

# The PLANCHET

Azba'al Shekel  
of Byblos

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A Real Game  
of Thrones

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My Dad's  
Medallion

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**+** **SPRING COIN SHOW**  
**MARCH 4 & 5**

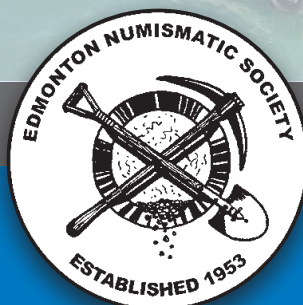


Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 64 • Issue 2



THE PLANCHET \$4.75CDN



February 2017





# The PLANCHET

Volume 64 • Issue 2

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# Message from the President

**Marc Bink**

**February 2017**


By the time you read this we will be in the final stages of preparing for the upcoming Coin and Money Show on March 4–5. It looks like we have a sold out show again; all available space on the bourse floor is being utilized. If you haven't come to one of our shows recently, it's well worth it to attend. We have the largest show in Canada and the best attended show in Canada. Our show rates right up there with "mid-market" US shows and European shows – not a bad accomplishment for a city that is generally perceived by the rest of the world to be a cultural backwater on the very fringes of civilization. Again, we prove to the rest that we really are a "City of Champions".

One thing that a show like this indicates is that there is a very healthy coin and banknote market here in Edmonton. This city has traditionally been a very eclectic market. Here is a place where as a dealer you can bring almost anything and find a buyer for it. Out of any of the other Canadian shows I've attended, I've never seen a larger world coin and ancient coin market than here in Edmonton.

The other thing that these shows demonstrate is just how vibrant of a club we have here. It's all because of the members with their volunteer spirit and commitment that make these shows as successful as they are. The ENS has a long history of being involved with the community, with regards to educating the general public about numismatics. We're also looking ahead to completing an interesting project about our history. The hope is that we will have it finished in time for our 65th anniversary in 2018. We are looking to create a

photo-history coffee-table style book that will be available to members and the public. In that vein, I'm asking the membership to comb their basements and look through closets for any memorabilia or pictures about club events, people who were in the club, and any kind of volunteer work anyone ever did for the club. We particularly need information about the early years of the Edmonton Coin Club, those from 1953 to about 1970. There aren't many people left who were "there" in the beginning anymore, so if you know something, have something, or still know someone from those early days please direct them to me and I'll pass it on to the committee.

And speaking of involvement, the March meeting is when we have our Annual General Meeting and hold elections. This is your opportunity to jump in and get in on the way the club is run. All board positions are open, there are no "sacred cows". So if you've had an interest in running or would like to see the club work in another direction, here's your chance; get nominated and stand for office. Please contact Terry Cheesman if you're interested in running for office. We will be accepting nominations right up to when we call the vote.

In the meantime, there still is a way for members to get involved, and that is to help promote the show. Mention it to friends, family, and coworkers if possible. Try to get the word out. We have overpass banners up, portable signs, posters, and we've contacted all the press we could think of, we're on Twitter, Facebook, and Snapchat, so pass the word along. See you at the Show! 



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**Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

**Royal Alberta Museum**

**12845 – 102 Avenue, Edmonton**

**Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm**

- Society Matters
- Show and tell
- Silent auction
- Presentation
- Break for: coffee, pop and cookies
- Door prize draws

For information regarding events, or  
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# About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

## January 13, 2017 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:24 hrs and welcomed the 32 members in attendance. He wished everyone a happy new year and hoped that everyone enjoyed the Christmas season.

### Club Matters

As discussed last fall, the ENS will participate in the RCNA's initiative to create a medal commemorating Canada's 150th Birthday in 2017. Our national organization is going to partner with Canadian coin clubs who will each design their own reverse, matched with the national obverse designed by the RCNA. The ENS will have medals struck exclusively in silver for the 2017 *Go for Gold* program, while copper ones are being considered to be created and available for purchase. Joe Kennedy reworked the ENS logo which will be used on the reverse die.

A brief debate took place on the merits of ordering copper medals in addition to silver ones. A motion was made by Paul Purdie that the ENS commits up to \$5400 to purchase these anniversary medals, 2nd by Del Keown. After a vote, the motion passed.

### March 4-5, Coin Show

- The volunteer sign-up sheets were circulated in the room for those wishing to assist in the operation of the coin show.
- We will again allow the dealers to set up the Friday evening of the coin show weekend.
- 4 advertising banners will be put up on Edmonton overpasses on February 4, 2017.
- The silent auction consignments will be required as soon as possible, because Howard Gilbey will not be at the February 8, 2017 monthly meeting. They can be dropped off at local coin shops.

### 2017 ENS Election

A reminder was given about the upcoming March 8, 2017 club elections, and everyone is encouraged to participate. An election committee will be formed at the Feb 8, 2017 meeting.

### Coin Tour of Europe

James Kindrake described an upcoming tour of Europe that he will be hosting from Oct 3-16, 2017. It is being organized by Rostad Tours of Calgary. The tour will start in Munich and end in Berlin coinciding with the large Numismata coin show that

is being held there on Oct 14-15, 2017. Stops in between will be Oberammergau, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Neuschwanstein Castle, Salzburg, Vienna, Telc, Prague & Dresden. There will be some numismatic stops and opportunities to visit coin shops. One of the highlights will be an opportunity to meet Wolfgang Schuster, the "Indiana Jones of Numismatics"! For info please contact James at [jkindrake@shaw.ca](mailto:jkindrake@shaw.ca).

### Other Matters

Danny Kachkan, one of our junior members, gave a brief talk on a Bike-A-Thon fundraiser being held at Strathcona High School in support of the Jack Davis Hope Foundation. The event will be held on March 10-11, 2017.

This led to a discussion on how the ENS should provide assistance to charities. Paul Purdie made a motion that the ENS Executive develops a policy to determine how the ENS should support charities, 2nd by Bob Eriksson. It was decided that the Executive will meet to discuss the topic and will report back to the membership for approval at a later date. This motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### Presentation

The door prizes were drawn before Mirko Dumanovic gave a presentation on collecting military medals.

### Show & Tell

Dan Gosling showed the group his 1973 \$1 test and replacement notes. These had prefix letters of AAX, AXA, BAX and EXA.

### Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 21:15 hrs.



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# 2016 Volunteer Award Presentations

## ENS Volunteer Recognition Program



**Chris Hale (left) wins gold in the Planchet category**

Presented by Marc Bink (right). Image: Roger Grove



**Marc Bink (right) wins gold in the general category**

Presented by David Peter (left). Image: Roger Grove



### **Silver Maple Leaf Volunteer Awards**

At the December 2016 club meeting, ENS president Marc Bink presents Silver Maple Leafs to the many ENS volunteers, including Howard Gilbey (middle left), Joe Kennedy (middle right) and Marv Berger (bottom right)

Images: Roger Grove





# Canada's largest spring numismatic event

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- bidding open to everyone

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- 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!



# Central European Tour to Berlin Numismata, October 3–16, 2017

Jim Kindrake and James Williston of the Edmonton and Calgary coin clubs would like to invite you (and a partner or friend) to join them on a "Rostad Tours" coin-oriented tour of Central Europe which finishes in Berlin, where you will be able to attend the famous Numismata Coin Fair hosting hundreds of coin dealers from all over the world.

The tour has been designed by Jim to take you to some of his favourite places and coin shops, and meet some of his many coin contacts along the way. For instance, you will have a chance to meet and chat with Gerhard Schoen in Munich, who publishes numerous coin catalogues (dealing with ancients, medieval, middle ages, current coins, Olympic coins, etc.) and in Vienna meet with Dr. Wolfgang Schuster who is also a well known numismatic author and collector. When he worked for Austrian Airlines he travelled the world in search of rare coins and some coins are only known because he discovered them. If we get enough people, Dr. Schuster will help to try to arrange a tour of the Austrian Mint. Jim knows where many coin shops are located along the way and can direct them to you, and Jim's spouse, Marie Gordon, will arrange some separate events for those people who would rather take in some sight-seeing or shopping.

The tour begins when our flight arrives in Munich, where we will meet with Dr. Schoen, and Jim will give you a tour of the old city including some of his favourite beer halls and restaurants. Jim once worked in Oberammergau and lived in Garmisch-Partenkirchen which are two lovely Bavarian towns south of Munich tucked away in the Bavarian Alps, where some of King Ludwig's castles, including the Walt Disney inspiring "Neuschwanstein" are located, as well as beautiful rococo Monasteries (Ettal) and churches (Wieskirche). In Partenkirchen you will get to see authentic Bavarian Gasthaus entertainment (yodelling, schuhplatten, etc.) in one of Jim's favourite inns. You can also either accompany Jim



through the famous "Partnachklamm" gorge and up the mountain to the Eckbauer Inn for some food and drink with fantastic Alpine views of Alpspitz and Zugspitz or take the shortcut up and down to the Eckbauer by cable car from the 1936 Winter Olympic Stadium. In Vienna we'll take in the wine gardens of Nussdorf where fresh green riesling wine is drunk in charming little inns on the side of a mountain. Then it's off to Prague, stopping for lunch in Telc, where we have a couple of days to explore this fascinating city. Jim will take you to "U Fleku", which is one of the oldest (it claims to be the oldest) brew pubs in the world. Finally, the tour ends in Berlin, a truly historic, "world-class city" where you can either take in Numismata, or explore the city, or a combination of both. These are just a few of the sights and events along the route.

You could just fly into Berlin for the Numismata coin show, but for not very much more money you could enjoy a 2-week first-class guided tour of Central Europe on your way there with a coin theme that includes return airfare to Calgary, all accommodation, transfers, breakfasts and several dinners, etc. If you are interested please go to the website ([tours@rostad.com](mailto:tours@rostad.com)) or contact either Jim Kindrake ([jkindrake@shaw.ca](mailto:jkindrake@shaw.ca)) or James Williston ([jawilliston@shaw.ca](mailto:jawilliston@shaw.ca)) for further information. Early registrations receive a \$300 discount before February 28th, 2017.





# Coming Events

## March 4 & 5, 2017: ENS Spring Show

March 8, 2017: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

March 24, 2017: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 3.

April 12, 2017: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

April 21: Issue 3 of the 2017 PLANCHET

May 10, 2017: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

May 12, 2017: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 4.

June 9: Issue 4 of the 2017 PLANCHET

June 14, 2017: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

To list your coming events, send them to [editor\\_ens@yahoo.ca](mailto:editor_ens@yahoo.ca)

## Edmonton Numismatic Society

# 2017

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# Azba'al Shekel of Byblos

A Phoenician Lion Behaves Badly

by **Wayne Hansen**



## Lion Attacking Bull

Reverse of Byblos Shekel under King Azba'al (400–365 BC)

One of the recurring designs appearing in Greek coinage is the lion attacking a bull, sometimes morphing into a lion attacking a deer (what's with these lions anyway?). I have already collected examples of both the lion/bull and lion/deer types minted as staters by satrap Mazaios in Asia Minor, plus an interesting lion/deer stater struck by satrap/king Ba'almelek II in Cyprus. Even more impressive, the city of Akanthos in the far north of Greece struck substantial, prestigious, late archaic and attic weight, lion/bull tetradrachms starting in 470 BC. Although I don't have one of the Akanthos tets (they are obviously too prestigious for me), I did get a chance to buy a new, large-flan, lion/bull silver coin from the ancient city of Byblos at our fall coin show. It's not in the same league as the Akanthos issue, but it does depict the same attack scene on a similar silver flan, and it does augment my mini collection of Phoenician city-state coins. It was minted on a lighter Phoenician shekel standard several decades after the Akanthos type. Nonetheless, its relatively large flan allowed ample space on its reverse for favorable treatment of the stylized lion attack scene, as well as equal room on its obverse to present an emblematic civic design. Both die images are visually interesting.

The coins of the Phoenician cities are a difficult subject. Although late Phoenician coins of the Hellenistic era, including posthumous Alexander tetradrachms and some autonomous civic coins like the shekel of Tyre, are reasonably available, the early Phoenician city-state coins are generally scarce, poorly struck and usually badly preserved. Unfortunately, it is the early Phoenician coins that are more fascinating since they employ a different range of types in their design palette than were used by Greek cities and their colonies. I hasten to note that ancient Phoenician cities were not Greek, though their coins are included in the Greek category (the same as Persian, Celtic and other non-Greek tribal coins). Basically, any Mediterranean, Middle-Eastern or Central European coinage struck before the Roman period is considered Greek and is fair game for Greek collectors.

## Historical Perspective

The main Phoenician mint cities of the Levant (strewn along the coast of current Lebanon, Syria and northern Israel) were Arados, Byblos, Sidon and Tyre – see Figure 1. These cities were established early as Mediterranean civilization advanced, due to their success in exploring and exploiting Mediterranean trade routes. Acting more like a 'confederation of traders' rather than a country, they plied the sea farther and farther west – to the Pillars of Herakles (Gibraltar) and beyond – establishing

colonies in southern Cyprus, northern Africa, southern Spain, Corsica, Sardinia and eastern Sicily. They sailed to the western shores of Africa for gold, to England for tin, to Spain for iron and to other Mediterranean ports to trade timber, glass objects, painted pottery, statues, cloth, wine, olive oil and jewelry. They would deliver certain products to each port in exchange for other local products according to a predetermined sequence that kept their holds full. The name 'Phoenician' was likely never used by them for their identity was tied to individual city-states, each of which had its own king. This name was applied by outsiders and was derived from the Greek name for the red-purple color of the dye that several of the Phoenician cities made for staining fabric.

An often-overlooked fact is that the Phoenicians developed the first real alphabet. This was no doubt a product of its intense mercantile tradition and the need for record keeping. The alphabet was later adapted for use by other cultures, most notably by the Greeks, ultimately providing the basis for all European written languages. Unfortunately, the Phoenicians primarily used fragile Egyptian papyrus for their own records, so none have survived.

Byblos was the oldest of the Phoenician cities, and possibly the oldest city in the world. Its first dwellings were likely first built in Neolithic times, around 8800-7000 BC. It has been continuously occupied since 5000 BC, though the first town probably didn't exist before the start of the Canaanite period in 3000 BC. Its Canaanite/Phoenician name (Geba) is derived from 'gb' meaning origin and 'El' the name of the supreme god worshipped in

Byblos. The early Greek name for papyrus was 'byblos' because it was imported from Egypt through that city, eventually being transposed to the word 'bible' which originally meant 'the papyrus book'.

During the 3rd millennium BC, Byblos was largely an Egyptian colony and ally. It would have supplied timber to Egypt and probably received military support and linen fabric from there. It was known for bronze making, shipbuilding and the cedar timber it cut from forests in adjacent hills (the famous cedars of Lebanon). By 1000 BC, the Egyptian pharaohs began favoring Sidon and Tyre, taking business from Byblos. In the 8th and 7th centuries BC, the whole of Phoenicia became a tributary to the Assyrian Empire, subject to Assyrian kings while maintaining its own civic kingdoms. In 538 BC, the Persian Empire displaced the Assyrians, assuming control of the Phoenician cities and making Byblos one of four Phoenician vassal kingdoms (Persian satrapies) along the Levant coast. The other three satrapies were Sidon, Tyre and Arados/Arwad, but there was also a fifth satrapy established in Kition, another Phoenician colony on the adjacent island of Cyprus. These cities remained largely independent since Persia needed the Phoenicians with their great knowledge of the sea and their ability to build and operate naval fleets for trade and warfare. Byblos was reported to have the largest naval shipyard in ancient times, where ships, including typical cargo ships of 65 x 16 feet, were mass-produced. Persia had little commercial interest in the sea and had no fleets, instead relying on the Phoenicians and other naval centers to assist in its military adventures. According to

Kraay, Phoenicia was charged with protecting Persia's western flank, which meant confronting Athens and other Greek cities in many naval battles. For example, Phoenician ships formed a significant part of the Persian navy in the decisive Persian-Greek naval battle at Salamis in 480 BC. The Persians deployed 800-1,200 triremes and pentekonters, although it was the Greeks who won that battle and ultimately the war.

Phoenician civic coinages began almost a century after the Persian takeover in 538 BC. Byblos and the other cities each struck their distinctive issues, which continued until Alexander III's Macedonian invasion in 332 BC. Arados, Byblos and Sidon surrendered to Alexander, but Tyre (then on an island) refused to allow him to make an offering at its temple. With Alexander's siege and destruction of Tyre, plus new centralized Macedonian control of all conquered territories, the power and authority of the Phoenician city-states quickly waned. At that point, the Phoenician mints in the Levant, and at nearby Kition, were adapted to produce Alexander's Macedonian imperial coins, including attic weight tetradrachms and some gold staters. Carthage was a major colony of Tyre, but it was far enough away from the Levant that Alexander didn't reach it. Carthage continued as a major power through the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, ultimately defeating several Greek city-states in Sicily. However, Carthage then had to face the emerging power that was Rome. After a lengthy period of conflict, Carthage was defeated by Rome in the Second Punic War at the end of the 3rd century BC, signalling the end of Phoenician power and the demise of Phoenician identity.



**Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of Ancient Byblos**



**Figure 1** – The ancient Phoenician city of Gebal was called Byblos by the Greeks and is currently called Jubyl. It was located in the Levant at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, opposite Cyprus, with the

city of Sidon to the south and Tripoli to the north. It was strategically located between Egypt and the Greek colonies in Asia Minor, and it was adjacent to caravan routes that permeated the Middle East.



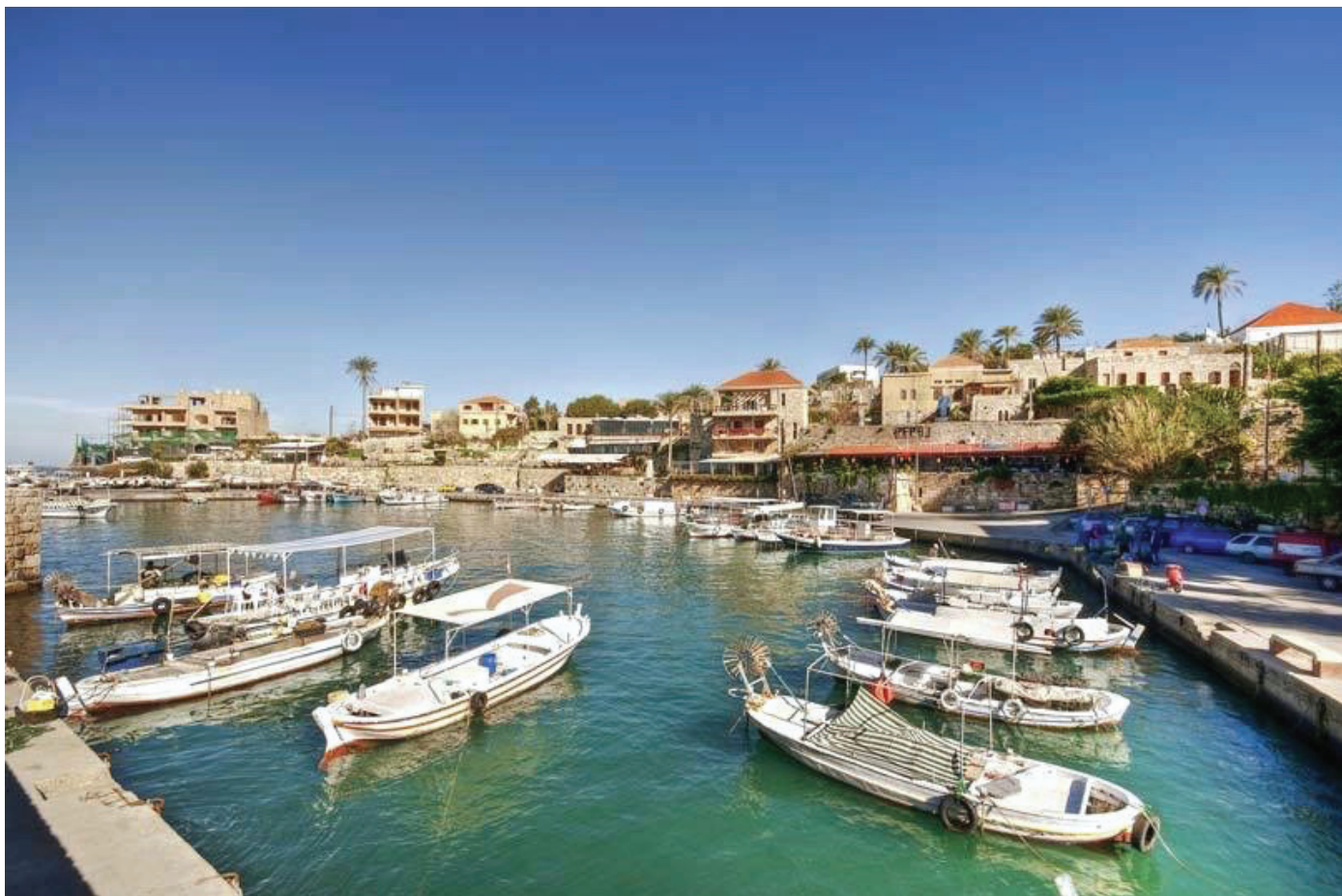
**Figure 2 – View of Ancient Byblos Site**



**Figure 2 –** The current city of Jubyl stretches south of the exposed ruins (top photo). A small harbor remains at the current site of Byblos (bottom right photo and next page).

Ruins of the ancient city are found on the hill to the south of the harbor (bottom left photo and behind the harbor in the bottom right photo).





## Byblos Coinage

Byblos did not produce an extensive series of coins, possibly because of their barter trading culture and the slow-to-adopt coinage habits of their Persian overlords. The Phoenicians may have also relied on using silver coins struck by the Greek cities such as Athens and Aigina, whose Athena tetradrachms and turtle staters circulated as something of an eastern Mediterranean universal trade currency circa 500–450 BC. The four main Phoenician cities, Arados, Byblos, Sidon and Tyre, plus Kition in Cyprus, each began minting silver coins between 450–425 BC. Having one's own civic coinage must have been all the rage by then. While Arados's

coinage was tailored to the needs of Persian trade in the eastern Mediterranean, and the coins of Sidon and Tyre circulated along the Levant from Cilicia to Egypt, the coins of Byblos reportedly had a more local distribution.

Along with Sidon and Tyre, Byblos decided to use a shekel standard. Shekel weights were quite variable depending on location, but the Phoenicians settled on approximately 13.5 grams, which was slightly lighter than the iconic Aigina stater\*. At first, however, Byblos issued a very rare 9.3-gram silver stater, together with a one-third mini version, around 450 BC. This stater had Egyptian motifs on both dies, including a seated

sphinx with double crown of Egypt on the obverse and a lotus or thunderbolt on the reverse (its Egyptian history and trading influence obviously had an effect). The stater soon morphed into Byblos's first shekel sized coin, which retained the sphinx on the obverse but substituted a lone hippocamp on the reverse. Production of another series of slightly more familiar Byblos shekels commenced about 420 BC. The obverse looked very similar to the later shekels, but the reverse showed a vulture with spread wings standing on the back of an incuse ram, again reflecting an Egyptian influence. Figure 3 provides examples of these first Byblos

\* Some references, such as Kraay and Sear, assign a weight of approximately 7 grams to the shekel, making the 13.5 gram Phoenician coins a two shekel denomination and the Sidon double shekel a four shekel denomination. This article uses the more standard shekel designation found in current sales and catalogues.

issues. In the early 4th century BC, the usual lion attacking bull reverse design was adopted (as in Figure 4), which continued until the Macedonian takeover.

Aside from full shekels, Byblos also issued quantities of contemporary one-eighth shekels with similar types as the shekels – some with the vulture reverse and some with the lion-bull reverse. It was only when the Phoenicians essentially disappeared as Rome expanded, that Byblos issued a few scraggly bronze coins.

Byblos followed the Phoenician pattern of choosing a distinctive combination of design elements for its coinage – many of which related to its maritime heritage. In this case, the featured maritime elements on the 4th century coins were the war galley, a fantastical winged hippocamp and a murex shell, all of which were placed on the shekel's obverse. The galley was self explanatory given the city's heavy involvement in ship construction and naval warfare. The hippocamp, which had the

forepart of a horse and the lower body of a fish, was a mythical sea monster that was revered in Greek and Phoenician culture. In Greek myth, the hippocamp was a creature of Poseidon, the god of horses, earthquakes and the sea. As Poseidon's companion, the hippocamp would transport Poseidon through the ocean, later interpreted as pulling a chariot. The Phoenicians would also have seen the hippocamp as a creature of its own sea god. The murex shell, on the other hand, symbolized the city's dye industry, which was also famously centered in Sidon, Tyre and Carthage. Murex extract was used to create an intense and valuable red-purple dye used by royalty. It was derived from secretions of predatory sea snails in the family Muricidae, requiring mega thousands of snails and serious amounts of labor to produce even small quantities.

The reverse of these same 4th century Byblos shekels displayed the aforementioned lion attacking bull scene. As noted

in the introduction, the scene was occasionally found elsewhere in Greek coinage. Beyond the obvious attractiveness of the design for its numismatic impact, it could lead one to think of the power of nature or the grandeur of conflict. G. E. Markoe has found a more specific explanation in Greek literature and pottery, where a lion attacking a defenceless animal is a metaphor for the 'aggression and valor of combatant heroes' – the lion indeed triumphs over the prey. He notes that the *Iliad* contains multiple examples of heroic warriors being equated with lions, while their victims are compared to bulls, deer and sheep. In addition, these myths usually show that Greek gods direct the heroic action of the lions, so heroic triumph is seen to be divinely inspired. It is therefore not a stretch to see that the Byblos shekel reverse was calling attention to the heroic endeavors of its combatants or soliciting divine assistance in warfare.

**Figure 3 – Early Byblos Coinage**



**Figure 3** – These very rare early coins of Byblos were struck 450–410 BC and offer Egyptian influenced designs. The first coin, from circa 450 BC, was a stater of 9.3 grams, but subsequent coinage was struck on a shekel standard of 13.5 grams. The second coin introduces the hippocamp image in the new shekel format, while the third coin

introduces the galley-over-hippocamp obverse that was used on all subsequent shekels through the next century (with the addition of a murex shell). The third coin also displays the extremely unusual and short-lived vulture-over-incuse-ram reverse. (Images courtesy Stacks, NAC and Old Roman Coins, respectively.)



## Featured Shekel

The featured Byblos coin (see Figure 4) is part of a nice group of classical Phoenician city coins minted about 40-50 years before Alexander the Great arrived in the Levant. After Alexander arrived in 334 BC, the Phoenician mints were converted to produce his usual Herakles/Zeus imperial tetradrachms. Byblos minted these shekels while it was within the Persian sphere, but it was actually a civic coinage issued under the authority of its own king – in this case, Azba'al, as noted on the reverse legend. Byblos coin types were distinctive, with the

unusual combination of a lion headed war galley, hippocamp and murex shell on the obverse and a lion attacking a bull on the reverse. In addition, three armed hoplite soldiers manned the galley, a detail not seen on other Phoenician coinages. For that matter, the other main Phoenician cities didn't use the lion attacking bull image either, although Cypriote Kition struck a lion attacking stag coin (Figure 6).

As noted in the section above, it was only Byblos and Tyre that routinely issued the single shekel coins. Sidon seems to

have used more half-shekel and double shekel denominations (Figure 5C below), while Arados issued the lighter weight, Persic staters (Figure 5A below). Byblos was also a bit different from the other mints because it used fully flattened flans for its early 4th century coinage. As can be seen in Figure 4, the flans were flattened at one or more stages during flan preparation, or striking, in order to register more of the die image. Byblos coins are therefore a bit broader than shekels of other Phoenician mints and perhaps less regular in shape.

**Figure 4 – Featured Byblos Shekel**



**Shekel – King Azba'al – 400–365 BC (13.22g, 25.9 x 23.9mm, 3h)**

Obv: War Galley and Three Soldiers; Hippocamp and Murex Shell Below;

Rev: Lion Attacking Bull; ZBL MLK GBL ('Azba'al King of Gebal') Above.

**Figure 4 – Byblos Shekel** – Byblos was previously known as Gebal, thus the inscription: 'King of Gebal'. It is difficult to find a really good Byblos shekel and prices skyrocket if you do. This one has a half decent flan and reasonable centering, plus the reverse image is fully struck. It is attractive in hand with good metal and underlying luster. Most of its problems

involve die deterioration on the obverse, producing a weak looking strike and edge degradation around the obverse images. Also, the heads of the three soldiers are partly off flan and poorly defined. However, it is quite a good example of this issue, especially if you prefer the reverse view. (Collection of the author and photo by the author.)



## Related Issues in the Levant and Cyprus

The Byblos issues occurred at the same time as other Phoenician mints in both the Levant and Cyprus struck their own civic coinages. Figures 5 and 6 provide examples of early coin types

from these mints, circa 430–380 BC, during a period of nominal Persian control. There are a few common features that suggest a cultural relationship, however there are also significant

differences belying the fact that each city functioned independently under local kingship. Since Phoenician records did not survive, the names of many of the issuing kings are unknown.

**Figure 5 – Related Phoenician City-State Coins in the Levant**



**Stater – Uncertain King – 380–350 BC (10.47g; 20.0 x 17.1 mm)**

Obv: Head of Marine Deity or Ba'al Arwad;

Rev: Pentekonter, 'MA', 3 Waves Below.

**Figure 5A – Arados Stater.** Arados, also called 'Arwad', issued a series of staters in the early to mid 4th century BC on the Persic (Persian) weight standard. It used this standard, along with mints in Cyprus, because it was strategically located for access to goods traversing mid-east land routes within Persian territory. It was Persia's main outlet to Cyprus and the west. Arados stater obverses are generally described as honoring a wreathed and bearded head of a male sea deity, who may coincidentally be its main civic deity. In this same period, Arados also issued a third-stater coin showing a male marine deity in the form of a 'merman', appearing with a man's head and full fish body/tail while grasping dolphins in each hand. The head on this stater presents a series of archaic features including

dotted hair and a full-frontal eye – not typical for this late period, although man-headed bulls are sometimes found with a similar treatment (as in Gela, Sicily). The reverse of the stater shows the usual Phoenician type of war galley sitting above 3 waves, all within a shallow incuse. The flan is otherwise quite chunky with all images in high relief. The reverse field is fairly plain, with bold, concise lines and few letters – making the coin part of the first series (before 350 BC) where the king is not identified. Images on the more common, later issues are less constrained, and the reverses are more cluttered with dates and names. This coin has survived in good condition with nice detail and old collection toning.

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





**Shekel – Uncertain King – 440–425 BC (13.54g; 21 mm)**

Obv: Dolphin, 3 Waves, Murex Shell;

Rev: Incuse Owl, Crook and Flail.



**Shekel – Uncertain King – 425–394 BC (13.73; 24 mm)**

Obv: Marine Deity Riding Hippocamp, 3 Waves, Dolphin;

Rev: Owl, Crook and Flail.

**Figure 5B – Tyre Shekels.** The most recognized ‘shekels of Tyre’ (not pictured here), with their head of Melkart/Ba’al and a standing eagle, were issued in the Roman era, well after the Phoenician heyday. The two shekels illustrated above were struck much earlier, in the late 5th century, just before my featured Byblos coin. They are great examples of the usual Tyrian coin types, with the earlier of the two showing the mint’s initial penchant for using incuse reverse designs. As with the other Phoenician cities, the sea features prominently – most often marked by stylized waves and a galley, but in Tyre the galley is

replaced by a dolphin, murex shell and/or a marine deity riding a hippocamp. The reverses of both coins convey a strong Egyptian influence with a hieroglyphic owl and the royal symbols of a pharaoh. Later in the 4th century BC, flans gradually became more flattened, the hippocamp/dolphin designs became sketchy and plating of coins was a problem. I find these early Tyrian coins quite fascinating for their boldness and evocativeness, however actually buying a decent one has proven to a pipe dream thus far. (Images courtesy of CNG.)



**Double Shekel – King Ba’alsillem – 401–365 BC (28.0g; 26 mm)**

Obv: Pentekonter, 2 Double Waves, Phoenician ‘B’;

Rev: Persian King in Procession; King of Sidon Behind.



**Half Shekel – Uncertain King**

435–425 BC (7.1g; 17 mm)

Obv: Pentekonter, 2 Waves;

Rev: Persian King with Bow.

**Half Shekel – Uncertain King**

425–401 BC (7.1g; 18 mm)

Obv: Pentekonter, City Wall, 2 Lions;

Rev: Persian King Attacking Lion.

**Figure 5C – Sidon Double Shekel and Half Shekels.** Sidon was ultimately the most powerful of the Phoenician cities. As a sign of this power, the city struck the largest of the contemporary civic issues at twice the weight of the standard shekel. It featured the usual Phoenician galley-over-waves obverse, but the reverse was again quite different from other cities. The reverse showed a royal cart pulled by mules with the Great King of Persia riding in the cart followed by the King of Sidon walking behind. The scene obviously paid allegiance to the city’s Persian

overlords and promoted the stature of the Persian King. This coin is annotated on the obverse with a Phoenician ‘B’ for Ba’alsillem, the King of Sidon, but other double shekel issues were identified differently, including one ascribed to the famous Persian governor, Mazaïos. Once again, these double shekels are not rare, but finding a good one for purchase has been a nightmare. The over-large flan caused a lot of very poor strikes, and corrosion seems to have done-in many of the rest. The much smaller half shekels are very rare however. (Images courtesy of CNG.)



**Figure 6 – Related Phoenician City-State Coin in Cyprus**



**Stater – King Ba'almelek II – 425–400 BC (11.1g; 21.9 x 19.0 mm)**

Obv: Herakles Wearing Lion-skin and Wielding Club;

Rev: Lion Attacking Stag, 'BLMLK' Above.

**Figure 6 – Kition Stater of King Ba'almelek II.** Here we have another lion behaving badly, this time attacking a spotted stag. Kition was the only Phoenician city in Cyprus, located on the southeast coast, closest to the Levant. Greek and Phoenician cultures flourished in this important port, but the Phoenicians had all of the social and political power. It was an important trading hub and also an important staging point for the Phoenician navy. After the Persian conquest in 538 BC, Kition became Persia's fifth Phoenician satrapy, charged with supplying men and warships for Persia's military endeavors. As with the Levant cities, Kition kept its own king, in this case Ba'almelek II, and it issued its own coinage. The coins were staters on the Persic standard, similar to those of

Arados since there was likely a trading relationship with the Persians. This stater was issued slightly before the other featured coins cited above, but it is linked to the Byblos lion/bull shekels by its reverse attack scene. A stag is the victim on this one, but the intent and the mechanism is the same. In fact, taking the dating at face value, this issue could have convinced Byblos to use a similar reverse theme. The coin's flan is quite crude, only in part because it is from the 5th century BC. Although the obverse die is worn (this one is better than most), the reverse is exceptionally sharp and nicely struck. It is a bonus to see the spots on the deer and the lion mane. (Collection of the author and photo by the author.)

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## In Closing...

OK, so Byblos became a Phoenician city after being first occupied by Neoliths and Canaanites. But then the city was overrun by a succession of marauding Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians and Macedonians, not to mention the uppity Romans a bit later. Of course, similar circumstances befell a lot of other ancient populations, but what matters is that Byblos retained a collaborative identity and generally prospered as a Phoenician entity until the end.

The obverse galley/hippocamp design of the featured Byblos shekel marks it as distinctively Phoenician, while the reverse lion/bull motif metaphorically objectifies the classical virtues of aggression and valor. The Phoenician cites were, after all, major players in maritime conflict during this period. Otherwise, the coin is what it is. Although the Byblos mint's intent was clear, and its dies were initially prepared to a high standard, production values lapsed and the dies eventually became worn. On the other hand, it was a time when Persia's strength and oversight were somewhat reduced, which allowed the main Phoenician cities to issue unique and memorable staters. My Byblos issue was part of this pleasant group of Phoenician coins reflecting a sense of stability and civic identity. With the new shekel I have added one more to this limited group. One small victory for me ... One giant leap for mankind! Or not. ☒

## Quotes on Ships and Lions

*It is not the ship so much as the skillful sailing that assures the prosperous voyage.*

– George William Curtis

*I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky;  
and all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.*

– John Masefield

*A lion's work hours are only when he's hungry; once he's satisfied, the predator and prey live peacefully together.*

– Chuck Jones

## Addendum

The obverse hippocamp figure is a rather fetching feature of the Byblos coin. It is sometimes interpreted as a seahorse, but there are differences. Hippocamp/seahorse devices are used as decorative images today, such as on the back of my Omega watch (see below). The company adopted

the design on watches in the 1950s to convey an ability to withstand water pressure. The image was derived from sculptures or paintings of the god Neptune, the Roman version of Poseidon, who was seen riding a chariot pulled by these creatures (thus there is a bridle on the Omega version).



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# A Real Game of Thrones

by Marc Bink



It's funny what a coin can inspire. It came to me as a blackish lump, and caught my eye in amongst a pile of modern world junk like Euro coins and modern pesos. It was not all that pretty to look at and decidedly crude; in other words a lovely medieval coin. Now the fun begins! As usual, there is some detective work that has to be done in order to figure out where it was made and who made it.

At first glance, it looked Spanish. And for a good reason too; as it turned out it was made in Mexico. It was a 1 Real piece that was one of the first "real" coins struck in the Americas that actually looked like a coin. It was about the size of a modern quarter, but a fair bit thinner. As was expected, it wasn't totally round either, but it looked pretty nice for something that was impossible to do in the New World just a few years before. What really caught my eye were the legends. They're supposedly the easiest route to a coin's provenance and in this case the

mystery only widened. It had "CAROLVS ET IOHANNA REGES" on it. Okay, that should be easy to search out, King Carlos of Spain and his wife Joanna...uh huh...yeah, not finding it...this was going to be a little bit more fun than I originally thought.

The real fun part of coin collecting for me is the back-story. I never just take a coin at face value. It's the back-story behind the devices and the crests or the legends that makes for a fantastic story. In this case a very sad one, and one that probably inspired more than a few episodes of a very popular fantasy show on TV.

## A coin opens a window back in time

Our story starts at a rather lovely palace in the south of Spain. It had just been vacated by its previous tenant, who had added the last wing to it and a fountain or two in the garden. One look at the castle, and one can see that it is decidedly Islamic in its architecture. And it should be, the last tenant was the last ruler of the Moorish kingdom of Spain. Muhammed XII "Boabdil" had just left for exile, and even while the hearths were still hot the new tenants moved in. They were Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon and the year was 1492.

"In the year 1492 over the seas of blue", as the old rhyme goes, Columbus sailed to America and the Reconquista was finally over. Spain was a "whole" country under Christian rule again for the first time in almost 1000 years, and it was making up for lost time. After Columbus "discovered" the New World by bumping into what is now known as Baracoa Cuba, he and his successors set about conquering it for the new kingdom of Spain. And while the Conquistadors went off in search of the fabled "El Dorado", they managed to conquer and dispossess a number of indigenous tribes of the land, the largest of which were the Aztecs in what is now Mexico. This is eventually where the Spanish would set up a capital city, one which would become the premier city of the premier colony in the New World, Mexico City. And eventually, they would set up the first mint there in 1535, a mere 16 years after they first drove out the "Indians" and murdered their king.

But I'm getting a bit ahead of myself. Everyone knows the stories about Cortes and Pizarro and all those other Conquistadores that went hunting for gold only to find nothing but mosquitos and death in some forlorn jungle somewhere. That, while important to this story is only a part of it; the other part that not too many people know is a lot more interesting.

Around the same time that all of the exploration of the new world was going on, two young girls were entering into marriageable age and being shopped around by their parents, the same Isabella and Ferdinand of Spain. The third in line, Juana, or Joanna, was born in 1479 in Toledo Spain. According to most accounts, Joanna was very intelligent and had a thirst for learning. She was very proficient at languages, and at a very young age could engage adults in intelligent conversation. In modern times she would have been considered "gifted", but in those days, intelligence was a case of "be careful what you wish for". This was also the case with her younger sister, Katherine, born 6 years later in 1485 but also just as bright and witty. But Joanna did have one fatal flaw that drove her parents to distraction; she was a procrastinator. Before she made a decision she would try and gather as much information as she could; this would eventually contribute to her later problems. Katherine was a woman



**Joanna the Mad**



**Queen Katherine of England**

of action and very passionate about things. So Isabella and Ferdinand knew they had some special daughters that would be good "assets" to have in place in neighboring kingdoms to further their aims and keep the peace between nations.

By all accounts the parents doted on their daughters as much as any 15th century royals could. The girls were well provided for, and their mother, Isabella of Castile, had a pretty good idea what they could expect entering into a world full of stupid men. She did her best to prepare them to be good wives and loyal to the Spanish crown. And, since they were both rather

free-spirited and intelligent, she knew that she'd have to get them married off as soon as possible before they did something stupid like fall in love with whatever rake that might catch their eyes.

Isabella and Ferdinand raised 5 children to adulthood; and then the wheels began to fall off. The first to go was the eldest daughter, betrothed to the king of Portugal. She died fairly early on as did her offspring. Soon the King was back shopping for another wife, and then away went Joanna's slightly younger sister Maria. That just left Joanna and her sister Katherine. Joanna went first; she went to Burgundy

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**Philip the fair**

to marry Philip the Fair (as in handsome) of Burgundy and cement an alliance between the Hapsburgs and the Trastámaras of Spain. The marriage was set up by the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian as a way to expand his horizons and protect a few frontiers. Philip was a Hapsburg, and through him it was hoped that eventually a Hapsburg would rule Spain as well as the Austrian homelands and be the most powerful family in all of Europe.

As Joanna set off, little did she realize that with the exception of her younger sister, she'd never see her family together again. Katherine on the other hand, was sent to England to marry Arthur the Prince of Wales, the eldest son of Henry VII. All was looking up; nothing could go wrong. The girls were all properly married off and any setback caused by eldest daughter Isabella's untimely demise was quickly rectified.

But it didn't last. In fact, it was probably too good to be true. This was the 16th century after all and people didn't live very long. Those that did weren't the nicest people anyway. Disease was rife, hygiene was non-existent, and anything that happened that was bad was blamed on a higher power. The Church was the Way; displease God and nasty things tended to befall you.

The first thing that went wrong was that Katherine's new husband died more or less on their honeymoon. She was grief stricken, and she still owed Henry VII her dower which he still expected to have paid to him. After all, a deal is a deal, regardless of whether or not the principal keels over. Katherine put her parents into a bit of a bind; they still were financing the remnants of the Reconquista and were a little short. Plus, all their other dowers had come due, so it became a process

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whereby whoever was the most important got paid, and since poor Arthur had expired, Katherine had lost her usefulness. Besides, they also had an heir to setup in the form of their son Juan (John) on whose head the family's laurels rested. But then a funny thing happened; he died. Now the whole kingdom of Spain was thrown into a tizzy. It was looking that a Burgundian duke and a Spanish Princess would eventually rule Spain after Isabella and Ferdinand died. Or was it?

First off, Isabella died in 1504. That put her daughter, Joanna in line for the Castilian throne. Well, sort of; in actuality her husband Philip of Burgundy was going to be king, and the truth was, he could hardly wait. He immediately set off with Joanna in tow to lay claim to his new-found property and wealth. And, here again, is that wealth thing; it was all about money and power, in that order. Philip was broke and he saw that through Castile he could "be someone" and then actually be a king on par with everyone else. He could then contain Ferdinand who was also looking at usurping the throne of his dead wife. The truth was, Ferdinand was just that little bit faster and a lot more shrewd than Philip was. In fact, Philip was a bit of a light-weight, and Ferdinand was the actual living model for Machiavelli's book "The Prince". Ferdinand might as well have written it himself. He also hated Philip with a passion, so he would do whatever it took


to ensure that Philip didn't get anywhere. He beat his son-in-law and his daughter there and he wasn't about to give anything up either. Soon it became an exercise in containment and damage control. Ferdinand retained control over the Cortes and Philip dispensed orders that were politely ignored. So he tried to use his wife Joanna to get things done. She was also smart enough to see through it all and she only played ball when she had no other choice. What she didn't realize was that she was getting into a fight that she could never win. On the one hand, was her mercurial and abusive husband and on the other her conniving father. Either of these two had little sympathy for a woman, particularly one that had brains.

Joanna's relationship with her husband was interesting to say the least. At the beginning, it was said she really loved him and was devoted to him. The lustre soon wore off when she was pregnant for the umpteenth time and his wandering eye snagged someone else. She went absolutely ballistic and he promptly abused her. He started controlling her retinue, hamstringing her purse, and limiting who she was exposed to. She provided him with plenty of offspring, and she wanted to provide him with guidance too, but he wanted no part of that. So he marginalized her whenever he could; he wrote her parents and told them that he was worried for her sanity. So that meant he was going

to limit her appearances and he was not planning to send her home. Ferdinand said if she isn't coming, then Philip isn't claiming, so he grudgingly dragged her along to claim her properties in Castile. But the trip wasn't an easy one, and they ended up shipwrecked on the coast of England. It was at this point she would see her sister Katherine for the last time. By this point she was nominally the Queen of Castile, and her husband a king on equal footing with the others. It was also pretty much the last time she was ever seen in public again.

By now it was becoming clear to Joanna that things hadn't gone to plan. In fact, the situation was about to get worse. Later that same year, her husband died. She tried to gain control of her kingdom; but the people of Castile weren't really on her side. Ferdinand had done a great job in whipping up opposition. She tried to wrest control from him but would only go so far. She couldn't bring herself to play the kind of hardball he was playing; she was indecisive and slipped into a depression.

And this is where the legend starts. Apparently Joanna had decided to take her husband's body home to Grenada and bury it in the family crypt. Ferdinand seized on a malicious report that she had "taken up with Philip's putrefying corpse and done lewd and lascivious things with it", and that she was refusing to bury him as a sign that she was in fact mad and not fit



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to govern. By most accounts, this was altogether untrue. In fact, what she had probably done was what most royals did whenever one of them died, insure that the body was actually the correct one by locking the place down and refusing entry to anyone until it was positively ascertained that the body was indeed who it was supposed to be. Some wag decided to exaggerate the whole thing and it played right into Ferdinand's plans. He then cemented his control over Castile and Aragon and locked his daughter away where no one could see her.

Joanna, to her credit, soon realized what was happening and realized that she was for the most part completely powerless. So, like a lioness, she fought to ensure that her son would stand to inherit her properties if she couldn't. She fought her jailers every chance she could, but it was no use. It was, after all, a man's world and though she probably would have made a very capable ruler, her own father cast her into a convent and never let out again. Ferdinand perpetuated the lies. Every once in a while he'd circulate "the story" just to make sure that no one got any funny ideas about liberating Joanna.

Joanna also never had a chance to watch her oldest son grow up. When she and Philip left Burgundy, she left her 5 children there and was pregnant with the 6th. Charles and his brother were raised by Joanna's mother-in-law. Charles never



**Charles V Holy Roman Emperor**

got to see his mother until he took over the throne at the age of 17 (in 1517) after Ferdinand finally died. Even then, the reunion was not recorded for posterity; so we have no real idea of her sanity at this point. However, what did happen was that he kept his mother locked up and assumed his position as co-regent of Spain. He had inherited all of Spain; not just Castile, but the whole lot of it. Ferdinand had more or less let it happen this way when his

second marriage bore no heirs. So it did Charles well to continue keeping his mother locked away and claiming that she was crazy; otherwise his inheritance would be void and he'd have to wait. So now a Hapsburg was effectively running the show in Spain, and old Maximillian got what he wanted in the end anyway.

## **Come on, get on with it; what about the coins?**

After the Spanish took over Mexico and decided to use that as a sort of base of operations, they needed something where they could make some currency. Previous to opening the mint, they made "cobs" and used whatever Spanish Regal pieces they could get a hold of. This wasn't good enough. So in 1535, some 16 scant years after Cortez ruined the Aztec empire, the local government was given permission to launch a regal mint. This coinage would be tied to the new Spanish Regal coinage; the Real became the basic unit and the old Maravedies became a unit of the Real (34 Maravedies to a Real). This caused a bit of confusion, and with burgeoning trade to the New World a shortage of coinage became a serious problem. The Viceroy of New Spain, Antonio De Mendoza, successfully petitioned Joanna (through Charles, no doubt) to permit the construction of a mint that would supply the New World. The coins were to have

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two pillars on it, and the legends were to state that they originated in New Spain. The obverse side had the crowned combined coats of arms of Aragon and Castile on them with a pomegranate below, along with the legend KAROLVS ET IOHANNA REGES. On either side of the shield was the mintmark or an assayer's mark, so that the coin could be assayed and tracked. The reverse had two crowned pillars signifying the Pillars of Hercules, and the "PLVS" (for "Plus Ultra") interspersed between the pillars. The legend on the reverse read HISPANIARVM ET INDIARVM and had whichever assayer's mintmark on it. The coins were round and of good quality manufacture. Although the technology existed in Spain to make milled style coins, there's no evidence that these were; they have a decidedly hammered look to them. Coins were initially offered in the ¼ to 3 Reales denominations; but after 1537 it was decided to drop the 3 Real and the ¼ Real coin due to the ability to confuse them with the other denominations. On none of these coins was the denomination actually stated, one had to know the size or weight, hence the easy confusion. The earliest series was issued in 1536; the next one came after 1542. These coins aren't that common; of the later series there are an estimated 2500 pieces known. By far the largest issue was made after 1556; the "PLVS VLTRA" was spelled out and the denomination was added. The designs on the coins became a little more ornate as well. My coin comes from the lot made from 1554 to about 1569. The "M" indicates that the coin originated in Mexico City, and the "L" is for the Assayer, Luis Rodriguez. He worked from 1554 to 1569. All coins made from 1536 to 1572 were in Charles and Joanna's titles, even though they were both long dead by the time the series was finished.



**Groat (4d) of Henry VIII circa 1530**



**Shilling of King Phillip and Queen Mary of England, 1554**



**Mexican 1 Real coin, ca. 1556**



## If only this story had a clean wrap up like on TV...

When Charles ascended the throne he had no desire to change things. That meant leaving his mother to rot in the convent at Tordesillas. He did go and see her, but there is no record of what was possibly said. Charles had other fish to fry by that point too; he was in line to inherit the Holy Roman Empire from his grandfather Maximilian who was getting very old. Now here's where things get a little funny; in 1520 there was a rebellion in Castile, and Tordesillas was taken. The rebels wanted to enlist Joanna to their cause. By this point, her son Charles was the Holy Roman Emperor as well as the king of Spain and he didn't really have the time or the patience to deal with public complaints. He left things to the Cortes and a handful of loyal nobles. So when the rebels came calling, they were looking for support in the Queen. It was at this point that she had learned that her father had died some years before. But there's no evidence that she took time to grieve. For the first time in years, she was in her element; listening, advising and making things happen. But the one thing she would not do was sign a declaration against her son the Emperor. She held off, procrastinated, and deferred the rebel requests until the Emperor's forces were able to reconquer the area. And, like nothing had happened, she was forced back to her old lifestyle. Records show that the Queen was not mad; she was quite lucid and engaged when interviewed by the rebels. In fact, most people who had run across her reported her to be quite sane and quite on top of things. Sure, her husband's coffin was still unburied in the convent, but there's no evidence that she visited it or did anything untoward with it. In fact it was not uncommon for nobles to be above

ground for a number of years until the place where they were supposed to be buried was either re-taken or liberated or whatever. So the fact that Philip the Not-So-Fair-Anymore was still hanging around in some form or another wasn't all that weird. She had promised to bury him at the family crypt in Grenada; little did she know that the only time that would happen would be once she was dead herself.



**Henry VIII 1509**

And Joanna's death finally occurred in 1555. A very short while afterwards she was followed by her son Charles in 1558. He was totally exhausted and abdicated all of his offices in favor of his brother in 1557, only to spend the remaining year of his life in failing health. Her younger son Ferdinand became the next Holy Roman Emperor and her grandson Philip became the king of Spain.

Before Joanna expired though, one of the last people who came to visit her was her grandson, Philip. Philip was on his way to

England to marry the new queen there, Mary, the daughter of Joanna's sister Katherine. What eventually became of her was also pretty miserable.

Katherine had it all when she was finally married to Henry VIII shortly before his coronation in 1509. She had a beautiful husband, who after much wrangling and negotiations had finally conceded to do the right thing and marry her. It actually seems there was mutual respect and love involved, something incredibly rare in medieval regal marriages. She did her duty and got pregnant; and gave birth to a son. The kingdom was overjoyed, and it looked like the sun would never set on the beautiful couple. And then the little prince died after just 10 days on this earth. Katherine would endure many more stillbirths before giving birth to a live child; the one who would eventually become Queen Mary in 1554. But that wasn't good enough for Henry; he wanted a son, and by 1525 it was becoming painfully obvious that he wasn't going to get one with Kathrine. Try as she might, it just wasn't going to happen. Henry in the meantime, had done the traditional royal thing to do; his eye wandered and he fooled around. Lastly with Anne Boleyn, one of Katherine's "maids". The Boleyn family was rising up in the world, and to have one going after the king, well, that was considered hedging one's bets. Long story short, Henry broke with the Church and married Anne. Ostensibly the union between Henry and Katherine was considered offensive to God, because Katherine was probably not "chaste" after being very briefly married to Henry's older brother Arthur. Katherine was "divorced", her purse and upkeep halved, and she was packed off to a drafty old castle somewhere out of the way.

Katherine put up a valiant and just fight to keep her husband and status. She more or less proved herself to be her father's daughter by her political acumen and ability to fight. She couldn't win though, and it was only after a few more heads had rolled and some monasteries were in flames that she was forced out of her palaces. Katherine never quit, and she refused to give the oath of allegiance to Henry in place of the Pope. So did Mary. Both realized that they were playing an incredibly dangerous game considering Henry's propensity towards extreme violence. To be a noble in Henry's court was a bit of a crap-shoot. A noble could be on the top of the world one minute, and then their head could be rolling in the dirt for some perceived insult or mistake the next. But they both persevered. Katherine eventually died in 1536, still fighting, and too early to relish in what befell her usurper. Anne gave Henry another daughter and then lost her head when he lost interest and his wandering eye caught someone else who would provide him with a son.

Mary was already getting on in years when she ascended to the throne. She was no longer pretty. She was 37 and getting a little dumpy, and still staunchly Catholic. She and her forces had just taken out Lady Jane Grey, who at age 16 was headless in an unmarked grave in the Tower grounds. Mary realized that she needed a husband, and she wanted a Catholic one. Enter Philip II of Spain. Now here was the daughter of one sister going after the grandson of the other. But then again, the Hapsburgs didn't seem to mind a little incest now and again; in fact, 100 years later it would almost be their undoing.

So Philip conceded to the marriage; he was looking long term anyway. An alliance with

the English would at least keep the peace on the high seas and keep France in check, and right now Spain needed every penny coming from the New World to supplant its income. This was the thing; Spain's new-found empire was incredibly expensive to run and the French were trying to make inroads into the northern part of America.

The only problem, it seemed, was the idea of cohabitating with



**King Phillip II of Spain and Queen Mary of England, around the time of their wedding.**

an "old" lady. Philip learned to get over that, and did his kingly duty and tried to impregnate her. Apparently he griped about it incessantly. After a short while, it was announced that she was with child; the kingdom rejoiced. It seemed the pressure was off Philip for the time being. However, it was a "hysterical" pregnancy; it could have been a tumor, but no one was sure. The fact remains though, Mary's due date came and went and there was no child.

There was no Philip either; he had sent his regrets and was off killing Frenchmen for his uncle, the Holy Roman Emperor. She would never see him again.


Besides, Philip knew how unpopular he was in England, sticking around wasn't helping him, if anything it made things worse. Mary died knowing that she had failed in all respects; the state religion hadn't changed back to Catholicism, she was without an heir, and the daughter of the usurper would succeed to the throne. Mary died a bitter woman, un-mourned by her subjects.

Philip to his credit, tried to make a deal to keep his throne with Mary's sister, Elizabeth, who succeeded her in 1558. Liz wasn't about to have anything to do with a hated Spaniard, especially a Catholic one. She turned him down flat and abolished his claim to the English throne which of course required some retribution. It didn't work out all that well for Philip but it sure benefited the English navy.

Philip would go on to rule Spain and the Netherlands, and his descendants would do well. The initial goals that Ferdinand and Isabella had set out to achieve hadn't been realized; their family had died out but they were in a sense living on only through their rivals, the Hapsburgs. The new Spanish Empire was in decline before

it even got going; it was perennially short of cash, even though it was awash in it.

So there you have it; the sad story of two brilliant sisters playing a game that neither could win. Joanna probably wasn't mad. In fact, compared to the later generations of the Hapsburgs, she was probably the sanest out of the lot. Katherine probably was the victim of the Tudor family's bad genetics, it wasn't all her fault that she never brought a son to full term.

This was just one more episode in the "Game of Thrones" that was life in the Middle Ages; it's amazing the window in time that one coin can open up. 



# My Dad's Medallion

by Terence Cheesman



Just for starters, my dad was not a coin collector. In fact, I always felt that he disapproved of my all consuming passion for the hobby. Whenever I showed him one of my coins, he would look at it briefly, rather disdainfully, and when told of the coins value, would reply, "Sell it". I should mention that my love for this hobby was partly his fault. My grandfather collected coins, this being no mean feat as he lived on a farm about ninety miles south east of Regina Saskatchewan and collected during the "Dirty Thirties". When my grandfather died, my dad inherited part of his coin collection. As a child, I would love to examine the coins, and later started to collect them myself. My grandfather's collection was given to me by my father and formed the foundation of my own collection.

If was with some surprise that when my dad passed away, my mom presented me with a small group of coins my dad had saved over the years. Most of the material was very modern; Klondike dollars, some medallions and various coins my dad had kept from trips to the United States. There was nothing particularly interesting except for one medallion, which I had never seen it before.

On the obverse is the inscription "I'm for Ward". The letter "I" looks very much like the number one 1. Below the inscription is a arrow pointing to the right. The letters are plain except for those forming the word, "Ward". They are highlighted with a series of vertical lines within the framework of the letters. On the reverse is the inscription "Pass the Buck to Dave". Above the inscription is a dollar sign, which is backwards. Below is a monogram, probably a mint mark made up of two letters "A" linked



with one letter upside down. In all, it looks a bit like a dollar sign, but on its side. One local numismatist suggested it might be the mint mark of the Alberta Mint. The words of the reverse inscription are done in a variety of styles. The word "Pass" has letters made up of two parallel lines. The words "the Buck to" are solid, very similar to those on the obverse. "Dave" is done in an ornate style similar to that employed in the nineteenth century. The diameter is 32 millimeters with a plain edge and is most likely made of nickel. The overall style of the medal placed it in the period of the 1960's to the mid 1970's

I had never seen this medal before, nor did I know anything of Dave Ward. The first thing that I could discern was that the item was political. My father has gotten involved in political campaigns during his life, but this was a rare event, and he would not talk about it. So now I have a research project. Because I was not familiar with the name, my first choice was to look into the history of civic politics in the city of Edmonton. I almost immediately hit paydirt. I had found Dave Ward.



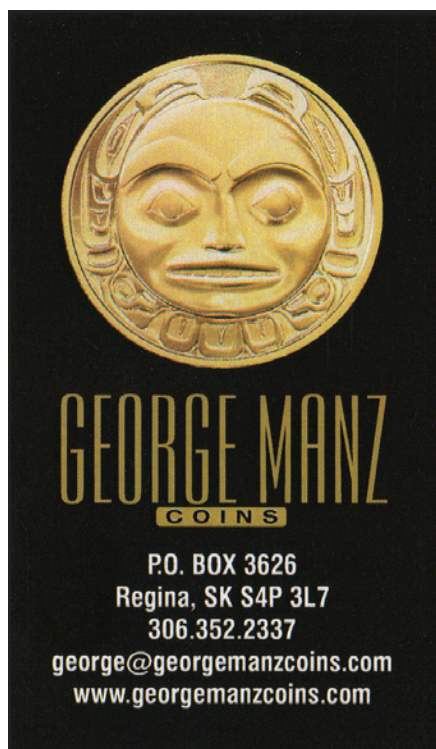
**Kiviaq (aka Dave Ward)**

He was born on January 23, 1936 at Chesterfield Inlet with the name of Kiviaq. At the age of four, he his Inuit mother and his white step father moved to Edmonton where he gained a new name David Ward. He was a small, undersized Inuit child and was often bullied in school. As a result, he learned boxing for self protection. However, even though he came to the sport in less than ideal circumstances, he learned to love boxing and became a prize fighter. In the 1950's David won 102 of 108 fights, capturing many provincial and golden glove championships. Then he turned his attention to football. He became a running back for the Edmonton Huskies, and then in 1955 played a couple of exhibition games with the Eskimos. As one newspaper pointed out he was "the first Eskimo to play with the Eskimos". It was at one of these games that he slipped on a wet field and was tackled by three opposing players simultaneously. The result was a broken neck, and he very narrowly escaped paralysis. It took

him months even to wiggle his little finger, but in the end he made a full recovery.

He then decided to tackle politics, and ended up serving two terms on city council between 1968 and 1974. In 1974, he ran for mayor but was unsuccessful, losing to William Hawrelak. He then became a lawyer and was called to the bar in 1983. In 2001, he challenged the legal system so he could have his original Inuktitut name restored. He was successful and has been since known as Kiviaq. For many years, he ran an open line radio show at CJCA and CJOI. On April 24 2016, Kiviaq, passed away after a long fight with cancer.

I suspect that the medallion was issued in 1974 as a part of his campaign for mayor, but I cannot be absolutely certain. This just seems the most likely issue date. How my father ended up with it is another mystery. My dad would very occasionally get involved in political campaigns. However, he would never talk about his involvement. ~~✗~~





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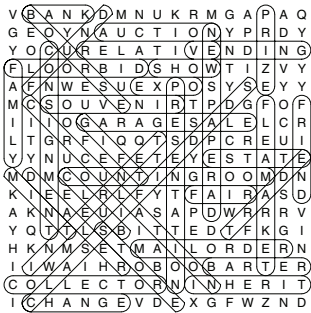
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