

The **PLANCHET**

Magna Carta

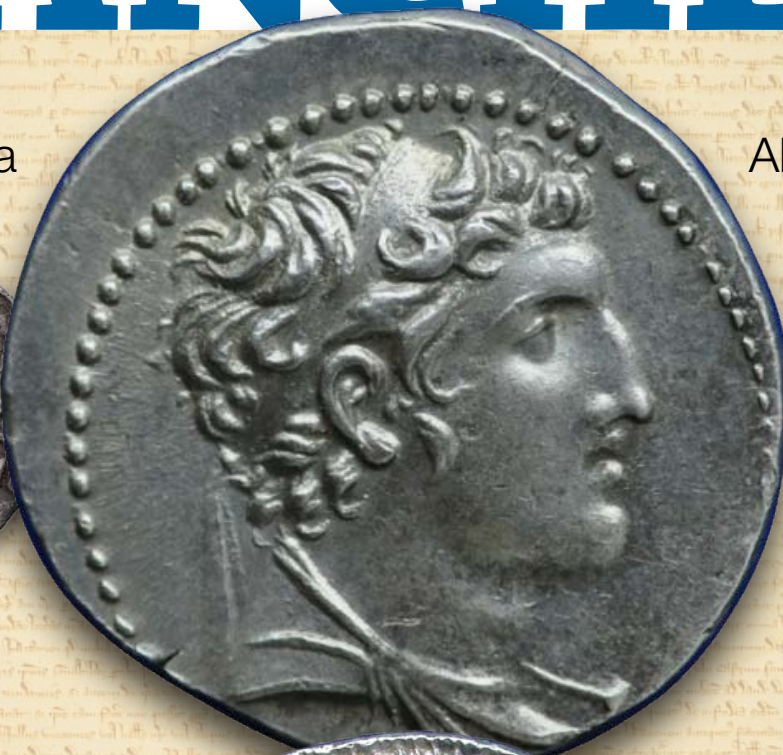
PAGE 7



Alexander

Balas

PAGE 5



Counterfeit
Coins and
Holders

PAGE 24



A Fine Lion
Stater of
Mithrapata

PAGE 17

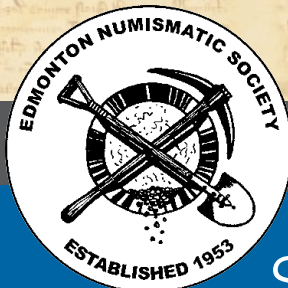


Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 63 · Issue 1



THE PLANCHET \$4.75CDN



February 2016

Spring Show

March 12th & 13th 2016

The **PLANCHET**

Volume 63 · Issue 1

-
- 1 **Message from the President**
 - 2 **Next Meeting**
 - 3 **About Your Society**
 - 4 **Spring 2016 Show**
 - 24 **Counterfeit Gold**
 - 25 **Membership Form**
 - 26 **Puzzle Page**
 - 27 **ENS Classifieds**
 - 27 **Coming Events**

Feature Articles

5 **Two Coins of Alexander Balas**

Ancient / Medieval by Terence Cheesman

7 **The Magna Carta**

A Penny's Worth by Marc Bink

17 **A Fine Lion Stater of Mithrapata**

A classic Lycian dynast coin impresses with a bold lion design.

Amid the Ruins by Wayne Hansen

The Planchet Team

Editor-In-Chief

Joe Kennedy

Co-Editors

Pierre Driessen

Marc Bink

Wayne Hansen

Content Editor

Chris Hale

On-Line Distribution

Pierre Driessen

Printing and Mailing

Howard Gilbey

ON THE COVER

Tetradrachm from Tyre, 149 B.C.

King John Penny

Mithrapata Stater, circa 385 B.C.

Counterfeit NGC holder & coin

Background: Magna Carta, 1297

DISCLAIMER

The opinions herein are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Edmonton Numismatic Society.

The editors, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to accept or refuse any material submitted for publication.

Message from the President

Marc Bink

February 2016

Happy Belated New Year!

So we've all made it through the Christmas season, New Year's is becoming a distant memory, and we're all settling into the winter doldrums. For some, I'm sure this is an exciting time of year with lots to do outside or on ice. For some others, this is a time to catch up on all the things one can do inside the house. Whether it is sorting out the collection, rewiring the basement or jetting off to someplace hot, it seems there's always something to do.

The same thing goes for the club. Just because it is the middle of winter it doesn't mean that the executive has been idle. We've negotiated another set of show dates at our current venue. So now we're "good" through to November 2019. As this goes to print, we're still working on some items with the hotel to make the show even better.

We will be passing around the volunteer sheets for the upcoming show in March. Yes, it seems we just finished one show, and here we are soliciting for volunteers again. That's just the way the calendar works. So, we need your help again to continue putting on the biggest and best coin show in the country.

This is the year that I'd love to take care of our website issue. For those of you who've been on it recently, you've undoubtedly noticed that it hasn't changed much since its inception in 1998. Back in the day it was state-of-the-art; today, it's considered antiquated kludge. Technology is passing us by. Of course, as coin collectors, it's no big deal, we're used to that, but as far as attracting newer and younger members or even promoting the Planchet the website is becoming a large hindrance. We have to update the technology or we'll lose out. And it is 2016, after all.

The annual Executive Elections will be held in February at our Annual General Meeting. If you've ever harboured a desire to be in the driver's seat of an organization, here is your chance. Please talk to Terence Cheesman if you're interested. We are currently accepting nominations for all positions on the board. Succession planning is a very important thing for any club or service group, ours being no exception. A few of us have been "around" for a long time and there are possibly some members who would prefer to move on. So here's your big chance to help steer one of the most dynamic coin clubs in Canada!

In the meantime, enjoy this issue, and see you soon!

2016

**Remember
to renew your
membership**

As low as \$15 a year
for adult membership.

We accept cash,
cheques, and PayPal.

ENS Membership
Form is on page 25

**Thank-you for
your support!**

**Edmonton
Numismatic
Society**



@ the Next Meeting

Edmonton Numismatic Society



SUBSCRIBE TO THE PLANCHET

7 issues a year
for only \$15

+ a one-year
membership
in the Edmonton
Numismatic Society.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 Annual General Meeting

Royal Alberta Museum

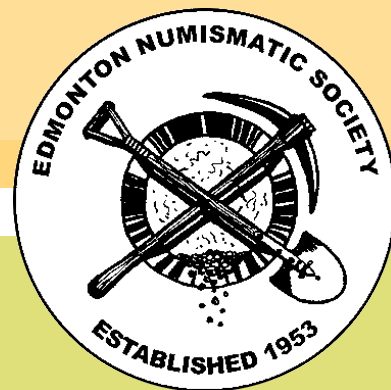
12845 – 102 Avenue, Edmonton

Meeting Starts at 7:15

- Society Matters
- 2016 Board of Directors and Executive elections
- Show and tell
- Break for: coffee, pop and cookies
- Silent auction
- Door prize draws

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

P.O. Box 78057, RPO Callingwood,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. T5T 6A1



The ENS on facebook



Come visit us at

[http://www.facebook.com/
EdmontonNumismaticSociety](http://www.facebook.com/EdmontonNumismaticSociety)

- be our friend and 'like' us
- get up-to-date information on
club news and coming events
- talk to other club members and take
your club experience to another level

If you have any suggestions please talk
to Ermin Chow or the Executive.



The ENS on twitter

Come follow us at

@ENSCoinClub

- get updates on coming events
- ask us numismatically related
questions
- find other friends
- stay connected to the
numismatic community.

About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary



January 13, 2016 ENS Monthly Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:24 hrs and welcomed the 40 members in attendance and wished everyone a happy new year.

March 12–13, 2016 Coin Show

- The volunteer sign up was circulated in the room for those wishing to assist in the operation of the coin show. A column was added to identify those wishing to display numismatic items.
- Terence Cheesman will be in charge of displays, ably assisted by Wayne Hansen.
- In regards to the silent auction, Howard Gilbey will require the lots no later than the February 9, 2016 monthly meeting. Lots can also be dropped off at National Pride Coin and Stamp or at Northgate Stamp & Coin by Saturday February 13. The lot sheets will be available on the ENS website.
- As mentioned at the last meeting Ron Darbyshire will augment activities for children, by adding a treasure hunt to the current kid's auction.
- The Howard Johnson hotel has made a commitment to improve the quality of the food and service.
- We have a contract with the hotel until March 2019, with an option for November 2019.

2016 ENS Election

A reminder was given about the upcoming March 2016 club elections and everyone is encouraged to participate. Terence Cheesman is the head of the election committee.

Presentation

The 50/50 prize was drawn before Terence Cheesman gave a presentation on ancient Greek coins called "The Search for Identity – The Coinage of South Italy".

Show & Tell

Before the show and tell started an alert was given about a scam of counterfeit NGC certified gold coins and gold bars.

Items passed around during Show & Tell were:

- A 1797 two pence piece. This was the largest British circulating coin ever made. The size of the coin led to its "Cartwheel" nickname.
- Two banknotes from Ukraine. The one from 1992 was printed by the same company that produced Canadian Tire Notes. The other one was from 2014.
- From British Columbia a trade dollar from the community of Lillooet with an off strike.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 20:55 hrs.

2014–15 Executive

Marc Bink – **President**

David Peter – **Vice President**

Pierre Driessen – **Treasurer**

Mitch Goudreau – **Secretary**

Joe Kennedy – **Editor-In-Chief**

Jamie Horkulak – **Past President**

Directors

Wayne Hansen

Terence Cheesman

Howard Gilbey

Jeremy Martin

John Callaghan

Greg Wichman

Andy Vanderleest

Marv Berger

Mirko Dumanovic

Ermin Chow

Webmaster: Markus Molenda

Facebook: Ermin Chow

Twitter: Roger Grove

Librarian: Mitch Goudreau

Show Chair: David Peter

Social Activities: Pierre Driessen

Youth Director: Alex McPhee

PRIVACY POLICY

The Edmonton Numismatic Society (ENS) does not engage in the sale nor distribution of personal information to third parties for commercial purposes. All information collected is strictly for ENS internal use and purposes, to permit the ENS Executive and its agents to communicate with you about ENS related matters and to provide you with the full benefits of ENS membership.

THE PLANCHET COPYRIGHT NOTICE

© Copyright 2016. All information herein, the design, style and format are the property of the Edmonton Numismatic Society (ENS). All rights reserved. No part hereof may be reproduced in any form or medium, electronic or otherwise, without the express written consent of the ENS Executive Committee. Current members of the ENS are entitled to make one (1) printed copy of this issue and to store one (1) copy in electronic format as part of their membership privileges, further distribution is strictly prohibited.

Spring 2016 Show

Canada's largest spring numismatic event

Sat. Mar. 12, 2016 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. Mar. 13, 2016 10:00am – 4:30pm

Howard Johnson Hotel

15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta. T5P 3Z2

780-484-3333 for hotel room reservations

Hotel room bookings: use code Edmonton Coin Show (for your special show rate)

Admission: \$5 at door (youth under 16 years of age free)

- ATM on premises. Bank nearby
- Parking: free (back of hotel, around sides of hotel and on street)
- Transportation: easy access, centrally located, bus service with Jasper Place transit hub nearby.
- Families Welcome !

Special events:

- **Free appraisals** of your coins, medals, paper money, tokens, watches and other time pieces
- Educational coin and medal **displays**
- **Door prizes** including gold coin draw
- **Adult Silent auction** with bidding open to everyone
- **Kids Coin Auction** and **Kids Treasure Hunt** managed by Kids-on-Coins

The Edmonton Numismatic Society is sponsoring:

Coin Auction for Kids

Hosted by Kids-On-Coins

Saturday March 12, 2016

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (arrive by 12:45 pm)

Howard Johnson Hotel,
15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta

- participation is free, parents are welcome
– register at the Kids-On-Coins table prior to event!
- an excellent and fun introduction, in a non-pressure setting, to coin collecting and auctions
- all material for participation will be provided, including: catalogue and play money for bidding!



Sponsored by the Edmonton Numismatic Society

Two Coins of Alexander Balas

by **Terence Cheesman**

The first Greek portraits on coins were the images of the recently deceased Alexander the Great, who died in 323 B.C. Very quickly thereafter, during the first decades after 300 B.C., portraits of living rulers began to appear on the coinages issued by the successor states which were carved out during the dissolution of the empire created by Alexander. However, a rather curious phenomenon occurred. Most of the states minting portrait coins either gave up the practice or continued to mint portraits of their founder. Only the Seleucid monarchy continued to mint images of the current monarch. Thus this imagery provides a vital bridge between the first Greek portraits and the Roman portraits that followed them.

Alexander I Balas was one of the more unusual characters to inhabit the Seleucid throne, and his story really starts in 190 B.C., after his grandfather(?), Antiochos III, was decisively defeated at the battle of Magnesia. Part of the settlement stipulated that a son of the Seleucid monarch was to be held as a hostage in Rome. For the Romans, this hostage represented security, for the Seleucids it meant trouble which came in 175 B.C., when the son of Antiochos III, Seleukos IV, died and left a five year old boy, Antiochos the Child, on the throne, and a grown man Antiochos IV the son of Antiochos III, as hostage in Rome. Needless to say, Antiochos IV escaped and overthrew Antiochos the Child and became king. You are probably getting confused with all these characters named Antiochos (it gets worse). After Antiochos IV died in 164 B.C., his 9 year old son Antiochos V inherited the throne and he also had a grown man



Attic weight tetradrachm minted at Antioch in 147 B.C.



Tetradrachm Minted on Ptolemaic Standard at Tyre in 149 B.C.

Demetrios I the son of Seleukos IV held hostage in Rome. Again he escaped (Roman security, not so good) overthrew Antiochos V and became king. By doing so, he established two competing royal blood lines which can be exploited by anyone so inclined.

So we now come to the career of Alexander Balas. He was a nice looking young man who claimed to be a son of Antiochos IV. He was "discovered" by an important minister in the government of Antiochos IV, whose brother rebelled against Demetrios and was executed by him. Despite these rather dubious credentials, he came

to the attention of Attalos II King of Pergamon. He had a grudge against the Seleucid monarchy (they always do) and probably thought that introducing Alexander into the mix would cause problems for the Seleucid kingdom. In this effort, he was joined by Ptolemy VI King of Egypt who offered Alexander the hand of his daughter Cleopatra Thea. With all this help, he finally defeated Demetrios in 150 B.C., establishing himself as king.

Alexander minted coins from many mints. However I am only going to look at the two that currently reside in my collection. The first is an Attic weight tetradrachm

minted at Antioch in 147 B.C. At that time, the standard was roughly 16.75 grams (mine is at 16.24 grams). On the obverse is a portrait of Alexander who is depicted clean shaven, though with long wispy sideburns. He is wearing a diadem which is a symbol of kingship, the ends falling straight behind his head. The most novel part of his image is the conscious effort to link both his image as well as his name to Alexander the Great. Unlike the images of the Seleucid kings that preceded him, whose images featured rather short hair, neatly combed, Alexander's hair is very flamboyant, long and very curly, much like the hair style employed by Alexander the Great. Also one can see the massive fleshy jaw and the large orbital ridge, which are iconic features on the portraits of Alexander the Great. There are some differences as well. The large distended eye, as well as the horn of the god Ammon, are not present. Overall the image is one of youth and vitality, with the promise that this man would be a worthy successor to the throne.

The reverse features the image of a seated Zeus Nicephorus which means the bearer of victory. Zeus is depicted as a bearded, semi-nude figure seated on a throne holding a scepter in his left hand and a small figure of Nike in his right outstretched hand. Nike is seen with outstretched arms in the act of crowning Zeus with a laurel crown of victory. This image is very reminiscent of the image found on the coins of both Alexander's "father", Antiochos IV, well as that of Alexander the Great. Thus through his coins, he strengthened the link between himself and his father along with harkening back to the images used on the coins of Alexander the Great.

The legend reads "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΘΕΟΠΙΑΤΟΡΟΣ

ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ". This translates as, "of King Alexander, the son of divine parents, benefactor". Antiochos IV used among his other titles, "god manifest", and so Alexander continues with this statement by declaring himself to be the son of a god. The title of "benefactor" refers to the nature of his rule and the prosperity his rule should bring. In the exergue one finds the letters ΣΕΡ. This represents the Seleucid year 166 which in our reckoning is 147 B.C. This system is based on the year one being 312 B.C., when the founder of the dynasty became king. There are two monograms, one in the exergue which is ΗΓ or ΗΓ and another in the left field ΚΑ. These would be the monograms of mint officials who were in charge of the mint at that time.

The second coin is a tetradrachm minted at Tyre. This coin is struck on the old Ptolemaic standard, which at this point in time was 14.25 grams (mine weighs 14.24 grams). The obverse again features the portrait of Alexander, though in this case the imagery is less like that of Alexander the Great. The jaw is present, but the hair is much more subdued and has the rather tight curls introduced by his "father", Antiochos IV. He still wears the diadem, but this time he is wearing a military cloak. The features of the face suggest strength, as the line from the forehead to the chin is nearly vertical. The mouth is set firmly, again suggesting resolve. After all, the purpose of the coin is to present the individual, in this case Alexander, as an individual fit and worthy to rule. This image does so successfully. The reverse features an eagle standing left on the prow of a ship, with its wings folded. Over its right shoulder rests a palm branch. This is a variation on the standard Ptolemaic reverse design. At one time, this region was part of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, but

Antiochos III wrested the region away from the Ptolemies in 198 B.C.

Like other kingdoms, whose supply of silver is limited, the Ptolemies adopted a light weight silver coinage. These light weight coins virtually guaranteed that their silver coins would remain in Ptolemaic territory. After the Seleucid conquest, no significant silver coinages were minted. However starting in 151 B.C., Alexander began the minting of these Ptolemaic style coins. It is likely that some of the impetus came from the use of Ptolemaic troops in his army, thus the pay would have been in coin they knew, but another factor would be to recreate a coinage that the local population would find familiar. This coin type would continue even after Tyre became independent in 126 B.C. The legend on the reverse reads "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ" meaning "of King Alexander". In the left field is a club which is the symbol of the city, and on the right field is the date ΔΕΡ which translates to year 164 which is 149 B.C. A monogram of a mint official ΤΑΕ is seen also in the right field.

Alexander did not live up to his hype. He turned out to be totally dissolute and became extremely unpopular. In 146 B.C., Demetrios II the son of Demetrios I, rebelled and gaining the support of the Ptolemies, together they routed him in battle. He fled to the Nabateans who had him killed, his head being sent to Ptolemy. His wife Cleopatra Thea married Demetrios II and started an extraordinary career fathering some eight children who proceeded to rip apart what was left of the kingdom. Alexander did produce one child with the prolific Cleopatra, Antiochos VI, who reigned for two years. However, he did spawn another fake son, Alexander II, who did reign (this is somehow fitting) but all of this is another story.

The Magna Carta

by **Marc Bink**



**King John Signing the Magna Carta,
Runnymede, 1215**

(John Leech, 1847)

It seems only kind of fitting that a government that has decided that public input is irrelevant and that it knows what's better for us than the rest of us, or one that now has figured out a way to tax the air we breathe (ostensibly to try and protect it) is the proud sponsor of an exhibit of a document that was crafted 800 years ago to prevent exactly the sort of thing it was now guilty of. The other day I had the opportunity to have a look at a copy of the "Magna Carta" that is on display over at the Legislature building. As I was reading through the placards and computer screens associated with the display, I couldn't help but overhear some of the comments people were making. Then it dawned on me just how little is known about that era around here or the significance of this document. And yes, I'll also talk about the only coin that was available to those people then, the lowly penny.



Writers Wanted!

Experience a new
dimension in coin
collecting!

Write an article for the
PLANCHET:

- share your knowledge and enthusiasm for your collecting interests
- conduct a bit of research into your collection
- receive the *Silver Maple Leaf Volunteer Award*, given to all volunteer writers
- volunteers are eligible for the *Reach for the Gold* draw at the end of every year.

Contact:

editor_ens@yahoo.ca

Edmonton Numismatic Society

The Magna Carta is a hand written document that more or less sets the basis of our current system of government. It guarantees the right of trial by due process, and there are definitions of property, limits to taxation and the right to representation. It is written in Medieval Latin and littered with abbreviations; as such, that means it's incredibly difficult to translate into modern English. Most of all, the document limits the absolute power of the Crown over its subjects and lays the cornerstone of our modern parliamentary democracy.

It all starts in the early 1200's. In actuality, it was a problem that had been brewing ever since the Normans came over in 1066. The king, as defined by the Normans, was a divine-right style ruler. Everyone and everything belonged to him to be disposed of at His Majesty's pleasure. Needless to say, this didn't resonate very well with the general public, but with barons running around and chopping heads off for sport, there weren't that many avenues open to protest. The barons themselves though were feeling the pinch. In terms of the economy, they were the ones who basically transferred the objects of barter to hard silver plate. The farmers in their servitude would offer up their grains, livestock or members of their family in order to pay their share of the incessant taxes imposed on them by the Crown. The barons would then sell off these grains, livestock and essentially slaves to the highest bidder for silver pennies. This would amount to a lot of pennies, so they would also have an arrangement with a local moneyer to manufacture said pennies out of whatever plate they could get. Both gold and silver were fairly hard to get, so stocks were limited. In turn, the monarch would provide a set of dies and the license for the moneyer to go and strike coins. Ostensibly, all the

money belonged to the Crown, and this determined the King's worth.

Inevitably, it was never enough. The Crown just kept demanding more. By the time Richard I (Lionheart) came to the throne in 1189, the larder that his father had built was barely enough. There were obligations and debts. Then there was this little inconvenient war that had been going pretty much since the Normans left the French shore for England. The king of France basically wanted his cut, and he expected the English crown to pay homage to him, because he was nominally its superior in France.

The problem was that the Plantagenets in England were a proud bunch, and they refused to pay homage or anything for that matter. Henry II, Richard's father, was particularly obstinate, and he had basically thumbed off the French king's overtures and wound up wasting English money fighting in France. Henry had built a large empire in France, referred to as the "Angevin Empire", and this "empire" was larger than the domains of the king of France. Louis VII Capet of France decided this more or less had to end, because Henry was gaining more real-estate and had access to more money. By that point, "France" was little more than the "Ille de France" in the middle of the reeking Seine which Paris stood on. So he and his descendants decided to do something about it. They fought the Angevins and started to whittle them down. Henry fought long and hard in France and then to top it off, had to fight his own two sons. Henry died a bitter old man; betrayed and bedraggled on all sides. It started when he had tossed his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, in a prison which had incensed his sons. So Richard went to redeem his mother's honour, and John decided to hang on and try

to get something out of this mess, because his father had deemed him unworthy of owning or managing any property. He had nothing to lose by this point. The funny thing is, all throughout John's life, it was always that way; he inevitably had nothing to lose but gained nothing in the attempt.

Case in point; Richard I had "taken the cross" and left England upon claiming his kingship and cementing the claim. While away in the Holy Land, he made few friends and created a lot more enemies with his Angevin charm and blunt methodology. He earned the sobriquet "Lion Heart" for being a rather nasty piece of work, at least as far as Saladin and the Saracens were concerned. He managed to have over 3000 captives beheaded, which of course was answered by a reciprocal move by Saladin shortly afterwards. While taking care of the defense works at Ascalon, Richard reportedly tossed an Austrian duke out on his ear to fend for himself because of his supposed uselessness. When Richard opted to return to England after negotiating with Saladin, he was supposed to have had a "safe passage" guaranteed by the Pope back to England, but instead wound up betrayed and in captivity in Germany. That same Austrian duke had seen him in Vienna and had him arrested. His minstrel Blondel, purportedly found him singing away in Durnstein castle. This is probably not the truth, but regardless of that, Richard wound up in the hands of his enemies who were by then falling all over themselves at the prospect of either taking him out for good or extorting a huge ransom from England to get him back. After a series of negotiations, they chose the latter and the king of France told his ally, Prince John of England, that it was going to cost the English 100,000 marks of silver to get him back. John didn't seem

too overly concerned about his brother's welfare and made plans to take over the throne. Richard's mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, managed to mortgage the family jewels and a great deal of silver to get the required sums together to bail her one son out. When Richard was finally released, the first person he went after was John, who then went and hid under his mother's petticoats. Eleanor equated this all to a family spat and probably wrote Richard a letter, "Dear Dick; Forgive Jack. Love always, Nell." It seems to have worked. Richard backed off. John lost out, his reputation took a beating and he was once again reduced to a minor role.

And the English? What did they get? Sure; they got their king back. He was very popular, so the English paid dearly. It's still a surprise that Richard, even though he had spent maybe two weeks of his life in England, was very popular there. Partially because his brother was viewed with such distaste. John as regent was a dismal failure. It was around this time when the legend of Robin Hood was started, and the king supposedly met up with the "Merrie Men" in the Sherwood Forest near Nottingham. Of course, Robin Hood fought injustice and inequality by stealing from the rich

and giving to the poor all in the name of good king Richard, but did that really happen? Probably not; there is a record of a "Robbime Heud" being buried in a pauper's grave in Nottingham after being executed in 1247. He apparently was a thief and a cutthroat who had been exiled from society for petty crimes and lived outside of the law hiding in the forests. According to records he did steal from the rich, as well as any other unfortunate who had the misfortune of coming across his path. It seems he looked only to enrich himself. So much for folklore...

That ransom for Richard had come to 100,000 marks of Cologne silver, to be paid immediately upon release, and then another 50,000 to be paid over time. This amounted to 23 tons of silver, in the form of coin and ingots. Richard probably had 13' and 6d on his person upon his release, because he had to pay for his personal expenses while incarcerated. The only coinage denomination in use in England at the time was the Short-cross penny. In fact, it was the only form of specie money used, period. There was no gold, no paper or debit cards, just silver pennies. The currency was based on the Troyes standard that had by that point prevailed since



Gravestone of Richard I Lionheart at Fontevraud Abbey

the demise of the Roman Empire; 240 pennies made a pound sterling, (£) 12 pennies made a shilling. The penny could be cut along the cross into its component parts, either as a "farthing" ($\frac{1}{4}$ penny) or a "halfpenny". ($\frac{1}{2}$ penny). The abbreviations had also been borrowed from the French who in turn had them from the Romans; pound "£" or "Livre", Shilling, a stylized "S" for Solidus, and finally "d" for "denier" or "denarius". This system remained in place up until the English currency was modernized in 1970. Now; with the average weight of a Richard I Short-cross penny being around 0.9 grams, give or take 0.05 grams, which will take a lot of pennies to make up the required 23 tons of silver. Needless to say, England was broke.

Richard didn't stick around. The truth is, he was a good soldier, but a lousy king. He didn't have time for the usual kingly duties like governing, hawking or availing himself of other people's wives when it suited him. In fact, rumour has it that he tended to be in a medieval equivalent of a closet; and surprisingly enough, it was no big deal in those days, as this was before the Church clamped down on whatever they later considered as "deviant behavior" about 100 years later. So off Richard went, on yet another campaign in France in 1199, to a place called Limousin. The unfortunate thing is, he got hit by the medieval equivalent of a sniper and died as a result of an arrow wound. He had decided to go and fire off a quiver of arrows at the castle they were besieging, and in the gloom of the evening didn't see the arrow coming at him. It lodged in his shoulder, and instead of immediately pulling it out, he left it and staggered off to his tent. There a "surgeon" botched the removal of the iron head, and, as is usually the case in those dirty

times, septicemia set it and it was all over. He left no children, and his wife was conspicuously absent from his funeral.

Richard wasn't even cold when John scrambled off to London. He almost wasn't fast enough; he almost didn't make it in time. John immediately absconded with the treasury and the family fortune and managed to muscle his older brother Geoffrey and nephew Arthur out of the way and get himself crowned. Geoffrey he paid off; and he had Arthur arrested. John eventually either murdered him personally in a drunken rage or had someone else do it. But the 15 year old Arthur was no match for John and his still formidable mother Eleanor.

After they portioned out and buried Richard's earthly remains, there came the legal problem of succession. Eleanor of Aquitaine was still technically the regent. However, that couldn't go on forever. So she connived to get her last son, John, legally installed as king. John had to first promise that he'd be a good boy, something he did but had no plans ever to follow through with. He could see his goal was finally within his grasp. Possession being 9/10ths, John had the cash and therefore controlled the levers of power.

John is rumoured to be misunderstood. Shakespeare notwithstanding, we find we have to turn to contemporary records to prove this. It turns out, in part, he was. As a governor, he was far better than his brother. He could see what needed to be done, and he did it. As a soldier, he was lousy. He had no real gift for strategy or strategic thinking. As a human being, he would probably be considered in modern terms as a psychopath. He had no real conscience, he was greedy, short tempered, treacherous and more than a bit cruel. He was



King John "Lackland"

from a contemporary Book of Hours

an avid gambler, and a bad one at that, throwing away whole fortunes at a go. Because he had grown up as the last son, he had no properties with which to earn a stable revenue, so he was forced to eke out an existence working over family members. This he did remarkably well. So as a result, he was obsessed with money. He also had a nasty habit of availing himself to any female he wanted, regardless of age or social stature. He was so notorious that nobles refused to bring their wives and daughters to court for fear that he would seduce them. Judging by how many people there are these days with the prefix of "Fitz" before their surnames, one would have to conclude he was fairly successful. There are stories of his being somewhat sadomasochistic, and this was yet another thing that antagonized the barons. He was at the time considered reasonably good-looking, that is, until he got fat. And to top it all off, as if the previous sordid list wasn't bad enough, John was a drunk, and a very unpleasant one at that. This man was no sweetheart, and for some reason, many modern scholars ignore the contemporary evidence

and believe that he wasn't a bad guy, when he most assuredly was.

John took to being king like a shark takes to water. He immediately started to live well outside of his means, and he neglected England's duties in France. Once the party started, it wasn't about to stop until it was all gone, or he was dead. But the one thing that John was, was smart. He was one of the few monarchs of the day that had some education; he knew how to read and to write. At one point, when the crown seemed so far away from him, he thought he would become a scholar. A lack of discipline and a temper plus a love of the good life put a quick stop to all of that. But still, he was pretty smart. One could say he was too smart for his own good; he thought himself better than everyone else. He was the master of obfuscation and double-cross. One never really knew where he stood with John. It was even worse if one was a noble with an attractive wife or daughter. John was known to destroy people for their women. He thought it no big deal, but his barons had other opinions which he chose to ignore.

He realized that his brother had neglected a lot of the "kingly" business. One of the most important things of course was securing financing. Richard didn't have an "option B" upon his release to either finish paying off the debt or replenish the treasury. John was left to do that. Needless to say, he went after his barons and their estates for the cash, considering he technically didn't own anything on his own, but the crown owed them all. The barons chafed under this heavy load, and, like most good bosses, they filtered their misfortune downward. The buck eventually stopped with the lowly peasant, the poor stiff whose life was "nasty, brutish and short". The thing with peasants was that they



Richard I Penny, Durham Mint

had little use for money, but they could use the livestock or the corns they grew a lot more. They would pay their ever increasing taxes with barter, and then this would go to the nobles, who would in turn get money for them. Money became more important as one went up the social ladder. At the bottom, no one needed it, and at the top, it was on everyone's mind.

As a result of the ransom, a lot of silver went from the British Isles to the continent. This created a cash-vacuum on the island. There is one big reason why short-cross pennies are so hard to find, and that is because most in existence at the time wound up in Germany and were recoined. Richard and Henry II pennies are fairly hard to find. John's pennies are also pretty scarce, but this is mostly due to the fact that there was no real plate left over to make new coins out of, after most of the silver in England was sent off. It was going to take a while to re-establish a currency and stockpile it when all England had to sell was sheep wool. England at the time was very dependent on the continent for things like wine and textiles. Most of the nobility were French to begin with, so they would have preferred the latest from Paris as opposed to the local stuff. It seems that was true then as it is now. But that meant there

was a one-way flow of traffic off the island elsewhere, and that couldn't continue forever without dire consequences.

There is one thing about pennies of that period. It is very difficult to discern under whose reign they were struck. It seems that after Henry I invited and mangled all the moneyers over Christmas in 1124, they were loath to change too much about the coins after he died. Thus, Henry I pennies look very similar to Henry II pennies, which in turn look a lot like Richard's or John's pennies. In fact, the design of the Short-cross penny didn't change until the reign of Edward I in 1279. So how does one tell them apart when they all bear the same legend? Simple; look at the portrait. The portraits on these coins were all front facing, making them difficult to discern. Not to mention, they are stylized and look nothing like the monarch whom they were coined under. But it's all in the hair or the beard. Henry II has a defined style of hair, Richard a defined beard and John has ringlets. Henry III has a combination of hair and ringlet issues. So collectors would be wise to find examples with a clear portrait. This can be difficult, as most examples are either worn extensively or have been recently liberated from the ground somewhere and are heavily corroded.

NORTHGATE STAMP & COIN

12516 118 AVENUE

EDMONTON, ALBERTA. T5L2K6 WWW.NORTHGATESTAMPANDCOIN.COM

Edmonton's Fastest Growing Coin Shop

- Gold
- Silver
- USA Coins
- World Coins
- Canadian Coins
- Colonial Tokens
- Provincial Coins
- World Paper Money
- Canadian Paper Money
- Trade Dollars/Medallions
- Royal Canadian Mint Coins
- Collector Supplies
- Wholesale/Retail
- & MORE!



Hours of Operation

Monday.....	10:00 - 6:00
Tuesday.....	10:00 - 6:00
Wednesday.....	10:00 - 6:00
Thursday.....	10:00 - 6:00
Friday.....	10:00 - 6:00
Saturday.....	10:00 - 5:00
Sunday.....	CLOSED
Holidays.....	CLOSED

SPECIAL OFFER TO ENS MEMBERS

10 % OFF

2010/2011 Royal Canadian Mint Coins*



ROYAL CANADIAN MINT
MONNAIE ROYALE CANADIENNE
OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR



Valid ENS membership card required

Contact:
Matthew Stzym

780-424-8511

* Some conditions apply. Offer does not include select special issue products, bullion, or face value coins. Offer only valid with presentation of a valid ENS membership card. We withhold the right to revoke the offer at any time.

Not to mention, the stock of these coins was never large to begin with, and England has been all dug up. So the likelihood of finding more is considered slim. Therefore, most of the coins in existence are going to be comparatively expensive, especially the good ones.

So these kings just kept on fighting wars and looting each other's treasuries, along with robbing the peasantry blind. And it was the poor that suffered the most. There were also the camp locations for the various armies and the fact that most intruded on the locals for food and supplies. These they took randomly and at will. Who was going to argue? If one did, it was a simple swing of the sword to fix that problem. The biggest difference was that the peasants in Britain were taxed to death, while those in France tended to be hacked to death. Either way, it was not a good thing to be a peasant. Where was Robin Hood when you needed him? Oh yeah. He was looking after his own.

That was one way to avoid paying taxes or getting press-ganged into something or someplace where you didn't want to be – go and hide out in the forest. There was a catch though. The king's forests were off-limits to anyone but the king and his nobility. And the king was taking more and more real-estate as his, leaving less for the rest of the country to pasture cattle in or use for subsistence hunting. So that meant that anyone caught or found within one was guilty of poaching or some other misdemeanor and strung up. Outlaws routinely hid in the forest, hence the legend of Robin Hood. Once a peasant, or in some cases, even a nobleman, was deemed to be operating outside of the law, he had two choices; take the punishment, which usually was a trial by ordeal which usually meant a slow and painful death, or take off and hide in the forest.

The problem was, though, that by 1210, the forests were getting rather crowded so that even the animals were complaining of lack of space. John liked to fob off barons and nobles at will; divide and conquer was his motto. If one fell into disfavor, this was the most likely route to take until the family could round up the required cash to pay for the offender's transgression and permit re-admittance into society, or the monarch died, and the old debt was forgotten or forgiven by the new monarch. For disenfranchised nobles, the forests were the last resort. This usually implied they'd burned a lot of bridges and really couldn't go anywhere. For most nobles who ran afoul of their king, there was always another one to pledge allegiance to. Only those who had no money or no friends took off for the forests.

The common type of person in the forest was the regular run of the mill bandit. He was usually of no means or family, had no real skills and had no chance at redemption. For him it was the forest of death. And if he was ever caught, it would be death, on the spot. So that didn't leave him too many options, nor did it leave any for anyone who had the misfortune to stumble into one of these people. But the forests were property of the crown, and they weren't regularly roused out. The king had vast tracts of land cordoned off for his own private pleasure. The animals contained within were his too. That meant anyone taking

one was an instant outlaw. The penalty for poaching was death. The biggest problem was that a lot of peasants had used the forests as a form of subsistence, because their livestock invariably belonged to the nobleman. So peasants used to go and take a few hares or a deer for food, but the Angevins basically put an end to that. The forests were theirs. The barons realized that the whole thing with forests, liberty and money was beginning to get out of hand, and that something needed to be done. One thing that the kings had done since the Conquest is dramatically increase the size of these personal "forests" to the point where the common folk had no place to run their livestock.

Here was an issue. The English monarch had more real-estate available to him than the French one did. So the French king was forced to give concessions to his nobility in order to keep them on his side. The Angevins thought they were entitled to what they had and that the world was theirs to play with. They would soon realize that this was just not the case as English barons were a tougher and less

National Pride ~Coins & Stamps~

WE BUY~SELL~APPRAISE

- GOLD & SILVER BULLION
- MILITARIA & MEDALS
- COLLECTABLE WATCHES
- WORLD COINS & PAPER MONEY

8005 - 104 Street
Edmonton, AB
T6E 4E3

RAY NEIMAN

Ph: (780) 433-7288

Fax: (780) 434-9466

AGENT FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT



King John Penny, Willem of London

malleable lot then the French ones were. Ever since the Conquest of 1066, the relationship between the Norman King and his subjects was a tenuous one. The Anglo-Saxons weren't too thrilled with a French king who wanted to turn England into a French province. The king couldn't believe that his nobility could be that hostile. William the Conqueror beat his nobles into submission, and those he couldn't beat, he bribed. Pretty soon a lot of the older families lost out and either went extinct, or they fell out of favour. They were replaced by a series of French expats, who also looked at England as a resort with lousy weather and bad food. These people soon became more entrenched locally, intermarrying and learning the local language. They had to run a peasantry, after all, so it bode them well to learn English. The king, however, didn't. So here's where it all starts to come apart.

The first thing that John tried to do was secure his spot in France and carry on where Richard had been forced to stop. He assembled an allied army to go after the French king. It all looked like it would work until the Germans screwed up, and then at a field near Bouvines, the alliance that John crafted came apart and was scattered. The French

had carried the field and were even more powerful. The end result was that John lost most of his French domains, and the Capetan family of kings in France were to become true rulers of all of France and not just isolated parts of it.

In the meantime, John had repaired his relationship with the Pope and England was lifted from the Interdict and Excommunication list. So now that John really had no business in France, so he headed "home" to England. Here's where it really started to fall apart for him. As long as England was on the Interdict list, the barons wouldn't have much stroke and they were "persona non grata" anywhere else, so they were forced to work with their king. Many had just lost sizeable incomes when whatever properties they had in France were seized after Bouvines. They were tired of John's carrying-on, the constant "scutage" charges (medieval "convenience fees"), his mercurial temperament and the fact that they could never get a hold of the guy until well after noon because he preferred to spend the morning in bed with his new 12 year old wife. Now that the threat was lifted, many of them could see what was coming and decided to quietly revolt. John, realizing full well what was happening, decided

to stall the whole affair by "taking the Cross" and "joining" the latest crusade to Outremer that the Pope was organizing. Of course, John had no intention of actually going, but he needed the Pope as an ally against this revolt. So while telling the barons that he'd "get around to it" he fired off a letter complaining of lack of support and blaming his barons for holding him up. It was a typical John move; double cross and lie one's way out of trouble.

It didn't work; the barons quickly reworked an older document that had been floating around and forced John to do something about it. John acquiesced, and met the barons on a field called Rummymede and started negotiating. After about 3 days, they came to a deal, and John affixed his royal seal to the Magna Carta. The second Act he was forced to sign dealt with the forests; the king now had an obligation to "de-forest" a large parcel of land and give it back to the peasantry. Even before the wax had fully solidified John was already thinking of ways to get around these documents. The barons of course, fought back; soon a civil war had started.

John had covered most of his bases. He started marching against the barons and he again fired off another missive to the Pope explaining that he couldn't come in time for the next crusade because his barons were in a state of revolt. The barons also sent a man to the Church, but John's letter got there first and the baron's representative was snubbed. The Pope put the barons under interdict and ordered them to comply. He also gave John a "carte-blanc" to do whatever he pleased to reign them in.

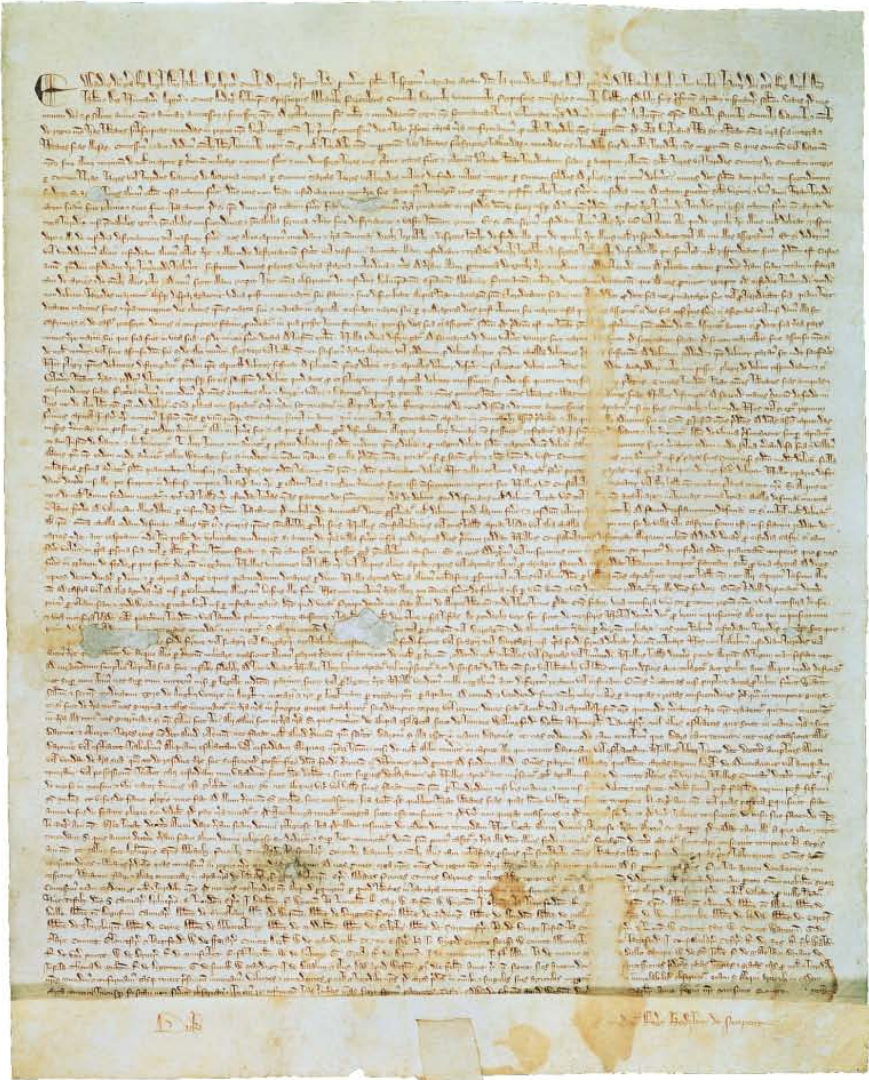
John complied. He sacked, murdered and pillaged his way up the country and back down, laying waste and generally destroying any or all good will he might have still

had. The barons had a quandary; they could revolt against "tyranny", which implied that the king had lost his mind, but they had no suitable candidate to replace him with. There was really no one who held a claim to the English throne. John had murdered the last one, Arthur of Brittany, a few years earlier and had no heir of his own that was old enough to assume the throne. So the son of the king of France, Louis, was invited to come over. This he did, bringing with him a huge French army backed by his father Phillip Augustus. John was never a good tactician, so he started making what at first seemed like brilliant moves and then were revealed to be pretty stupid moves. Louis went ahead to London, got himself crowned and started to drive John out. Now here's where things start to get a little cloudy. The barons were beginning to see that Louis had no intention of honouring the Magna Carta either, and in fact, he was going to make England a province of France. So they started to defect back to John. The problem was John was by now so unpopular that he wasn't getting any local support, and he was forced to retreat. As he did this, he lost the family fortune and the crown jewels in the Wash in East Anglia. That night, as was his custom after a setback, he gorged himself and ended up with dysentery which killed him a few days later. The timing couldn't have been better, leaving room for medieval conspiracy theorists to speculate how John's untimely demise actually happened for generations after.

John's young son, Henry III, was hurriedly crowned, and the barons switched allegiances to him, almost immediately leaving Louis no one to play with in a hostile country. Louis was no fool either, so he left. Henry was made to honour the Magna Carta which he tried to do.

He was not a bad king and was far more popular than his father ever was. After Henry, Edward I also took an oath to uphold the charter, a copy of which I saw the other day in the Alberta Legislature. It is unique in that it is a reaffirmation that was written in his name. He

actually insisted on reaffirming it, realizing it was better to work with the barons than against them. Edward I is credited for starting up a Parliament. There were some extra clauses added and one or two redundant ones removed. After Edward I however, the charter was



**1297 Copy of the Magna Carta,
Signed by Edward I**



extensively modified for Edward II, Edward III, and then after the Black Death scoured the countryside and changed everything, it fell into disuse and was just considered another quaint medieval document until the mid-1500s.

Sir Edward Coke was a jurist who took it upon himself to translate and reinterpret the document and hopefully bring it up to date. He had a bit of a problem though. The Tudors were a feisty bunch, and the Stuarts that followed them were a vain lot who really believed in the divine right of kings. And the last thing that any of them would tolerate was some judge figuring he was above the king and dictating to him terms of his employment. Henry VIII had this nasty habit of chopping off the head of anyone who even thought of displeasing him, and the subsequent generations weren't much better. In fact it wasn't a good time to be a nobleman. So he had to be careful how he phrased things, lest it be his head that would be rolling off some block in the Tower greens. It's amazing how things come around and go around every few hundred years or so, if left unchecked. But he argued an attractive case, and after he died (naturally, surprisingly), the English finally had enough of the king to send his head rolling in 1649.

Basically, after the Restoration in 1660, and again in 1689 after the "Glorious Revolution", the Charter became the cornerstone of the modern legal system as well as the foundation of personal rights and liberties. It wasn't that it was very well known outside the Temple Bar, as the English had this habit of not spelling out constitutions in writing. But it served as the cornerstone for modern parliamentary government, and it still does. It actually had more of an effect on the American constitution of 1789 than it did in

Britain. But one has to consider it still is a medieval document relating to medieval affairs. It's the spirit of the document that we've come to appreciate and the promises of justice by one's peers and the right of due process that keep it relevant today.

So what of the coins? Well, pennies remained the only coin of the realm struck well into Edward III's reign. Edward I did try to make a Groat, (4d) but it was overweight and whatever wasn't hoarded and sent off to the continent was speedily withdrawn. Very small numbers of gold coins were issued, starting with Edward III. These were used primarily for trade. They are next to impossible to find today and command huge prices when they do turn up. The Black Death was what really started to change things. Anything related to stability and how life had been before ended with the plague in 1349. Afterwards, the few people that were left tried to pick up the pieces, relearn how to live, and in many cases, those who had the specialized employment skills required to build and manage things could dictate whatever prices they wanted. There was also a lot of money floating around, which coupled with the above, sparked off a round of inflation. So larger coins were needed. The ½ Groat (2d) and the Groat (4d) were introduced, and the penny became smaller. This inflation carried on unabatedly until the reign of Charles II. By this point, the penny was still silver but tiny and very hard to strike. The penny fractions had ceased to be made earlier. This was when copper was finally introduced to English coinage. The tiny silver penny carried on until about 1797, when the first copper pennies were introduced. By that time, there was a severe coinage shortage, and a couple of nasty wars were going on, but that's a different story for a different place. The point is, it is

possible to collect silver pennies of every monarch from the Conquest of 1066 until the reign of George III in the 1790s.

Nowadays, the penny still exists in the UK. It is made from copper-zinc and has next to no value. It is technically worth about 2 Canadian cents. But unlike here, it still continues to be manufactured. It is also still referred to as a "penny" and not a "cent" which is probably what it should be considered since it's 1/100 of a Pound Sterling. The Magna Carta is still around too; another relic from that era in that while it refuses to die, still has a place in modern society.



Modern One Penny Coin

Bibliography

Frank McLynn, *Lionheart & Lackland*, Vintage Books, London, 2007

Carolyn Harris, *Magna Carta and its Gifts to Canada* Dundurn, Toronto, 2015

Gilbert Abbott à Beckett. *John Leech, Comic History of England*, (Volume the First) Punch, Fleet Street London, 1847

Peter Spufford, *Money and its use in Medieval Europe*, Cambridge University Press, 1988

A Fine Lion Stater of Mithrapata

by **Wayne Hansen**



Mithrapata Stater (circa 385 BC)

RRRRrrrrr... I've always liked 'lion scalp' coins – those that display only the top view of a lion head, sometimes called a 'facing' lion head. Fortunately for collectors, there are a few places where Greek coins did show a lion from this perspective, even if it was only for a brief period: Lycia in Asia Minor, Rhegion in Italy, Samos off the coast of Asia Minor and a few early issues of Pantikapaion in the northern Black Sea. The lion emblem was an important civic badge, so it was found on the obverse of each coin, and it was usually struck in a large-denomination, silver format. Lycian mint coins, including the Mithrapata dynast issue above, were silver staters/didrachms, while the facing lion coins of Rhegion and Samos were magnificent tetradrachms. Coin descriptions usually refer to the design as a lion 'scalp', since the design is obviously focused on the upper head area of the animal. Interestingly, however, I have observed that there are two main categories of these coins, distinguished by whether the lion was dead or alive when carved. This point is not usually mentioned in the descriptions, but the dead ones show the head as if it had been skinned, with the jaws separated on either side, while the live ones just show a natural head with prominent eyes and no spread jaws. The lion represented on my coin of the Lycian dynast/satrap Mithrapata is definitely well past its prime, since you can see that it has been thoroughly skinned – as Monty Python would have said, it is an 'ex-lion'.

I have actually acquired examples of both a live lion coin and a dead lion coin recently. The live coin is a tiny diobol of Pantikapaion from 460–450 BC, a photo of which I will attach in the article Addendum. The dead lion is the Mithrapata stater noted in the introduction above and in Figure 2. I really wanted this Mithrapata coin, because it was large enough, and the surfaces fresh enough, to dramatically present the lion scalp image (literally, a scalped lion). The other large silver and bronze lion coins of Rhegion and Samos are different from this one in that they are stylistically superior and exponentially more expensive (see my article 'The Year of the Mini-Me' in *The Planchet*, September 2014, for a comment on Rhegion). Rhegion tetradrachms from south Italy show a live lion with a natural head, whereas Samos tetradrachms show a dead lion, leading one to think that the

dead lion device was used primarily in Asia Minor. As lion scalp coins go, my new Mithrapata stater is, however, quite nice. I'll provide what little background I can find about it.

Lycia Background

Lycia is the southernmost district of western Asia Minor, forming a rocky promontory jutting into the Mediterranean Sea (see Figure 1). It is south of the major Greek cities along the west coast that were active in ancient affairs, such as Byzantium, Pergamon, Ephesos, Miletos and Halikarnassos. Indeed, Lycia was not, of course, originally Greek in any way. It was more of a tribal bulwark for most of its history, protected by the rugged terrain of the western Taurus Mountains and its independently minded people. The native people spoke Lycian, a branch of the Luwian language that emerged about the 2nd millenium BC in western Anatolia. They were probably allied with, but not part of, the Hittite Empire, and they were probably illiterate, leaning towards raiding and piracy as weapons of choice in dealing with the outside world. Their language eventually formed the basis for Lycian script, but it was a late adoption, really only being recorded on coins and stone inscriptions between 500–300 BC. The script took some cues from the Rhodian Greek alphabet, so they look similar.

The population succumbed to the powerful Persian Empire when it advanced from the east in 546 BC, providing an influx of Persian speakers. Lycia fought for Persia in the two Persian invasions of Greece and it became briefly independent after the Greeks won the war in 480, increasing Lycia's unique coin output, but then the Persian/Hekatomnid satrap Maussollos of Caria seized Lycia around 360 BC, stopping coin output altogether. Lycia later became part

Figure 1 – Map Showing Lycia in Asia Minor



Figure 1 – Lycia is located in the tourist-popular southwest corner of modern Turkey, where craggy, dry, pine-covered hills and the azure waters of the seacoast prevail. Ancient rock tombs are fairly common whether they be simple cave openings cut into a high cliff, ornate tomb facades covering their box-like interiors or individually carved rock pedestals on open ground.

(Map and tomb photos from internet.)

of Alexander's Macedonian Kingdom in 332 BC; however, since the country was rugged and somewhat isolated, its dynasts and governors were able to function without much interference. By 300 BC, after previous incursions of Persian and Greek speakers and after the decimation of native Lycian speakers in the odd war, the Lycian language basically disappeared. Little is otherwise known about Lycia's history.

Major Lycian towns included Xanthos (the nominal capital), Patara, Tlos,

Phaselis, Pinara, Olympos, Limyra, Telmessos and Kadyanda – see map in Figure 2. There may, or may not, have been fully centralized rule of Lycia from Xanthos, even though certain individuals were obviously authorized to mint coins and even though such minting was well controlled. Lycian coinages commenced after Persian rule began and ended when Maussollos expanded his Carian satrapy into Lycia. Coin and archeological evidence indicates that my featured stater of satrap Mithrapata was likely minted, circa 380 BC, in

Antiphellos (modern Kas), a port that linked the nearby Lycian town of Phellos to the sea – see a photo of its surroundings in Figure 3. This is an interesting point: while the Greeks tended to build their Asia Minor cities on the coast, the Lycians historically built many of their towns in the interior, among craggy valleys and mountains, since much of the coastline was steeply sloped. The few Lycian ports also included Patara and Phaselis. With steep terrain surrounding these towns and ports, they were easily defended, and the ports became good bases for piracy.

Figure 2 – Map Showing Main Settlements in Lycia



Figure 2 – The main towns and cities of Lycia are shown as white dots near rivers or the sea, while the main mountains are shown as red dots. Antiphellos is the site of the likely minting center for dynast/satrap Mithrapata.

(Base map courtesy wikipedia – Antiphellos added).

Early Lycian Dynastic Coinage

Lycian coinage is quite different from the usual 'Greek' types. Perhaps this stemmed from its physical isolation, but also from its distinct language and customs. Without trying to discuss Lycia's early coin history in any detail, I thought I would show an example of an archaic dynastic coin from 500 BC (see Figure 4), which can then be compared with the later coinage of the known classical dynast Mithrapata (Figures 5 and 6). Though both were struck during the period of cursory Persian control, you can see that the early coin appears as simple, globular and uninscribed, befitting its archaic nature, and that its metal content is silver. Coins struck in the early period cannot be attached to any specific local ruler, so they are noted as being minted by an 'unknown dynast', dynast being a hereditary

Figure 3 – Photo of Kas (Ancient Antiphellos)



Figure 3 – This panorama shows the general location of the modern town of Kas, site of ancient Antiphellos.

(Photo from wikipedia, courtesy Wusel007).

tribal leader or appointed Persian satrap. Knowledge of archaic coin production would have come to the Lycians from adjacent, pre-Persian Asia Minor centers of the 6th century BC, particularly Ionia and Lydia where the first coins were produced from electrum in the latter part of the 7th century BC. Soon after this unknown archaic issue in Figure 4 was struck, satrap Kuprilli (480–440 BC) became the first known dynast to have his name inscribed on coins.

Dynast Mithrapata and His Coinage

This is clearly going to be one of the worst disappointments of your life. I can provide almost no information about satrap dynast Mithrapata (390–370 BC). I know, I know, great name, fabulous coin sense, what could go wrong? Unfortunately, we have to assume that Lycia was semi-dominated by Persian authorities at the time and it tended to mind its own business, so its rulers were not newsworthy. Mithrapata had been appointed to govern at least a portion of the Lycian region, probably ruling from the port town of Antiphellos based on archeological evidence. One coin reference actually referred to him as Dynast of Antiphellos. Beyond that, his heredity is uncertain – he could have been a member of the Lycian nobility who assumed a Persian name, or he could have been a Persian who was named to the post by Persian king Artaxerxes II.

Mithrapata's coinage is quite varied, including staters, third-staters, sixth-staters and diobols that sport similar types and a number of different symbols. His classical lion scalp and triskeles design (see Figure 5) may have preceded similar satrapal coins of Trbhenimi (390–385), Zageba (380–375) and Puresis (circa 380) that also featured lion head and triskeles

Figure 4 – Early Unknown Dynast Coin



Unknown Dynast Stater – Boar Forepart/ Granulated Square Incuse Punch.

Issued 500–470 BC (9.50g, 19.0 x 17.2g, - h).

Mint: Unknown Lycia.

Obv: Boar forepart. Rev: Granulated incuse punch with second, partial punch strike.

(Collection of the author and photo by the author; purchased from Calgary Coin, March 2013).

Figure 4 – An example of the earliest coins of Lycia, struck in silver with a globular shape, simple, archaic design and no inscription. Many of these stater issues featured a wild boar emblem, representing the tough, unpredictable Eurasian pig species still found in the hilly terrain of the area. The fact that the unknown mint worker realized the full reverse punch landed a bit off-center, and then used the narrow edge of the punch to tap the un-struck part, suggests to me that the mintage for these coins was low. The excessive wear on this obverse die also suggests that only one die, or very few dies, of this type were prepared, and perhaps die metallurgy was so primitive that dies did not last very long. Though rather crude, I find the coins quite charming, given the primitive circumstances of their production, their association with unknown tribal rulers and their scarcity.

devices. Almost all of these spread-flan coins were unevenly struck. After deploying the lion scalp, his main innovation was the use of a realistic portrait of himself on his later coins – a first, anywhere, for a real-time portrait. His was a profile of an aging Mithrapata (see Figure 6), however another, contemporary Lycian dynast named Perikles (380–360 BC) carried the feat even further by doing a dramatic, facing portrait of himself – likely influenced by Mithrapata's facing lion scalp coins, Mithrapata's profile portrait coins and the facing Arethusa decadrachms of Syracuse a few decades earlier. Both Mithrapata and Perikles portrait types were

struck to show the rulers with an unadorned Greek appearance, that is, without the expected Persian satrapal headgear. These design developments, from this Lycian backwater nonetheless, were rather exiting, but they were short-lived. All local coin work halted after Maussollos of Caria extended his control to Lycia in 360 BC (see my article about Maussollos titled: *'She's Ugly But She's Rich – A Tridrachm of Maussollos'*, The Planchet Jan/Feb 2013).

Additional comments about Mithrapata's two major coin types are provided within Figures 5 and 6.

Figure 5 – Early Mithrapata Stater



Dynast Mithrapata Stater – Lion Scalp / Triskeles & Dolphin.

Issued 390-380 BC (9.69g, 28.3 x 20.6m, - 1h).

Mint: Unknown Lycia – Likely Antiphellos (modern Kos).

Obv: Lion scalp. Rev: Incuse square containing MEXPA - PATA (in Lycian); rounded triskeles, with donut shaped center, curving left; dolphin inside one arm.

(Collection of the author and photo by the author; purchased from CNG M/B 99, May 2015).

Figure 5 – Struck approximately one hundred years after the unknown archaic dynast coin in Figure 4, this example features the same bright, un-corroded silver metal as the early coin – perhaps a result of the dry climate and scanty agriculture in Lycia. The flan is oval in shape, plus it is rather thin, which stretches the diameter to a respectable 28 mm. As well, both sides of the coin present interesting designs – the skinned lion head on the obverse and a triskeles (triskelion) encompassing a nicely detailed dolphin on the reverse. The reverse is also interesting, because the name of the issuing dynast is clearly recorded in Lycian script within the incuse punch. Lycian script was derived from Rhodian Greek lettering around 500 BC, so the two are similar. Lycian coins are among the few places where Lycian language/script was recorded, starting with issues after 480 BC and ending with the takeover of Maussollos in 360 BC.

The lion head obverse and triskeles reverse devices were used on a few other Lycian stater coins issued by satraps Tribbenimi, Zageba and Puresis between 390–375 BC. The lion head was likely employed as a dynastic symbol, intended to convey the strength of the ruler. The triskeles, with three curved arms, is an unusual device, otherwise largely found in ancient Sicily and Pamphylia. It was used briefly for several archaic/early classical decades in Lycia, perhaps only for decorative purposes. The dolphin on my coin may refer to the importance of a Lycian maritime port – it is suspected that this coin was minted at Antiphellos (modern Kas) along the turquoise coast. Almost twenty years ago, I spent a lovely day or two in that town, which has a small harbor. We strolled slightly uphill along its main street one magical evening, with all the shops and food stalls lit up, only to confront, near the top, a large, flood-lit pedestal tomb in the center of the street. We visited many other sights in the area, including Pinara, Patara and Kadyanda, as well as many outside Lycia.

This triskeles coin type precedes other issues of Persian dynast Mithrapata that feature his realistic portrait. However, I find my particular coin captivating for the simple boldness of its designs, the quality of its metal and the large size of its oval flan – a tantalizing survivor of a lost world. It appears to be somewhat under-struck, a direct result of the very thin, spread-flan technique (not enough metal available to fill the carved design), but I still find it very appealing.

Quotes About Lions:

I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion.

– Alexander the Great

I am sometimes a fox and sometimes a lion. The whole secret of government lies in knowing when to be the one or the other.

– Napoleon Bonaparte

Fear not, we are of the nature of the lion, and cannot descend to the destruction of mice and such small beasts.

– Elizabeth I

Dressed in the lion's skin, the ass spread terror far and wide.

Jean de La Fontaine

The lion and the calf shall lie down together but the calf won't get much sleep.

– Woody Allen



Figure 6 – Mithrapata Portrait Coins



6-1: Lycia – Stater of Satrap Mithrapata.

Obv: Lion Scalp. Rev: Mithrapata Portrait.



6-2: Lycia – Stater of Satrap Mithrapata.

Obv: Lion Scalp. Rev: Mithrapata Portrait.


Figure 6 – In the latter part of Mithrapata's satrapal appointment, circa 380 BC, he began issuing his own portrait coins. These are considered to be the first, or among the first, of the portrait stater type. They are also remarkable because they show realistic features, and they do not show satrapal headgear. There is another satrapal stater issue in Tarsos about the same time, by Pharnabazos II, but the male head on those coins is wearing a helmet, so it could be the god Ares. The obverse lion image of the later issues transforms from the dead, skinned lion head to the forepart of a live lion, which is a motif usually used in Miletos.

(Photos courtesy of M & M and CNG respectively.)

In Closing...

Lycia is certainly an evocative place. Having driven through central and southwestern Turkey on a couple of trips, I can attest to the rugged nature of the countryside and the fascinating archeological ruins left by its early peoples – especially the rock tombs found in the cliffs and scattered on the surface of less-hilly areas. In the ancient mountain city of Pinara, it is possible to see heart-shaped column drums nestled in the ruins while watching locals gathering wild thyme on the nearby hillside.

Equally evocative is the coinage of ancient Lycia, beginning with the earliest, lumpy silver coinage of unknown dynasts (all the more desirable if you have a penchant for wild boar). The flans of Lycia's later classical coinages, such as my new lion stater of Mithrapata, are obviously thinner and more elegant than those archaic counterparts. Designs on these classical coins are also more complex and elegant, but they retain some of the animalistic ambiance apparent on the earlier coins. My Mithrapata coin is attractive on both the lion scalp obverse and the dolphin-within-triskeles reverse, which is a great bonus. Overall, it is well executed, and I knew immediately that I should find a good home for it. Pretty-beats-sticker-shock every time.




David Peter Coins

Canadian Personal Property Appraiser

P.O. Box 4511
Edmonton, AB
T6E 4T7
780-995-8199

worldcoin@gmail.com



**MARC BINK
APPRAISAL
SERVICES**

Marc Bink, CPPA
Appraiser

Phone: 780 271-1362
E-mail: mbink@shaw.ca

Marc Bink is a member in good standing of the CPPAG

Addendum

Here is an example of a silver lion scalp coin that illustrates the live lion design type. The live type is notable for well-defined lion eyes and lack of a split jaw. These rare, small coins are from the northern Black Sea colony of Pantikapaion, issued at an early date when the colony only produced tiny silver coins (see my article *'The Griffins of Pantikapaion'* in *The Planchet*, May 2014, for an in-depth discussion of Pantikapaion coinage). They were produced from the late archaic period into the early classical, a span that allowed for variations in the treatment of the eyes, nose and mane on each successive die.

This Pantikapaion coin is another recent acquisition, similar to a diobol I purchased earlier in the year that had a slightly different obverse style. The sharpness and quality of the relief carving is exceptional. It is also rare to find one with such excellent metal and with the entire lion nose on the flan. If you look closely, you can



Pantikapaion Diobol – Lion Scalp / Incuse Swastika with Stellates.

Issued 460-450 BC (1.79g, 13.0m, - h). Mint: Pantikapaion.

Obv: Lion scalp. Rev: Incuse swastika; stellate pattern in two raised quadrants.

(Collection of the author and photo by CNG; purchased from CNG, December 2015).

see two tell-tale concentric lines just in front of the nose which indicates that this tiny coin was struck forcefully three times when it was made – enough to ensure full strike depth but also enough to create a slight die shift with each blow. Overall, it is a marvelously fresh and desirable specimen.

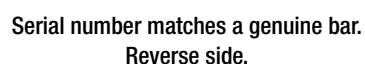
'Lion Scalp' with Errant Dragonfly

(Sculpture seen in Toronto – photo by the author)



Counterfeit Gold

Heads up to everyone buying/selling NGC graded gold coins, Pamp Suisse bars, royal canadian mint bars, Perth mint bars, etc. Be aware, there is a overflow of counterfeit goods attempting to infiltrate the legitimate market in the Edmonton area.



Edmonton Numismatic Society

Membership Form

Membership in the Edmonton Numismatic Society is good for one calendar year (i.e., January to December) and includes a subscription to THE PLANCHET.

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Please print clearly

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State _____

Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

☐ Regular Member (18 years and over) – Canada, USA*, Foreign* \$15.00

☐ Junior Member (Under 16 years) – Canada, USA*, Foreign* \$5.00

☐ Family Membership \$15.00
(spouse and/or children at home 16 years and under)

☐ Life Membership* \$300.00

☐ **Canada Only** (not available for USA or Foreign addresses)
If you would like THE PLANCHET mailed, please add +\$25.00

All membership applications are subject to approval by the Edmonton Numismatic Society. An official receipt and membership card will be issued upon approval.

* Please note: Distribution of the official society publication, THE PLANCHET, to all Lifetime Members, USA and Foreign addresses is available via e-mail and website download only.

Application / Payment Methods



Mail this form (along with payment) to:
Edmonton Numismatic Society
P.O.Box 78057, RPO Callingwood
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5T 6A1



Secure online payment with PayPal at
<http://www.edmontoncoinclub.com/membership.htm>



See us at a monthly meeting or semi-annual show.



Textures

by Joe Kennedy

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

cameo
depth
flow (lines)
frosted
gloss
heavy (cameo)
light (cameo)
linen
lustre
matte

mirror
pebbled
polished
porous
reflective
reverse (cameo)
satin
shimmer
striations
ultra (heavy cameo)



Canadian coins can sometimes be found with a frosted look on the details. This *cameo-effect* will wear off quickly on coins in circulation; it is much more noticeable on uncirculated coins. Cameo coins can be very beautiful and are sought out by collectors. Back in the 20th Century, new coin dies at the mint were sometimes treated with acid on the highlights (*devices*) while the background (*fields*) remained polished smooth. When the coin dies were put into use striking coins, the delicate frosted-cameo look would gradually fade away off the dies after striking about a hundred coins. Cameos are not usually seen on coins meant for general use in circulation, though they are now common on coins made specifically for the collectors' market. Cameo-effect frosting is added to modern coin dies using a laser, resulting in a much more durable texture than the acid treatment method.

Answer to the Puzzle Page from December 2015:

RMARTIFICIAOVETOKENM
GARSADIRLINEKJAVKXDT
XPMPSGNPLATEDMLYNTHDR
FTLOCUGRESIDUEVLBRSSU
BURRIEDCORROLLEDINT
DUNOEPRONLUTJTOUTOUT
SYKUTVPROCESSEDAMAGEM
ATBSODRIGADADDSCULDY
IRALNUNVPGTENUNCOTLE
OCGREINSLMMETERMARK
LFGMDMTCHTINDONBRABN
EWVOGJNABOUGOODDOON
PCGUOVNOSTVERWAISDUN
PXQNTJDNVROXRGITIFRN
OQXTCOUNTERPUNCHONMAN
QTVERTIGRNSOURBNEHJPJ
FJXDVGANDBLASTEDCOIJEN
ITYTDAWCOREPAIREDWZIKV
KZLVHNKNUOIRTYUTRYZHK
VGZDRMMCPOLISHEDPIPEDN
XGYCOWNGEVDSOLDEREDWJ

The answer to this month's puzzle will be in the next issue of THE PLANCHET

Classifieds

Wanted

All period Napoleonic memorabilia & Militaria. Contact Bill at wjdy2k@hotmail.com

Early English or German hammered coins. Contact Marc. mbink@shaw.ca

Early French medals or English/British Coins dating from 1642-1821. Contact Pierre. pierre@nancykbrown.com

Complete Date 1968, 1969 & 1970 Edmonton Klondike Dollars in Silver. Prefer in original case of issue. Call Howard 780-998-0434 or cell 780-298-0434, e-mail taneri9@mcsnet.ca

For Sale

Canadian Small Cents, Circls., BU, ICCS and rolls for sale. All Canadian Decimal Coins and many U.S. Decimal Coins. Call Bob 780-980-1324

Many English Coins from late 1800's to about 1970 for sale. Call Bob 780-980-1324

Canadian Decimal coin sets. Great for gifts. Low prices. Contact Ray at 780-433-7288

Large collection of certified & raw coins & banknotes, some up to 50% off cat. Inc. Errors. Call John 780-455-8375

Place Your Ad Here Free For ENS Members

No limit of ads and no limit of words. Ads must be numismatically related and can include books, coins, paper, supplies, buying, wanted, selling, tokens, bullion, medals, Canadian, world, websites, shows, etc.

The ENS reserves the right to refuse to print any classified ad in whole or in part. Ads posted for one year will be removed unless the member can confirm ad is to continue. All classified advertizers must be ENS members.

All ads to be submitted to editor_ens@yahoo.ca or given to the Editing Team at a monthly meeting.

Coming Events

Feb. 10, 2016: ENS Annual General Meeting – elections for Board of Directors and Executive, at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

Mar. 9, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

March 12 & 13, 2015: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm Sunday. Edmonton's Spring Coin Show and Sale, Howard Johnson Hotel: 15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta T5P 3Z2. Dealers wishing to attend call 780-270-6312.

Mar. 18, 2016: March issue of THE PLANCHET

Apr. 13, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start. Presentation by Wayne Hansen: *Adventures in the World of Electrum*

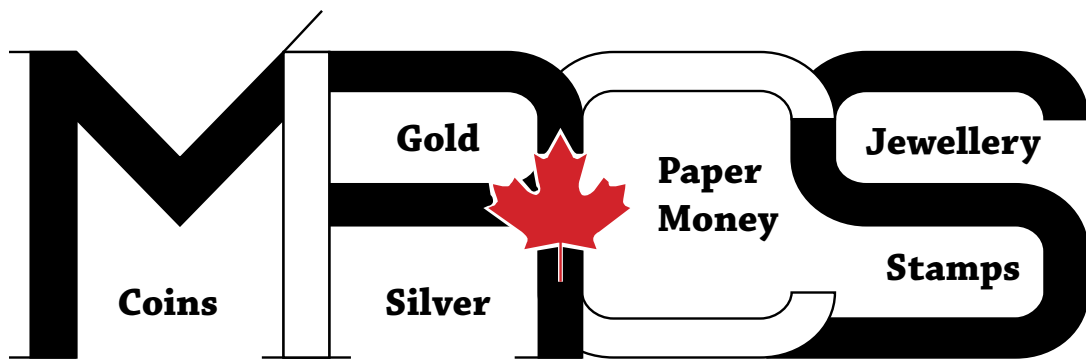
Apr. 29, 2016: April issue of THE PLANCHET

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

New Membership Applications

No new members this month

These individuals have applied for membership into the Edmonton Numismatic Society. Pending any objections from the membership at large, these individuals will be accepted as "Members in Good Standing", effective this publishing date. Any objections to the applications must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Edmonton Numismatic Society, and will be evaluated by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.



Your Source for Silver and Gold Bullion



Up to the minute quotes on precious metals

TOLL FREE 1-877-TRY-MRCS

Full selection of coin and stamp supplies in stock

BUYING AND SELLING

website: mrcscanada.com • email: mrcscanada@shaw.ca

12303-118 Avenue, Edmonton 780-482-3373