6 months after the one in the west did. They too, used the old flying crane logo, and went with a blue cheatline. But they flew Russian equipment, services began with the Soviet equivalent of the American DC-3; the Ilyushin 14. This aircraft even looked similar, and it created a lot of confusion. If one parked the Convair and the Ilyushin side by side, one would be hard pressed to tell them apart. In order to separate the two, the western Lufthansa painted the fuselages all white and used a yellow and blue cheatline. The eastern aircraft were still mostly bare metal. This company applied to go places but was denied both by the occupying Soviets as well as the confused destinations in the West. Not to mention, there was



Can you tell which Lufthansa is which?

The airplane facing right is a Western Lufthansa Convair 340. The airplane facing left is an Eastern Lufthansa Ilyushin Il-14.

Imagine as an East German refugee boarding the wrong one in Copenhagen and discovering you're now on your way to East Berlin; big oops...

an interesting law on the books in Western Germany which stated that any country that does business with the GDR automatically forfeits doing business with the West. Most European centres on the west side of the Iron Curtain soon realized that they could not afford to "displease" the Federal Republic and so ignored the Democratic Republic.

The eastern airline quickly started flying internally and to Moscow, they weren't granted permission by the authorities to go west just yet. It was when they obtained landing rights in Copenhagen that the trouble began. A Deutsche Lufthansa (Ost) Il-14 flew in and couldn't leave until they coughed up a bond and paid for the gas in hard currency upfront. It seems Danish authorities got confused and thought that the plane originated in West Germany, and not the East. At the insistence of the western Lufthansa, the Danes then went after the eastern version for cash they didn't have.

In retaliation the Soviet bloc countries tried to do the same thing to an inaugural western flight. Lufthansa (West) sued

the East German airline and the East German government. So by 1959 the East Germans decided to throw in the towel and rename their international airline, and keep the old name for domestic purposes. That's when "Interflug" was born.

By 1963 Interflug had absorbed all of the old eastern components of Deutsche Lufthansa. They were now looking to expand. They had set themselves up as part of the army, the airline was never a "people's own enterprise"¹ like everything else was. The East German Airforce (Luftstreitkräfte) supplied the flying personnel and did the primary training. Pilots were initially assigned to the agricultural wing flying potato-beetle bombers and then graduated to flying passengers around in short pleasure flights around the cities. They would then graduate to progressively bigger and more complex aircraft as their talents allowed. Many of their best pilots were selected to train in the Soviet Union on specific new aircraft as they were introduced into the GDR. This is essentially how my medallion came about, it would have gone

to one of the first set of pilots and ground crew who went to the Soviet Union to train on the Ilyushin 62 when it was to be introduced in 1971.

Throughout the 1960s, most of the Soviet bloc airlines were still flying antiquated piston engine propeller designs while the western European airlines were flying jets. Most of the eastern states realized fairly early on that in order to earn hard western currency, they had to modernize. The Soviets were initially quite leery of letting some of their client states modernize until they too hit a cash crunch. In the 1950s a lot of western airlines had to use Aeroflot aircraft and crews to overfly Soviet airspace. But that all stopped with the advent of long range American jets which could go around the Soviet Union in less time than the Russian airplanes took to fly through it. Now the western airlines didn't need Aeroflot and a large source of hard currency dried up. So the Soviets started to innovate and build bigger and better aircraft. But modernization would come at a cost.

¹ "Volkseigener Betrieb" or "VEB", or, "Vati's Ehemalige Betrieb" ("Dad's ex-company", as the old western joke goes). VEB signified a state owned and run enterprise that was subject to and hindered by the centrally planned economy in Berlin. Only the "Exakta" and "Pentacon" camera concerns made any money, and that was only until the Japanese companies built a better and a cheaper product in the late 60s.

The first “new” design was the Ilyushin 18 turboprop. It soon became the workhorse airplane in the East bloc. The Soviets had hoped that it could be marketed in the West, so they over engineered it. It was a sound design. But it was still noisy and slower than a comparable sized French jet called the Caravelle. What really killed its export chances were the engines, they would only last 600 hours between overhauls or replacements whereas comparable western ones could easily do 2000 hours. It took Ilyushin about 10 years before they found a half decent engine but it still wasn’t as good as anything in the west. This would become the story of the Soviet aviation industry.

Interflug was still plodding along with the old piston-engined Il-14. By 1963 it was a really old design and downright unpleasant. So the airline finally got permission to buy the Il-18. But first they had to build a half decent airport, and here again, it was the Soviets that held things up.

Berlin-Schönefeld was the site selected. That was where the old Henschel Aircraft Company had

its test airfield before 1945. It was basically a grass strip with an office building at the one end. The Henschel leadership and staff had all fled west a long time prior. This building was then inhabited by Interflug and eventually served as their offices. The Soviets could have made it easier but they would not relinquish control over the old Johannisthal Airport, which was Berlin’s first commercial airport. Schönefeld was more or less a marsh. So it was drained and a clapboard terminal was set up. Finally by 1962 the runway was lengthened to the point where it could handle jet traffic, which allowed Interflug to expand.

At first Interflug looked to a homegrown aviation industry for new designs. The most promising one unfortunately turned out to be a bit of a dud. The Baade 152 was supposed to be a jet plane that was built using old Junkers wartime technology that had been improved on by Socialist thinking and practices. It would have been cutting edge in 1945; the reality was that the design was dated before it was actually flown. And once it was flown, the technical difficulties were determined to be

insurmountable given that they didn’t have access to the latest fuel management equipment. The prototype crashed and a second one was almost lost before Berlin pulled the plug on the whole affair. By that point the East German aviation industry was a pretty much a laughing stock. The American Boeing 707 and the French Caravelle had made the Baade 152 look pretty bad. Besides, in the Soviet bloc there were jets, just not very good ones. But at least they flew and didn’t run out of gas.

The first pure-jet Interflug got was the Tupolev TU-134. This aircraft and its upgraded versions served until 1989. Now, finally, Interflug could think about attracting Western dollars again. And this they did; they actually had a bus that would pick up people at the Templehof field (in the West) drive them over the border straight into Schönefeld. There were minimal border controls going in, much more intense going out. This allowed Interflug to capitalize on cheap charters put on by tourist companies in the West for people who wanted to go to the Black Sea. This also allowed families to get together who



Interflug Il-18

The Ilyushin Il-18 was the workhorse of Soviet civil aviation. First introduced in 1960, there are still examples being flown in Africa and the old Soviet world. These airplanes were slow but tough.



Interflug Interior cabin of TU-134

Interior of an Interflug TU-134. Both the Il-18 and the Il-62 were similar. Note all the happy socialist workers enroute back to the Fatherland...



Interflug Il-62

The Il-62 was introduced in 1970 and flew up until 1990. This particular one was flown into a field in 1989 and can still be visited. The pilot, Heinz-Dieter Kallbach, has the record of making the shortest landing on an unprepared field with a large airliner. It was barely 850 meters long and the Il-62 usually needs at least 2500 meters. Kallbach was the chief Il-62 pilot for Interflug and did have a career after Interflug was wound down.



Interflug Il-62m

A shot that would have been inconceivable in the early 70s; an Interflug Il-62M and a Lufthansa DC-10 at Berlin-Schoenefeld.

normally wouldn't be able to. The Black Sea area was out of the purview of the Stasi² (the East German secret police) and cooperation with the Russian KGB sometimes didn't happen. So families from East and West got together in the "fraternal" socialist countries, which was more convenient for both.

As the Sixties and Seventies wore on, the airline expanded. This necessitated a new aircraft – a long range one. The one selected was the Ilyushin 62, pretty much the only one available to them. This was because of a western treaty, which prohibited east-bloc countries from buying state of the art western technology for fear that it would end up in military hands. With the Polish LOT Airlines, this wasn't much of an issue, and as a result they were able to buy older western designs. Interflug was directly wired into the military and in fact, the military maintained a squadron of commercial jets in Interflug colours.

So where the lines were blurred, the treaty was not. That meant no western goodies for Interflug, they could only draw on local or Soviet designs. The local industry had more or less ceased to exist by this point.

The Il-62 was actually a good design. When it was introduced in 1962, it was compared off against the look-alike British VC-10, which was introduced around the same time. No one is sure who was spying on who and it actually looks like both companies arrived at their designs independently of each other at around the same time. The result is the aircraft look almost identical to each other. A quick way to tell them apart is the VC-10 has a larger tail; the British needed that in order to move the wings and the centre of gravity to the right area in relation to the fuselage. The Russian design hit on a compromise; they actually moved the wing slightly forward and put on a tailwheel; (to the derision

of western critics everywhere), this actually improved the fuel capacity and wingloading on the Russian design and allowed for a smaller and lighter tail.

They'd need this because the airframe's "Achilles' heel" was of course the engines. So it allowed for improvement; at the time there was some hope in Russian circles that the West would share some of the secrets of good civil aviation engine design and make Russian designs competitive in the West. This never materialized. Russian engine design was hindered by metallurgy; they could not and were never able to come up with the right nickel alloys to make serviceable engines that were both cheap to run and long lasting. Russian engines, like most everything in a planned economy, were a compromise, which serviced the lowest common denominator and nothing more. The engineering know-how was there, but the industrial follow through never was.

² The "Stasi" were the "Staatssicherheitspolizei" or the state secret police. They were founded back in 1947 as a barracked police force and then expanded as the regime became more Stalinist. The Stasi maintained a file on absolutely everyone in the country, which was quite an achievement in the days before the internet or Facebook existed. They had an incredible spy network set up, most every family was either infiltrated or coerced into spying by the Stasi. The East German regime, never popular with its inhabitants, was terrified of its own people.

Interflug got permission from the Politburo and purchased its first two of 39 Il-62 aircraft. DM-SEA inaugurated the service and was photographed extensively. It crashed almost two years later, the result of bad Soviet build quality. The rear of the airplane caught fire and burned off as the crew tried to get back to Schönefeld. It was Germany's worst air disaster for a long time afterwards, as all 156 passengers and crew were killed. Even though the Soviets never did take responsibility for their lousy quality control, that accident and a few others resulted in the Il-62 design being re-worked somewhat. The Il-62M was the result, and it was a much better airplane. But it was still thirsty, loud and indifferently built. As a result, it was very expensive to maintain and fly. The lack of any kind of avionics and flight computers meant that these planes still flew with a 5-man cockpit crew.

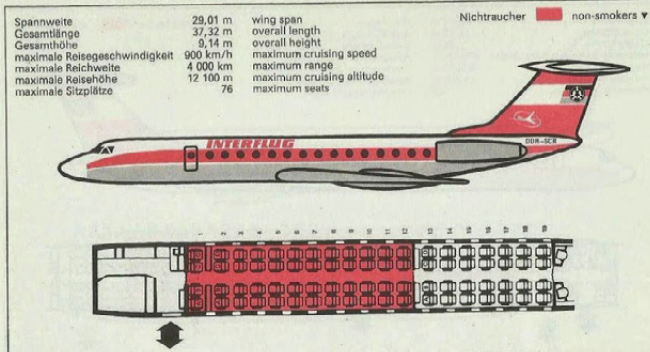
The Tu-134 and the Il-62 served the airline well until the bitter end. They inaugurated many different routes all over the world. Interflug was extensively used by the East German government for good-will tours to war-torn or famine riddled countries, or they were used as part of the diplomatic effort by the East German government to get itself recognized. As a result of treaties, agreements, and Soviet bloc limitations, Interflug's routes remained largely in the Soviet sphere of influence. There were a few to "non-socialist countries", but very few. The biggest hindrance to making a route to Western Europe was the fact that most of the citizenry of East Germany could not leave to the West. So one's choices were very limited.

One flying route of interest to us here in Canada was the Berlin-Havana run. The Il-62 didn't have the range to make it to Havana or return non-stop and as such had to land in Gander, Newfoundland. "Socialist" aircraft were perhaps the only airplanes that were still using the Gander field as a fuel stop as most Western equipment could now cross the Atlantic easily. Since it was an unscheduled stop for fuel, passport controls usually didn't apply. Most passengers would go into the terminal, use the facilities or freshen up and then return to the aircraft. This provided plenty of opportunities to a gutsy individual with nothing to lose. Every time someone "vanished" at Gander, Interflug had to cough up \$5000.00 for "resettlement costs" to the Canadian government. This happened on one occasion when the cast of a TV show was flying back from a stint in Cuba. They were there to extol the virtues of Socialism and the airline. Some filming had taken place in the aircraft throughout the trip. A couple of the cast were confused for flying staff and bonked over the head as 3 people took to their heels and fled the moment the door was opened. I know of one other time when a whole family got off the plane in Gander instead of heading back into the Communist bloc. They ended up living and working in Fort Saskatchewan at the same place I do. Needless to say, there were usually security people on those flights, but whenever they were distracted or had to use the washroom things obviously happened. The East Germans must have paid out quite a bit over the years. On average, from 1970 to about 1987 about 8 East Germans defected that way every year.

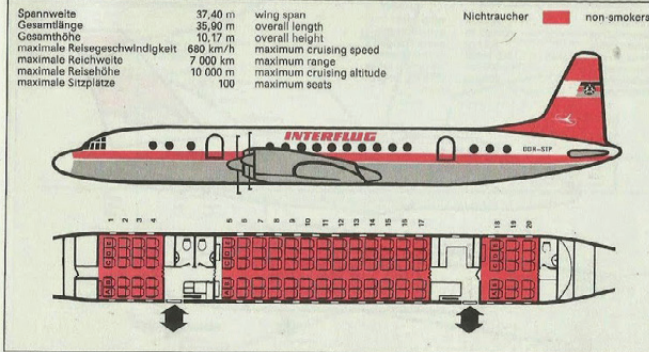
The crews were a different story though. They had no reason to leave. They were the cream of the East German society and most had excellent socialist credentials. Those that were permitted to fly into "Non-Socialist Countries" were all vetted by the Stasi. They were constantly watched. They could not have any relatives in the West, nor could they be in contact with anyone from the West. Their family lives were constantly watched³, and the crews always were forced to keep their families on their minds. Crews were never permitted out of hotels alone, they had to travel in pairs. They were usually given a small "hard" currency allowance to buy some trinkets but it was never enough to escape with. Any money that went missing or was unaccounted for came off their Ost-mark salaries at the punitive official exchange rate. Fraternization with West Germans could be a problem, so it was always avoided. Any contacts with people in the West had to be reported, or they would get reported. Each flight had someone on it that was involved with the Stasi in some capacity, so Berlin always knew what was going on. A misstep or an idiotic comment could get one into serious trouble. Most of the crews reported they had no desire to leave anyway; they were usually too tired or jetlagged to think about it. And since all of their needs were met, why would they need to? Most crew members reported that they were allowed shopping trips, bar and nightclub access, and they generally had pleasant memories of travelling in the West.

³ Each airplane was guaranteed to have at least a couple of Stasi informants on it. Not to mention, the Stasi also went through any cockpit recordings. East Germany made Orwell's book "1984" seem tame as a result.

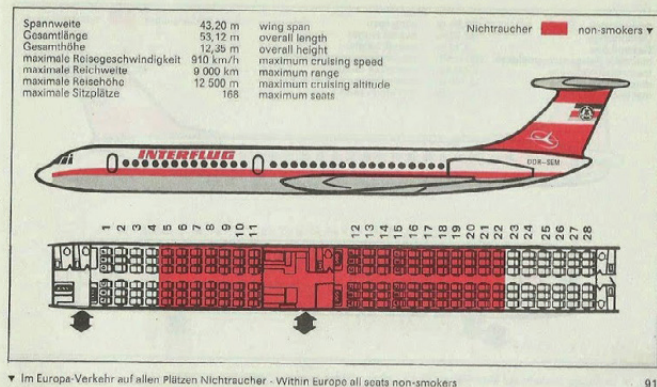
TU-134A



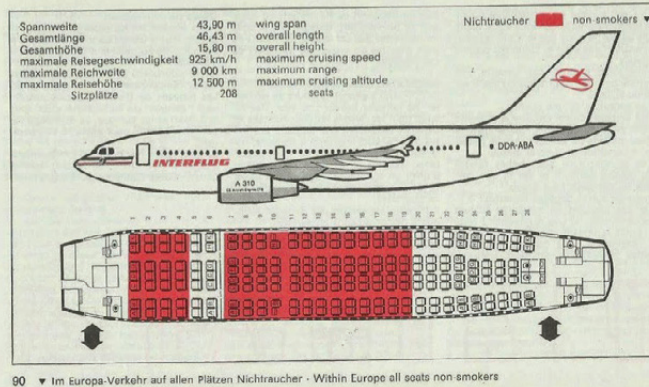
IL-18



IL-62M



A 310



Cabin Plans for the Interflug Fleet

Cabin plans for the Interflug Fleet that was still flying when the airline was wound down, the TU-134a, IL-18, IL-62M and the Airbus A-310.

Some of the more interesting flights that Interflug airplanes made were the ones when the "Führer" of the GDR, First Secretary of the SED Erich Honecker went around the world trying to drum up support or trade for the GDR. One crew member (East German Airforce personnel in Interflug uniforms) recalled having access to half a million in US dollars on board the plane. This was used to buy gas and secure landing rights. And still, nobody ever ran away.

So this went on until the mid-eighties, when it finally became apparent to even the feeblest and die-hard Socialist economist that the Soviet equipment

wasn't going to cut it. Interflug had to modernize and economize. The Soviets were no longer supplying unlimited amounts of fuel, they wanted to be paid for what they supplied. Socialist fraternity gave into greed and capitalism as the entire Soviet bloc slid into bankruptcy and their citizenry kept demanding consumer goods that we in the West took for granted. The West Germans figured out that they could kill the East with kindness and achieve their goal of reunification by bankrupting the East. It started when one the biggest "hawks" in West Germany, Franz-Josef Strauß went to Berlin and loaned the regime something like 5 billion

D-marks. He was also able to get around the Cocom-blockade and secured the sale of 3 Airbus A-310 aircraft to Interflug. By early 1989, Interflug had replaced the IL-62 with the A-310 on its longest routes. One of the side effects was that Interflug no longer had to stop in Gander, so another escape avenue was now closed off. Life got easier, but the Wall actually got higher.

The airline didn't survive the fall of the Wall in late 1989. At first, arch-rival Lufthansa from the west looked to form up a partnership but the Federal anti-trust group got involved and killed the deal. Interflug got turned over to the "Treuhand"

organization. (The Treuhand was a group set up by the failing GDR government to oversee the fair and equitable disbursement or sale of former East German assets to private hands). The Treuhand could find no buyers, so the airline was quickly wound down to a lot of protests from staff and others who wondered how it was that a functioning entity with increasing seat-loads could not be saleable.

There was no way it could ever turn a profit. It would have to first get rid of all the Soviet era equipment and replace it with modern Western equipment. Those costs were insurmountable. That also meant retraining the entire maintenance and support staff. Interflug had a huge efficient network of people in place to service and sell their airline, but these people would all need to be retrained in a hurry in order to keep things competitive. It meant letting

a lot of flying personnel go, as modern equipment only requires a 2-man crew and not 5. The last flight took place on April 30, 1991. When the Tu-134 landed, that was it; around 2600 people were unemployed.

A few pilots and staff from Interflug managed to secure a few ex-Interflug Il-18 turbo-props and tried to go it alone. They soon found out there was no way the Il-18 could be competitive, "Berline" lasted a year and went broke.

Most of the Interflug people found jobs elsewhere. Some managed to stay in their previous professions, others did total career changes. Most still have a soft spot for their Interflug days though, for all the nastiness East Germany was I guess the airline was a good place to work.

That happened a lot in Eastern Germany in those days, as all


the inefficient, polluting and largely redundant Socialist ventures were all wound down due to lack of buyers or want of investment. Nobody wanted what they had to offer, and they were all too expensive to rebuild and retool. This is the legacy of state-sponsored socialism and social engineering; what these factories or enterprises offered was invariably shoddy, they were almost always an environmental nightmare, and the very people they were supposed to help (the celebrated "workers") were killed either by the pollution or by inefficient or dangerous working conditions. And, to top it off, nobody in government cared about their plight. A cheaper better product was usually available in the West. Even the Easterners abandoned their products and factories as the D-mark was introduced in the GDR and unification came into the picture.



DDR railroad medals

The DDR was a highly structured and very militaristic society, everyone had a uniform, and everyone needed something to put on it. The Deutsche Reichsbahn (German State Railway) issued these medals to workers for loyal service and for service above and beyond. Like so many things in the DDR, they looked impressive until you got close up and then things got shoddy. These medals were made at the State mint in Berlin and were made in plated white metal.

As far as I can see, this set was never offered for sale. Most medallions produced in East Germany were usually only available for export into the West for hard currency and rarely to eastern clients.

With that in mind, I think I'm going to look for the rest of this series... 



This 20 Mark coin is indicative of the types of coins that the DDR made for export only. This is a scarce Humboldt from 1967, KM-18.1



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10¢ Coins

Canadian Retail Coin Prices

by Dean Silver

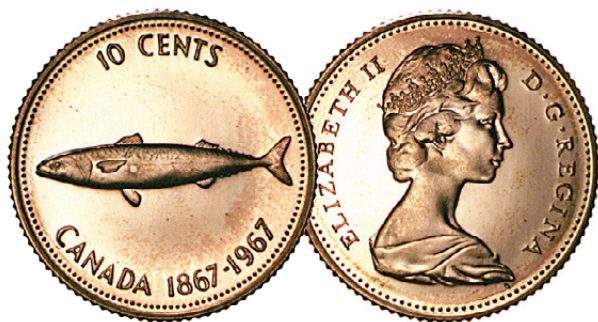


Victoria 10c	G 4	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1858	20.49	38.39	62.29	111.39	132.28	153.17	174.06	194.94	228.49	295.57	375.22	534.52
1870	15.55	30.85	61.69	124.11	144.89	165.68	186.46	207.24	242.65	313.48	421.79	638.41
1871	22.60	49.24	87.96	177.06	217.11	257.16	297.21	337.25	407.52	548.04	702.61	1,012
1871H	29.26	57.83	101.69	199.47	231.64	263.81	295.98	328.15	411.53	578.29	722.78	1,012
1872H	103.30	213.27	320.33	564.90	651.32	737.74	824.16	910.59	1,123	1,548	1,965	2,799
1874H	14.32	24.28	41.10	87.69	112.48	137.28	162.08	186.87	231.53	320.84	401.38	562.46
1875H	278.23	506.30	876.86	1,467	1,824	2,181	2,537	2,894	3,533	4,810	6,413	9,620
1880H	16.06	31.62	53.96	101.18	128.58	155.98	183.38	210.78	255.75	345.69	441.24	632.35
1881H	17.48	35.38	59.96	116.95	153.05	189.16	225.27	261.37	317.58	430.00	550.85	792.55
1882H	17.98	35.88	57.08	110.08	139.47	168.86	198.25	227.65	278.23	379.41	522.74	809.41
1883H	54.91	105.39	200.85	413.14	490.49	567.84	645.20	722.55	852.68	1,113	1,407	1,996
1884	210.78	443.02	809.41	1,425	1,764	2,104	2,443	2,782	3,541	5,059	7,085	11,139
1885	55.37	109.98	221.23	413.14	520.64	628.14	735.64	843.13	1,195	1,899	2,475	3,628
1886 - Small 6	27.03	53.11	112.08	223.81	287.32	350.83	414.34	477.85	656.10	1,013	1,418	2,228
1886 - Large Knob 6	34.55	68.17	133.84	249.84	323.36	396.87	470.39	543.91	769.55	1,221	1,611	2,392
1886 - Large Pointed 6	89.86	180.14	346.38	632.09	790.24	948.39	1,107	1,265	1,518	2,024	2,681	3,996
1887	49.79	105.37	173.63	349.91	452.14	554.37	656.59	758.82	928.46	1,268	1,829	2,951
1888	13.27	25.16	46.64	92.09	118.66	145.23	171.79	198.36	235.87	310.88	415.22	623.92
1889	684.18	1,245	2,024	3,302	3,989	4,676	5,363	6,050	7,626	10,780	13,932	20,235
1890H	19.64	38.82	76.70	161.98	202.24	242.49	282.74	323.00	386.14	512.43	646.70	915.24
1891 - 21 Leaves	19.10	38.72	72.82	151.76	191.81	231.86	271.91	311.96	370.98	489.02	612.68	860.00
1891 - 22 Leaves	19.01	37.56	70.54	149.43	187.02	224.61	262.20	299.79	345.59	437.19	565.57	822.34
1892 - Small 9	17.62	35.41	59.96	121.61	147.95	174.28	200.61	226.94	282.76	394.40	512.30	748.09
1892 - Large 9	211.64	388.15	575.83	1,108	1,387	1,665	1,944	2,223	2,595	3,339	3,829	4,810
1893 - Flat Top 3	49.89	84.66	127.92	241.34	294.92	348.51	402.09	455.67	569.52	797.22	1,063	1,594
1893 - Round Top 3	840.44	1,514	2,309	4,012	4,903	5,793	6,684	7,575	9,041	11,974	14,553	19,710
1894	31.52	67.87	117.48	223.81	248.92	274.03	299.15	324.26	407.29	573.33	681.38	897.47
1896	14.69	29.04	43.57	84.95	104.94	124.94	144.94	164.93	211.02	303.19	376.62	523.48
1898	14.18	25.23	43.90	82.66	102.04	121.41	140.78	160.16	205.79	297.07	368.82	512.34
1899 - Small 99	11.15	23.41	39.33	69.80	86.46	103.12	119.78	136.44	159.30	205.03	272.81	408.38
1899 - Large 99	22.26	44.12	71.37	146.80	171.66	196.52	221.38	246.24	294.71	391.66	517.49	769.16
1900	10.51	17.23	34.73	65.76	81.78	97.80	113.82	129.84	145.51	176.86	230.32	337.25
1901	9.57	16.59	32.30	57.36	71.77	86.17	100.58	114.98	134.39	173.20	235.51	360.12

Edward 10c	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1902H	9.79	15.90	24.19	32.49	41.86	51.24	60.61	69.99	84.52	113.57	138.70	188.97
1902	11.77	25.29	39.63	53.96	74.01	94.07	114.12	134.17	169.61	240.49	335.36	525.10
1903H	12.30	22.23	37.26	52.28	66.69	81.09	95.49	109.89	135.71	187.33	273.40	445.54
1903	21.78	50.63	84.81	118.98	174.45	229.92	285.39	340.86	471.96	734.14	986.91	1,492
1904	18.18	34.17	55.01	75.84	97.66	119.47	141.28	163.09	197.33	265.81	354.00	530.38
1905	15.58	35.31	61.58	87.85	110.84	133.82	156.80	179.78	235.08	345.69	486.62	768.49
1906	11.31	19.56	30.02	40.47	55.76	71.05	86.34	101.63	127.26	178.53	251.43	397.24
1907	10.92	17.55	26.47	35.38	46.10	56.82	67.54	78.25	96.51	133.03	203.77	345.24
1908	19.14	36.64	58.07	79.50	103.08	126.66	150.24	173.83	195.29	238.20	301.42	427.85
1909 Small Leaves	14.81	29.57	46.45	63.33	84.86	106.38	127.91	149.43	190.57	272.85	389.80	623.72
1909 Broad Leaves	18.83	37.31	58.87	80.44	106.27	132.11	157.95	183.79	255.39	398.61	557.80	876.18
1910	11.95	17.52	23.51	29.50	37.98	46.45	54.92	63.40	75.14	98.64	125.73	179.91

DTS AVERAGE • 10¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

George V 10¢	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1911	12.31	19.31	26.97	34.64	41.53	48.41	55.30	62.19	74.44	98.94	137.08	213.36
1912	6.23	9.25	12.37	15.49	23.01	30.53	38.05	45.57	69.12	116.23	176.80	297.93
1913 Small Leaves	6.11	7.94	10.17	12.41	18.80	25.19	31.58	37.97	57.38	96.20	139.00	224.61
1913 Broad Leaves	160.16	305.79	449.96	594.12	797.73	1,001	1,205	1,409	2,104	3,494	5,477	9,443
1914	6.51	8.08	10.30	12.52	18.47	24.42	30.36	36.31	54.00	89.37	129.84	210.78
1915	12.58	26.17	40.02	53.87	78.34	102.82	127.29	151.76	196.73	286.67	373.96	548.54
1916	5.80	7.09	8.73	10.38	14.29	18.20	22.11	26.02	36.76	58.22	77.92	117.32
1917	5.80	7.05	8.02	9.00	10.96	12.91	14.87	16.82	26.14	44.77	57.39	82.63
1918	5.80	7.05	8.01	8.97	10.69	12.41	14.13	15.85	24.06	40.47	52.27	75.88
1919	5.18	6.42	7.22	8.03	10.05	12.06	14.08	16.10	24.79	42.16	53.40	75.88
1920	5.18	6.45	7.37	8.29	10.68	13.07	15.46	17.85	28.78	50.63	64.51	92.26
1921	6.09	7.45	8.45	9.44	13.83	18.21	22.60	26.98	39.08	63.29	85.20	129.01
No 1922 to 1927 10¢	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1928	5.11	6.39	7.73	9.07	12.56	16.06	19.55	23.05	31.67	48.90	68.67	108.22
1929	5.11	6.36	7.44	8.51	11.60	14.70	17.79	20.88	29.10	45.53	61.72	94.11
1930	5.13	6.46	7.95	9.44	13.40	17.37	21.33	25.29	36.27	58.22	72.54	101.18
1931	5.11	6.39	7.67	8.94	12.25	15.56	18.86	22.17	29.96	45.53	61.23	92.63
1932	5.40	7.49	10.71	13.93	21.02	28.11	35.21	42.30	52.67	73.41	95.66	140.17
1933	6.52	8.82	14.15	19.47	29.80	40.13	50.46	60.79	77.78	111.75	157.42	248.74
1934	8.07	12.83	23.68	34.53	50.96	67.40	83.83	100.26	129.79	188.85	262.96	411.17
1935	8.08	12.88	23.81	34.74	51.67	68.60	85.53	102.46	133.69	196.16	267.83	411.17
1936	5.90	9.71	11.35	12.98	13.94	14.90	15.86	16.82	25.85	43.93	56.60	81.95
1936 Dot rev Wreath	109.94	153.96	236.38	318.79	402.68	486.57	570.47	654.36	1,107	2,013	2,517	3,523



DTS AVERAGE • 10¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

George VI 10¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 62	MS 63
1937	2.52	3.64	5.26	6.21	7.15	8.10	9.05	14.19	17.83	25.13	38.44	45.10
1938	2.47	5.16	8.77	10.92	13.07	15.21	17.36	38.52	50.36	74.05	150.55	188.80
1939	2.26	3.46	5.01	6.60	8.19	9.78	11.36	26.85	37.95	60.15	121.06	151.52
1940	1.80	2.81	3.42	4.41	5.40	6.39	7.38	11.56	16.65	26.85	54.32	68.06
1941	1.80	2.64	5.40	7.02	8.63	10.24	11.86	25.17	36.27	58.46	142.75	184.90
1942	1.76	2.34	3.51	4.58	5.66	6.73	7.80	19.11	26.85	42.31	87.10	109.49
1943	1.76	2.39	3.51	4.36	5.21	6.06	6.90	11.41	16.00	25.17	53.49	67.64
1944	1.76	2.47	3.66	4.70	5.73	6.77	7.80	16.22	22.13	33.96	67.90	84.87
1945	1.76	2.39	3.46	4.35	5.24	6.13	7.02	11.41	15.77	24.50	50.65	63.72
1946	2.05	3.46	4.52	5.49	6.46	7.42	8.39	17.73	25.24	40.27	61.04	71.42
1947	2.05	4.02	5.53	6.94	8.36	9.77	11.19	22.26	30.25	46.23	91.56	114.23
1947 ML Far from 7	1.76	2.39	3.64	4.30	4.97	5.64	6.30	9.43	12.52	18.71	35.23	43.49
1947 ML Touching 7	2.72	3.71	5.64	6.67	7.70	8.74	9.77	14.62	17.54	23.38	44.04	54.36
1947 ML Over 7	3.95	5.38	8.19	9.29	10.40	11.50	12.60	18.86	23.49	32.74	61.65	76.11
1948	6.53	9.05	14.54	17.83	21.13	24.42	27.72	42.61	52.89	73.46	143.91	179.14
1949	2.06	3.01	4.06	4.54	5.03	5.52	6.00	9.87	12.15	16.71	29.22	35.48
1950	1.76	2.84	4.14	4.83	5.53	6.22	6.92	8.62	11.09	16.04	28.89	35.31
1951	1.76	2.84	4.14	4.83	5.53	6.22	6.92	8.62	9.94	12.58	23.32	28.69
1952	1.76	2.84	4.06	4.59	5.11	5.64	6.17	7.62	9.09	12.04	19.66	23.47

Elizabeth II 10¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63	MS 64	MS 65
1953 - NSF	1.75	2.75	3.53	4.13	4.73	6.03	7.68	12.02	16.36	20.70	25.04	63.44
1953 - SF	2.50	3.50	4.48	5.13	5.78	7.11	9.68	16.86	24.04	31.22	38.40	151.92
1954	2.50	3.50	4.48	5.32	6.16	8.35	17.70	27.05	36.39	45.74	55.09	153.59
1955	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	6.08	7.85	11.52	15.19	18.86	22.54	65.94
1956	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.89	7.51	10.43	13.36	16.28	19.20	55.93
1957	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.74	5.68	6.68	8.35	10.42	12.50	14.57	16.65	49.25
1958	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.58	7.01	9.42	11.83	14.24	16.65	41.74
1959	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	9.14	11.44	13.73	16.03	41.74
1960	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	9.56	12.27	14.98	17.70	51.75
1961	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	9.56	12.27	14.98	17.70	51.75
1962	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	8.97	11.10	13.23	15.36	26.71
1963	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	8.97	11.10	13.23	15.36	26.71
1964	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	8.97	11.10	13.23	15.36	26.71
1965	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	8.97	11.10	13.23	15.36	26.71
1966	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	9.14	11.44	13.73	16.03	28.38
1967	1.75	2.75	3.80	4.37	4.93	5.53	6.84	9.14	11.44	13.73	16.03	28.38
1968 Silver	2.50	3.50	4.48	5.13	5.78	7.11	9.68	16.86	24.04	31.22	38.40	151.92
1968 Nickel	0.26	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.48	0.53	1.70	5.20	8.70	12.19	15.69	49.12
1969	0.26	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.48	0.53	1.70	5.20	8.70	12.19	15.69	49.12
1970 thru 1979	0.22	0.28	0.33	0.39	0.44	0.50	1.67	4.84	8.01	11.18	14.36	40.57
1980 thru 1989	0.22	0.28	0.33	0.39	0.44	0.50	1.67	5.26	8.85	12.44	16.03	49.42
1990 thru 1999	0.22	0.28	0.33	0.39	0.44	0.50	1.67	4.92	8.18	11.44	14.69	42.40
2000 thru 2009	0.17	0.22	0.28	0.33	0.39	0.44	1.39	3.88	6.37	8.86	11.35	23.37
2010 thru 2016	0.17	0.22	0.28	0.33	0.39	0.44	1.22	3.67	6.12	8.57	11.02	22.54

10¢ 1947 Maple Leaf Varieties

by **Dean Silver**

Macro Photos: Dean Silver

Photo: Joe Kennedy



10¢ 1947ML – ML Far from 7 High



10¢ 1947ML – ML Far from 7 Low



10¢ 1947ML – ML Touching 7



10¢ 1947ML – ML Over 7

Calendar Girl

by **Terence Cheesman**



New York Coin Show bourse area

In January of this year, I attended the New York International Coin Show for the second time. This year the show was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel located adjacent to Grand Central Station. The hotel is not as famous as the Waldorf where it has been held for the last few years, though it does have a bit of history. Opened in 1919, the hotel was called the Commodore. It was extensively modernized in 1990 by Donald Trump and renamed the Grand Hyatt. This was his first big construction/renovation project in Manhattan so this is where he got his start. The building is ultra modern and completely covered in glass. The only part left from the old 1919 building is the entrance to the grand ballroom, which for some reason was left as is.

Compared to the Waldorf, which was something of a maze, the events being staged during this show were very easy to find. The auction lot viewing rooms and the lecture rooms were all on the floor immediately below that of the Grand Ball Room where the show was being held. The Grand Ball Room was a room roughly the same size as the one we use for our Edmonton coin show, but perfectly rectangular, which made the layout very uniform. It had a foyer which allowed for the set up of club tables as well as a couple of dealers who sold supplies and books. Given the number of dealers and the amount of traffic, the show had a really good buzz. Again there was an early bird entrance fee of \$125 which got you in for all day Thursday as well as an hour early on each of the three following days. Even on Thursday the room was packed.

The quality of the coins was as impressive as last year, but because all the dealers were in the same room, it actually seemed that there were more coins priced for every budget. True, there were coins priced at over \$250 thousand, and \$50 thousand dollar coins were commonplace, but there were many coins priced in the \$50 to \$200 dollar bracket. I did see one Canadian item. It was a Siege of Louisburg medal in gold valued at \$45,000. It was really impressive. However, the coins for sale at this bourse had to compete with the coins being offered at the auctions which

were held in a room adjacent to the Grand Ball Room. There were quite a number of these auctions, and the material was always very good. Which rather neatly brings me to the main subject of this article.

When I attended the show last year, I pretty well blew all my money at the auctions, leaving really very little for the show. I guess I panicked a bit last year, so this year I made an effort to divide my resources more or less evenly between the auctions and the show. So I dutifully sat at the CNG Triton Auction ready to bid. The initial grouping was

a collection of coins from Roman Egypt. I did not bid on any of those. Then the Greek coins started with lot 301. The first coin that I was really interested in was lot 317 a lovely nomos from the city of Metapontion. I put my hand up to bid...dead silence...I won it with the opening bid, and that pretty well took care of my auction budget. Afterward, I became a spectator. In one sense I was lucky to get it. Most of the coins I was interested in would have cost much more than I could afford (I know, this sure sounds like sour grapes).



Figure 1: The very first Greek coin I ever purchased (330–290 BC)

This brings us to the coinage of Metapontion and my new coin in particular. The coins struck by the Greeks are considered to be among the most beautiful coins ever produced, but there are some regions that seem to consistently produce an aesthetically pleasing coinage. One of these regions is Magna Graecia, the region comprised of current southern Italy and Sicily. The major breakthrough in this area seems to have started in Syracuse sometime around 415 B.C. The technology then spread to the Italian mainland as well as other regions. One of the cities that embraced the new form of artistic expression

was the city of Metapontion, located on the upper instep of the Italian boot. It was one of the most flourishing and opulent cities in Greek Italy. Founded most likely as an outpost of Croton and Sybaris to block the westward expansion of the city of Taras, the fertility of its soil meant her citizens could take part in the lucrative grain trade. This wealth is evident from the massive issue of the impressive spread flan incuse nomoi (staters) which started circa 540 B.C. Like so many other cities in the region, the Metapontines got involved in the Athenian expedition against Syracuse in 415 B.C. by providing a contingent of

soldiers to support the Athenian cause. Fairly soon afterward, there was a radical change in the artistic standard of its civic coinage.

At this point, I should mention that the principle reference on the coinage of Metapontion is "The Coinage of Metapontum", published in three parts. Parts 1 and 2 were written by Sydney P. Noe, which was then updated by Ann Johnston in 1984. Part 3 was published by Johnston in 1990. All three parts were republished by the American Numismatic Society in 1994. The whole book is a die study, which attempted to locate, and then organize into

a sequence, the coins minted by Metapontion. Sometime after the publication of the ANS edition, most scholars began to use the name Metapontion to indicate the Greek city state, reserving the term Metapontum for the city when it was controlled by the Romans.

Most of the early Metapontion issues, which started circa 400 B.C., are quite scarce. However, starting sometime circa 340 B.C., this changed as the coinage volume seems to have expanded dramatically. This is probably a response to the growing menace of the Lucanians. The Lucanians were a native Italic people that occupied the interior of south Italy. Early in the fourth century B. C., they began to encroach on the territories of the Greek cities of south Italy. Faced with this threat, the Tarantines appealed to the Spartans, and in 342, the Spartan king Archidamus III arrived with a large mercenary

army. The status of Metapontion during this period is unclear, and Archidamus was killed in battle with the Lucanians in 338 B.C. In 334 B.C., the Tarantines again called on a foreign king to help them; this time it was Alexander the Molossian who was to lead their army against this continued threat. The citizens of Metapontion were among the first to seek an alliance with him. Initially successful, Alexander was, however, slain at the Battle of Pandosia in 331 B.C.

This tumultuous period saw the minting of Ann Johnson's Class A and B coins. Class A, which began circa 340 B.C., was composed of nomoi honoring the goddess Demeter. However, this group of coins included other brief issues within it, honoring Herakles, Zeus, Apollo and the founder of the city Leukippos. This was very unusual as normally Greek designs once established become

very conservative. It is possible that the authorities allowed a particularly gifted die cutter free reign to showcase his talents, but I don't think so. I rather think that this Class A issue, as attractive as it is, suggests a period of great stress when the citizens called upon the gods to save them from some perceived threat. The Group B coins consist of mostly nomoi, as well as some rare dinomoi honoring Leukippos. These two groups seem to have ended sometime around 330 B.C. It seems most likely that coins of these two groups would have been used to pay for the mercenary armies under the command of Alexander, though it is less clear if they would have been employed to pay the men under Archidamus.

The period between the Battle of Pandosia (331 B.C.) and the arrival of yet another Spartan general (303 B.C.) is virtually

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unknown. There seems to have been some payment to recover the body of Alexander, but beyond this we really do not know much. In 303 B.C., the Spartan prince, Kleonymos, was invited again by the Tarentines to try again to solve the problem posed by the Lucanians. Kleonymos was the son of the previous king of Sparta, but he did not succeed him because his behavior was violent and tyrannical (this must have been really something since we are dealing with Spartans). So in 303 B.C. Kleonymos was off to Taras with his sunny ways and an immense army. Upon seeing

this military force the Lucanians immediately concluded a peace treaty. This had grave repercussions for Metapontion, as it would seem that they had broken their alliance with Taras. The next thing we know is that Kleonymos along with his army and possibly with his new friends the Lucanians marched upon Metapontion. At this point he managed to extract 600 talents and 200 girls from noble families as hostages. This was an immense sum, and if converted into the silver nomoi of Metapontion, would probably represent more than 1,800,000 silver coins. Kleonymos is

something of a flash in the pan for after completing his financial arrangements in Italy, he heads off to Corcyra. He came back in the next year to conquer a city called Thuriae, the location of which is unknown, but he was chased off by Roman forces anyway. Taras by this time had had enough so it revolted and eventually drove him off. Metapontion is not mentioned as having any role during this period.

This is unfortunate, as the period from 330 B.C. to 290 B.C. is covered by Johnston's Group C, and there were a lot of coins struck at that time. It would not



Figure 2: A lovely facing nomos from the city of Metapontion (330–290 BC)

an unreasonable to think that the majority of coins from Group C were part of the ransom paid to Kleonymos, but there are a number of problems with that thought. There does not seem to be any one issue that really stands out as being particularly large. The internal structure of this mint is very difficult to ascertain. While it is very likely that the coins were minted under the aegis of annually elected or appointed magistrates, it cannot be readily be determined if this policy was actually used. Also the care and attention to detail exhibited on the coins does not suggest a group that was produced with some haste.

I actually own two nomoi from the Group C period, the first one of which was actually the very first Greek coin I ever purchased, and the second was from the recent New York auction. Like all the nomoi of this group, the obverse of my first coin (Figure 1) features the head of Demeter, the reverse the iconic grain ear. On the obverse, the letters EY are seen just below the chin. On the reverse, the letters AY (LY) are seen along with a star and the city ethnic META. Some have thought that the letters on the obverse might represent the signatures of the artist, but this has been recently discounted. Perhaps one of the more

noteworthy features on this obverse die are the extremely small rays emanating from the eye of Demeter. They are so small that they are barely visible even with 5 power magnification. This seems to be an attempt to convey the power of her gaze. Something of this effort can be seen with my new auction coin. Unlike the vast majority of other Group C coins featuring the head of Demeter in profile facing right, my new coin (Figure 2) is from a small group that has Demeter's image facing three quarters to the right. The individual who carved this obverse die was very skilled. The image of Demeter is depicted

wearing a stephanos decorated with a palmette. In this case it is all but invisible. She is further crowned with a wreath of grain ears, wearing triple drop earrings and what appears to be a pearl necklace. Her hair is swept back from the face falling down behind the neck in a series of S shaped curls. She has full fleshy cheeks, a small chin and a small mouth set in a frown. On the obverse to the right, are the letters ΑΠ (AP), and on the reverse to the right are the letters ΑΘΕ (ATHE) below a small facing bulls head. Again, the iconic grain ear is complemented by the city ethnic META.

What is perhaps the most noticeable aspect of this image are the eyes. They are seen as distended with large pupils. The overall effect is rather unsettling. Normally the images of the gods are serene, untroubled with the concerns of mortals, however in this case, Demeter is anything but. We do see something of this type of imagery on Ptolemaic coins, particularly on the gold octodrachm coinage of Ptolemy II. On those coins, Ptolemy II and his Queen Arsinoe II are depicted on the obverse, while Ptolemy I along with his Queen Berenike I are honored on the reverse. All four are shown with large, distended "bug" eyes. However, these coins were minted circa 272 to 261 B.C., a minimum of 18 years after the last possible date for the introduction of the


coins from Metapontion. This type of imagery continued on portraits of Ptolemaic queens for at least another century. There is the almost irresistible urge to explain those Ptolemaic issues as the result of some pathological problem. In fact, there is one. It is called Graves disease and one of its most noteworthy symptoms is the bulging of the eyes. Some notable individuals with this disease are Marty Feldman, Rodney Dangerfield and Dame Maggie Smith. The causes of the disease are unknown, but they are thought to involve a combination of genetic and environmental factors. It seems to afflict women much more than men. However, though it can afflict any one at any age, it seems to start most often at the age of 40. While this explanation is very enticing regarding this type of coinage and for my new coin in particular, I cannot say that I have much confidence in the theory. Most importantly, I would not be sure that the image of the goddess Demeter would be associated with an ailment which left untreated can lead to blindness and death.

I think that the real explanation is elsewhere. Thus, I must return to the image on my first Greek coin. It is clear that the celator created the rays emanating from her eye in order to convey the power of her gaze.

Otherwise the portrait is completely conventional with the image of a young, beautiful and serene young woman who is seen in profile. With the facing Demeter portrait, he or some other celator, decided to explore the same theme with emphasis on the power of her gaze. It is most likely that this image was struck before the image of Demeter in profile though again we cannot readily determine how long was the interval between the two issues. Whoever the celator was, he seemed to have worked very hard to produce an impressive image. When promoting my new coin, the cataloger at CNG described the coin as from the "Dies of a Master Engraver". I have to agree. However, I do find the image unsettling. Three quarter facing images are among the most difficult to engrave. I have a number residing within my collection and have examined a number of others. Some are absolute masterpieces of numismatic art. I cannot say that any other image has quite the intensity of this one. I wonder if it was received well when it was struck. It may not have been.

Oh yes, the reference to calendar girl? CNG issues a calendar every year, and for every month they place a large image of a coin. My new coin is Miss February 2018. ~~✂~~

(Coin photos: W Hansen)




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Who's Your Daddy?

A New Babylonian Tetradrachm is
Linked to Alexander's Decadrachm Series

by **Wayne Hansen**



Head of Herakles

Obverse of Lifetime Alexander III Tetradrachm
(Babylon 325–323 BC)

At one of the last ENS coin shows of the 20th Century*, a couple of years before the Y2K computer systems fiasco, I bought my first Alexander tetradrachm from Babylon. Although it was posthumous, I was totally impressed with its sculptural qualities, its substantial feel and its historical presence. I was so impressed that I considered collecting only similar types of large Macedonian coins. Of course that didn't happen, and I sold the same coin for a \$100 loss a few years later. Such are the vagaries of an unfettered collecting career. However, Babylon is the second most common mint for Alexander tetradrachms (after Amphipolis), and its coins are still impressive, so it's always worth checking out new offerings. When I recently encountered an uncommon lifetime Babylon issue, I took a second look, and after some investigation, found that there was more to its story than I first assumed.

* Coincidentally this was about the time that our pre-digital, antediluvian way of life was starting to be annihilated. Computers and word processors had only become widely used in offices and homes a few years earlier. Full-time news channels, basic cell phones (no screen, camera or mini-brain) and even ATMs were still gaining acceptance. Coin dealers and coin auction sites had started to use new internet services to supplement or replace mailed catalogues, although internet photos were still only a future possibility. EBay, which I joined in March 1999, had only been founded in September 1995. It slowly became one of the first mass purveyors of ancient coins on the web, first without photos then with crude ones a few years later. How quickly we forget the medieval tenor of the 20th Century.

The new coin I encountered was posted by a US dealer on a popular ancients website along with a few other similar Alexander tetradrachms. They were noticeable because the dealer photographs his coins against a blue background, much like I do. Although I liked several of the new postings, I had already obtained a nice lifetime Babylon tetradrachm and several others from different mints in the intervening years. I therefore decided to ignore the dealer's new offerings at first, but I kept a photo of the earliest Babylon coin since it was exceptional (see Figure 2

top photo). I went back to have another look a couple of days later, but a number had already been sold or reserved. The one I had been most interested in was still available, whether because of its higher price, its wear, its tight flan or the eastern lifetime style of its obverse portrait. Nonetheless, I was totally impressed with the relative size and boldness of the Herakles portrait, especially with the facial features, which seemed to be more defined than on other dies. After some discussion with the dealer, I ordered it and began to look more closely at the coin's reference information.

The coin appeared to be an early issue because it didn't have a reverse symbol or an additional reverse legend proclaiming Alexander as King (the term ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ, meaning King, was added in the exergue when he adopted the title 'King of Asia' just before he died in 323 BC). My other lifetime Babylon coin had both an extra trident symbol and the additional 'King' title so it was a slightly later issue. Overall, however, it was the new coin's Herakles face and its reverse throne detail that I found rather mesmerizing.

Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of Babylon



Figure 1 – Founded circa 2300 BC, Babylon was an important center in the Fertile Crescent and therefore a player in the development of human civilization. It was a major trading and administrative center with sea and caravan links to the east and overland routes to the shores of the Mediterranean. The Persians invaded much later, around 539 BC, and controlled the surrounding area for only about 200 years before Alexander's Asian conquest. Like the Persians, Alexander used Babylon as the de facto capital of his newly conquered territories (see my previous article *"Alexander's Babylon: Two Mints Struck an Appealing Duo of Coin Issues"*, *The Planchet*, Sept 2015 for more of the historical background). I have attached the names of a few other important cities to the base map above plus two of the three other potential 'hoard' mint locations mentioned later in the article (the third, Salamis, is near Kition).



Where Does the Tetradrachm Fit?

As with any coin, an initial assessment starts with a gut-feel about its relationship to other familiar coins. You know from experience that specific types of coins are classified by mint and time period based on style, fabric and control marks (the more common types can be recognized fairly easily). For example, I knew immediately that my new tetradrachm was part of a specific Alexander lifetime group from Babylon. That takes you a certain distance along the path, but usually a collector will want to cite an actual reference number for each issue, even knowing that those references can sometimes be superseded by new studies – not usually for mint attribution but often for dating. However, large areas of Greek coinage haven't been studied/published in detail at all. If there are no in-depth die studies available for a specific coin type or location, you may have to be content with finding examples published in general museum collections in order to get a reference number (for example, something by ANS or the various *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* publications). In the case of my new Babylon coin, there is fortunately a good reference available.

The main reference used for Alexander III's imperial coinage was completed by Martin J Price – *'The Coinage in the Name of Alexander the Great and Philip Arrhidaeus'* (London, 1991). He did a detailed die study in two large volumes; identifying mint attributions and the sequencing of vast numbers of die varieties. The dealer who sold my latest coin had described it as a 'Price 3627v', which didn't mean much at the time since I didn't have Price at hand (Price 3627 wasn't illustrated anyway). Another lesson: always check the original reference sources where possible since numbers often get garbled in translation. It turned

out, based on the coin's style and control markings, the actual reference number is 'Price 3601', part of the same Babylon group but earlier. This new reference placed the coin as the first with the combination of a typical Babylon reverse monogram and the control letter 'M'. This put it slightly after the very first tetradrachm issues but still early in the Babylon tetradrachm series. It also immediately linked the coin with the die combination for one of the three rare Alexander decadrachm issues struck by that mint, the specific decadrachm identified as 'Price 3600'. The Figure 2 photo comparison indicates why this was done – the obverses are close to the same, and the reverse coin types, always used as the reference key, are identical on both. The other related Babylon decadrachm issues, 'Price 3598' and '3618A', show a different placement of reverse identifiers as well as slightly different die styles.

'Price 3601' tetradrachms are also scarce, struck circa 325–323 BC, in the year or two before Alexander the Great died in that city. Only two coins from slightly differing dies are illustrated as 'Price 3601', and the dies of those coins are different again from my coin so the dies of my coin may be unpublished. The more exciting tidbit is that, with the hundreds and hundreds of Alexander tetradrachm dies known, only the dies of my new coin, together with at least those two other 'Price 3601' variants, most closely resemble the extremely scarce, 'Price 3600' Herakles decadrachm. Very few of the Babylon Herakles decadrachms exist today – they have a total world population of no more than 20 for all three varieties. Several other types of rare Greek decadrachms were struck in far-flung mints, including issues from Athens, Akragas, Syracuse, Carthage, Egypt and

from Alexander's Poros campaign (which was also likely minted in Babylon – at the Babylon II mint). See the Appendix for examples of all decadrachm issues.

The following excerpt is from the Roma XV auction, April 2018, where two Babylon Alexander decadrachms and one Athenian decadrachm were offered. The excerpt provides some historical context for one of the Alexander decadrachms. It should be noted that only a smaller portion of the vast Persian treasury would have been converted to Alexander's coinages right away. (Excerpt courtesy Roma Numismatics Ltd – the coin in question was estimated at 50,000 GBP).

"Struck in three emissions from a mint generally considered to be at Babylon, but possibly Susa or Ekbatana, the decadrachms formed part of a massive conversion of bullion seized from the Persian Royal treasuries at Susa and Persepolis – some 180,000 Attic talents (4,680 metric tons) were liberated from those vaults, converted by decree of the King into ready coinage to meet the expenses of his vast empire and to pay his beloved soldiers. That so few examples of this large denomination survive today is potentially indicative of a special significance or purpose for these coins. It is certainly tempting to think – as many often have – that they represent presentation pieces intended for certain men of rank, and that Alexander, who was well known for his love of giving gifts, may have distributed them personally. In reality though, their low survival rate is probably due to the impracticality of the denomination, since the ubiquitous tetradrachm was the more common and more convenient medium of payment."

Figure 2 following provides a roughly scaled comparison photo of a 'Price 3600' decadrachm and my related 'Price 3601' tetradrachm. Their reverses are virtually identical.

Figure 2 – Tetradrachm/Decadrachm Comparison



Figure 2 – This composite photo juxtaposes my new tetradrachm and a remarkably similar, well-preserved Herakles decadrachm from the same Babylon mint. These are the two main comparison images I used to investigate background information before I received the coin, along with the main Price reference volumes. The photos, from a VCoins dealer and a major auction, are roughly to scale with the tetradrachm at 26mm and the decadrachm at 36mm (the former by later measurement and the latter taken from its description). The tetradrachm weighs 17.06 grams, and the decadrachm weighs 41.98 grams. The types, control marks and style on both sides of the coins are nearly identical, meaning that they were almost certainly from the same mint issue – that is, struck about the same time with the same official markings. Same issue but different denominations. There were

certain features on both coins that convinced me of their relationship, in particular the quality of Herakles's facial modelling, the arrangement of hair locks above Herakles's forehead, Herakles's ear shape, the shape of the lion's lower jaw with the prominent and unusual bulge below, the very similar designs of the lion's jaw, ear, paws and mane, the style and proportions of the reverse throne, the style and design of the Zeus figure, the identical flat, plinth-like stool that Zeus's feet rest on, the pigeon-like eagle in Zeus's hand, the lack of symbol in the left reverse field plus the identical monograms and precise placement under the throne. The one design difference is the addition of two small birds atop the throne back on the larger decadrachm. (Tetradrachm photo courtesy Aegean Numismatics and decadrachm photo courtesy Bertolami Fine Arts.)




Featured Tetradrachm

The Babylon I mint was able to strike several issues of Alexander III's imperial Herakles/Zeus coinage while he was still alive. Many more of his posthumous, crossed-legged Zeus coins were produced there after he died, initially by his young successor Alexander IV, with his regent Perdikkas, then by Philip III and Seleukos I (Philip III used his own name instead of Alexander's). Almost immediately, the style of all posthumous issues became more western and Hellenistic.

My featured coin (Figure 3) is definitely lifetime, occurring even before a similar series of lifetime issues that display an extra symbol in the reverse field and Alexander's new 'King' title. In addition to Zeus having parallel legs, mine has a finely carved, eastern styled obverse that presents us with a rounded, emblematic Herakles portrait. Note the fleshy face and large eye of the Herakles plus his ubiquitous smile. Note also how the generous lion mane closely

fills the roundness of the dotted die border. The muscular Zeus sits on a nicely detailed throne and presents a slightly more western design aspect. Both obverse/reverse figures were artistically carved and were otherwise carefully presented. The corresponding decadrachm issue has been noted as having a highly artistic quality because of its detail and fine rendering, which I think is equally applicable to this coin but on a smaller scale.

The coin's main problems are its tight flan and amount of wear. The tight flan may be more related to the overly generous die since the flan is typical for the period. The Herakles head may be a bit larger because of its connection to the decadrachm series – it is certainly larger than the tetradrachms that preceded it. The other problem is that wear has reduced the amount of detail, however I also considered that few such examples of this early coinage become available.



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Quotes on Similarities

One can state, without exaggeration, that the observation of and the search for similarities and differences are the basis of all human knowledge.

– Alfred Nobel

Everything that happens today is like something in the past, but it's also unlike things in the past. We never know until an event happens if it's the similarities or differences that matter more.

– H. W. Brands

Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana. The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two but can't remember what they are.

– Matt Lauer

Figure 3 – Featured Lifetime Alexander Tetradrachm



Tetradrachm of Alexander III – Babylon I Mint (325–323 BC)

Obv: Head of Herakles wearing lion skin headdress.

Rev: Zeus seated on throne, holding eagle and scepter; monogram and M under throne; (no symbol/no ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ); ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ.

Data: 17.06g, 25.9 x 24.9mm, 1h. Mint: Babylon I, Ancient Mesopotamia/Babylonia.

Reference: Price 3601; Waggoner 57; Muller 673. Ex: Roma 43, 955 group.

Acquired: Aegean Numismatics, February 2018.

(Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Figure 3 – With a diameter of 26mm, this is not a small coin for the type, yet the obverse image completely fills the flan. Indeed, based on the Price reference illustrations, the dies are larger than many at the time. Moreover, the designs and style are very bold, well defined and almost identical to the contemporary decadrachm issue (as discussed in Figure 2). The strike is almost perfectly centered, given the large die and relatively tight flan size, which could indicate that more care was taken on this early issue and possibly indicate a period of low production.

The coin is possibly a recent find since it was seen to have light soil deposits a few weeks before being purchased. The current surface has a dry, dusty patina with a few slightly darker discolorations where deposits were removed. The metal quality looks good. Some surface detail has been lost through wear, although the general appearance is bold and engaging.

The Auction Group Lot and Dealer Photos

As noted in the introduction, I first saw the featured coin as an offering on the VCoins site. Aegean Coins had listed several other unusual and interesting tetradrachms about the same

time, but I initially decided to ignore them. After some discussion with the dealer a couple of days later, I ordered it and began to look more closely at the issue's production context.

I also discovered in my discussion that the coin had recently been sold in a group lot at auction, so I quickly located the sale info.

Figure 4 – Original Group Lot Photo



Figure 4 – This double-sided photo was provided by Roma to identify the aforementioned auction group lot in Auction 43 (my featured coin is dead center on both). Almost all of the coins were from the Babylon mint, although three of the earliest ones were from mints in Cyprus and Phoenicia – still within the eastern Mediterranean area however. Ten of the fifteen coins were lightly encrusted with compacted, light brown soil while five were either previously cleaned and/or were of suspected origin. Even though the quality of the auction photo is not great, the relief on most of the coins is quite obvious, a characteristic of Babylon and some other eastern mints. (Photo courtesy Roma Numismatics)

Figure 5 – Group Lot Tetradrachms as Sold by Dealer



Row 1: Lifetime Alexander III Tet – Featured Babylon Coin (325–323 BC)

Row 2: Lifetime/Early Posthumous Alexander III Tets – Various Mints: a) Kition Mint, 325–320 BC, 17.13g; b) Salamis Mint, 332–323 BC, 16.95g; c) Tyre/Ake Mint, 320–319 BC, 17.11g.

Row 3: Lifetime Philip III Tets – Babylon Mint (323–320/17 BC): a) 17.17g; b) 16.58g; c) 16.60g.

Row 4: Posthumous Alexander III Tets – Babylon Mint (311–305/0 BC): a) 17.10g; b) 17.04g; c) 17.14g.

Row 5: Posthumous Alexander III Tets – Babylon Mint (311–305/0 BC): a) 17.10g; b) 17.12g; c) 17.10g.

Figure 5 – These are the thirteen group coins that the dealer subsequently photographed individually and quickly sold on the VCoins website (two of the previously cleaned ones in the Roma lot were apparently fake, leaving the thirteen good ones). They are not to scale since I don't have detailed dimensions. The dealer had removed the compacted soil on the ten lightly encrusted ones while leaving the surfaces otherwise natural.

The Hoard Question Explored

The group lot provenance added a whole other dimension to my coin purchase. Was it really just a coincidence that these particular coins ended up in the group or that most of them were from the same mint and that they were roughly minted about the same time? Was it a coincidence that most of them were covered with the same color of compact soil and to roughly the same degree? I don't think it was a coincidence, which leads to the obvious conclusion that at least the ten lightly encrusted coins in the offering were likely part of a small hoard that eventually appeared at the auction house. Perhaps all fifteen were part of the hoard, and a few had simply been cleaned beforehand, or maybe just the thirteen good ones. The find may not have been necessarily recent, but recent is probable. The ten encrusted coins were probably assigned to the auction group lot because they hadn't been cleaned, with a few other odd related pieces added (if they

hadn't all been found together). I haven't tried to clarify any of these circumstances with the auction house since such details are often quite scarce or avoided altogether.

If we assume that the encrusted coins and possibly a few others were likely a small hoard find, we can ask what other information might be obtained from them. That is exactly what archeologists and reference authors do, though they would usually hope to have more find data and a much larger sample in order to look at individual dies and their relationships. In this case, because of the surface condition of the coins, we know they were found on land, probably in a very dry area, possibly in light, sandy soil and not close to intensive, modern agriculture. The location was likely somewhere between the Phoenician coast and Babylon, though it could be farther east. It was not likely on Cyprus because the youngest coins were

struck in Babylon, but it is impossible to tell much of anything because of the extensive migration of Alexander tetradrachms. The coins would have followed their own separate trajectories after minting, only coming together at the very end of their circulating life. Cyprus, Babylon and Phoenician cities were all on major trade/caravan routes. Beyond that, it could be surmised that the hoard was stashed away, or lost, no earlier than 305 BC and probably circa 290–300 BC. The Salamis coin is the oldest and the most worn, so it was obviously used very extensively. The Kition coin, minted a few years later, is much fresher which means it circulated less vigorously and/or it could have been stashed away more than once. It is all conjecture, but any extra bits of possible detail add an element of intrigue to my basic, bare bones coin transaction. Just seeing the thirteen good coins side-by-side provides an immense amount of context.



In Closing...

When I was in Chicago many years ago, a prominent dealer placed two Athenian decadrachms into my hands unannounced – one in each hand of course. As I had no idea what he was doing, it took a few moments to realize that they weren't just regular tetradrachms, and then it was kind of amazing. I think they were valued at several hundred thousand dollars each.

Decadrachms are kind of a Holy Grail denomination in Greek circles. It becomes an ego thing for collectors – even the mild

mannered can become unbearable if they happen to own one. In fact, as with anything else, it simply boils down to how much money one is willing to spend.

But then, I think you can be happy enough with a really nice tetradrachm, especially if it looks much the same as its decadrachm relative. Besides, decadrachms are just so awkward and heavy – completely impractical for transport to shows and displays. Also, even just one of them would surely cause a lot of friction among


the many normally endowed, but sensitive, coins in my safety deposit box. So, my new Babylonian tetradrachm/mini-decadrachm is just fine, thank you very much. It is exceptionally portable, and doesn't require a second look to know what it is. One shouldn't complicate one's life unnecessarily.

'Who's Your Daddy?' Your daddy is obviously a not-so-immaculate Babylonian decadrachm that stuck around for the conception part at least.

Appendix – Other Greek Silver Decadrachms

I have listed these decadrachms by issue date and I've also included their weight and auction source. Some are known by fewer than 10–20 examples. Their weights vary according to regional weight standards and wear. The earlier ones are generally struck to the Attic standard of close to 43 grams, while the more eastern types from Carthage and Egypt are struck to a similar, lighter standard known as 'five shekels' for the Carthage issue anyway (the shekel was a unit generally applied to coinages in Phoenician areas). The Poros coin

is doubly unusual since it is close to attic weight but it is called both a decadrachm and a five-shekel coin. This is because it is assumed to have been minted at the local, Babylon II mint that also issued the rougher satrapal lion coins, known as dishekels, even during Alexander's occupation. The lion coins had been used for the local market since Persian times and were called shekels since they didn't adhere to the usual Persian weight standard. Three of the earlier decadrachms, including the two from Syracuse and the one from Akragas, have close

tetradrachm relatives similar to the featured Babylon Herakles pairing. It is possible to see all of these coins in almost one place if you visit the National Museum in Copenhagen and the State museums in Berlin. 

(Note: There is another whole group of large, primitive, Thracian tribal coins that are sometimes referred to as decadrachms. I have not included them here since the weights of individual coins vary considerably, and since many are also referred to as octodrachms or dodecadrachms.)



Athens 469/5–460 BC (42.78g Roma)



Syracuse 466–465 BC (42.65g NY Sale)



Akragas 409–406 BC (42.42g NAC)



Syracuse 405–370 BC (43.27g Roma)



Poros Babylon 327 BC (40.08g NY Sale)



Babylon 325–323 BC (41.98g Bertolami)



Carthage 264–241 BC (37.95g Chaponniere)



Egypt Ptol II 253–242 BC (35.5g Goldberg)

Faking It

by Joe Kennedy

J I O Q A L D B R F A K E F Z F S R J X P
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 R L Z A I N A C C U R A T E V P R O F I T
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 W N B G A N G N S S R X C R I M I N A L Z
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 M T G W K S O Y C C T L A I N S E I Z E D

Answer to the Puzzle Page
 from the March 2018 issue
 of THE PLANCHET

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altered	criminal	fantasy	magic	security
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authenticate	double headed	free	profit	suspect
bogus	dud	funny (money)	quality	tampered
caper	electrotype	gang	refuse	technology
cast	evasion	illegal	reproduction	token
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