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Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 64 · Issue 4



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June 2017





The PLANCHET

Volume 64 · Issue 4

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

June 2017

It's summer again! Um...yeah; the Club BBQ is tentatively scheduled for June 24th at my place. Directions to follow.

The other day we were in Red Deer looking over an antique car swap meet. Yes, I know, this seems to have nothing to do with coins (there were a few there for sale too), but what I saw there was frightening once I realized it. I've been going to this show for about 25 years and in the early days, each one was bigger than the last. It took up all three pavilions in the Westerner and at one point there were cars crammed in as well as engines, parts, and all sorts of automobile related stuff. The place was always packed with people pushing wheelbarrows full of new found treasures around, if found something, you had to buy it on the spot or lose out. That was in the heyday, about 20-25 years ago.

But this year, I noticed there weren't as many vendors and there were wider spaces in the aisles. The show still used all three bays. There was a lot more worn out trim and junk and speed parts had all but disappeared. There was a huge "re-pop" (reproduction) section, but the quality of that stuff paled in comparison to the original stuff. There was something going on here, and it took me a while before it dawned on me just what that was.

What I was seeing was the beginning of the end of a hobby. The vintage and muscle car era is ending, there are now more people selling than buying. The material that's out there is either completely restored and unaffordable or absolute scrap. Anyone wanting to break into the hobby better have a deep

wallet: the cars are unaffordable; the costs to restore one are astronomical; and the standard or quality of restoration is unattainable. There is absolutely no return on investment either. It is now all out of reach for the average car guy.

A quick look at the clientele wandering around confirmed this. Most of the people wandering around were my age or older; there were no young people there. This is a bad sign; the fact that the show started to pack up at about 1:30 PM also spoke volumes.

The point of this all is this could be the future of our hobby. Philatelics has already headed that way and is on life-support, as are most of its adherents. Right now we have an advantage in that our hobby works around precious metals and there's 3000 years of material to choose from, but for how long? Look at the banknote market, it's soft, who knows if it will be as strong as it was a few years ago. Recently the RCM basically flooded and killed its own market. Collectors are starting to drift away from coins.

So what can we do? Well, maybe it's worth it to try and drag the grand-kids away from the iPads and video games and trot out the collection. Tell the stories. The only way we can grow our hobby is if we create the interest, and in this day and age when credit and debit cards are rendering cash more and more redundant, it's going to be an uphill battle.

We we have to do something; it's only going to get worse if we do nothing.

But we have a powerful tool at our disposal, the internet. It's been my goal to modernize the website and bring the club into the 21st century by offering up a platform that can be expanded into the type of media that younger people either want to see or expect. This way we can spread our message (and the Planchet) and show the pleasures of collecting coins. I'm hoping we can get this done this year. This is just one idea, we sure could use more.

I don't want to preside over a club where the hobby is on its last legs or it is trying to relive long-gone past glories. We need the support and ideas of all of our members to get "out there" and promote numismatics. It starts with the kids, they are our future. Ask yourself, how many 7 year-olds even know what a penny looks like? How many young adults have seen a dollar bill? I've found that when I bring out a coin and tell a little story about it people get interested and usually ask for more information. If we all did that, we might prevent our hobby from dwindling away. Just an idea, if you have others, I'm all ears.

Something to think about... Have a great summer! ☺

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Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Royal Alberta Museum

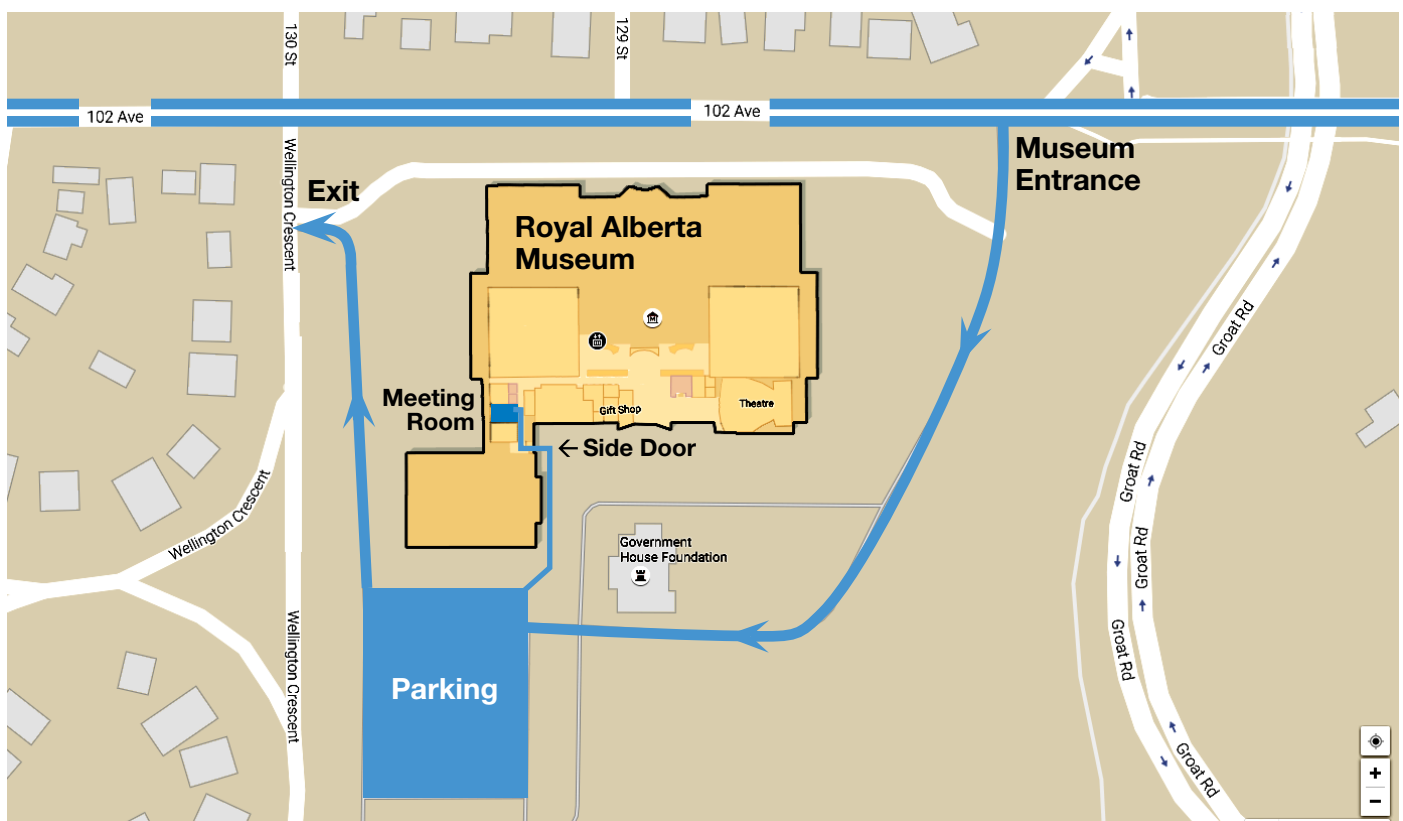
12845 – 102 Avenue, Edmonton

Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm

- Society Matters • Show and tell
- Silent auction
- Presentation topic “A Visit to Greek Coin Cities in Southern Italy & Sicily” by Wayne Hansen
- Break for: coffee, pop and cookies
- Door prize draws

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

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About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

April 12, 2017 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:10 hrs and welcomed the 34 members in attendance. He thanked everyone for showing up on this opening night of the NHL play-offs. There's a buzz in the air as our Edmonton Oilers are participating for the first time since their amazing run in 2006.

Club Matters

The ENS' annual BBQ will be held at either Marc's or Jim Vanderleest's home in June. Details will be confirmed at next month's meeting.

Upcoming Executive Meeting

The ENS Executive will be meeting on May 27, 2017 at 1330 hrs at the coin show's Howard Johnson hotel.

Canada 150 RCNA Medals

Pierre Driessen reported that the Canada 150 RCNA / ENS medals have been ordered. 150 copper medals will be available for sale, while 105 silver ones will be awarded through the *Reach for the Gold* volunteer program.

November 11–12, 2017 Coin Show

Our president mentioned that assistance will be required up front in preparation for our coin show in November. This is because several members of our executive will be in Germany in October attending the Numismata coin show in Berlin and visiting German sights.

Show & Tell


The only item this month was a pocket watch presented to an employee of the Federal Government for 35 years of service. It is made by the Royal Canadian Mint, and it has a 50 cent coin on the face.

Presentation

Terence Cheesman gave a presentation called "Owl Coinage of Athens 525 BC – 47 BC".

Conclusion

Door prizes were drawn, the silent auction lots were sold and the meeting was adjourned at 20:28 hrs. ☺



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by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

May 10, 2017 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:16 hrs and welcomed the 31 members in attendance. He thanked everyone for showing up, especially since the Edmonton Oilers are playing the series deciding Game 7 this evening against the Anaheim Ducks. He promised the hockey fans that it will be a light evening!

Annual BBQ

Our annual BBQ will be held at Marc's home on Saturday June 24, 2017. As in previous years, members will have to bring their own chairs and beverages. We are also encouraged to bring a salad or dessert.

May Executive Meeting

A reminder was given that the ENS Executive will be meeting on May 27, 2017 at 1330 hrs at the Howard Johnson hotel.

Nov. 11–12 Coin Show

Assistance was requested for some tasks that need to be done in October, ahead of our November show, since several executive members will be in Berlin, Germany attending the Numismata coin show.

Show & Tell

The old adage that coins are rare at a coin meeting rang true as no one had anything for show and tell! Howard Gilbey

took the opportunity to mention that Michael Findlay is once again the "Trends" editor for the *Canadian Coin News*. The 50 cents and dollars have been reviewed so far, and the trend is that prices are coming down.

Presentation

The door prizes were drawn prior to Mirko Dumanovic's presentation on Serbian coinage from 1868–1917.

Conclusion

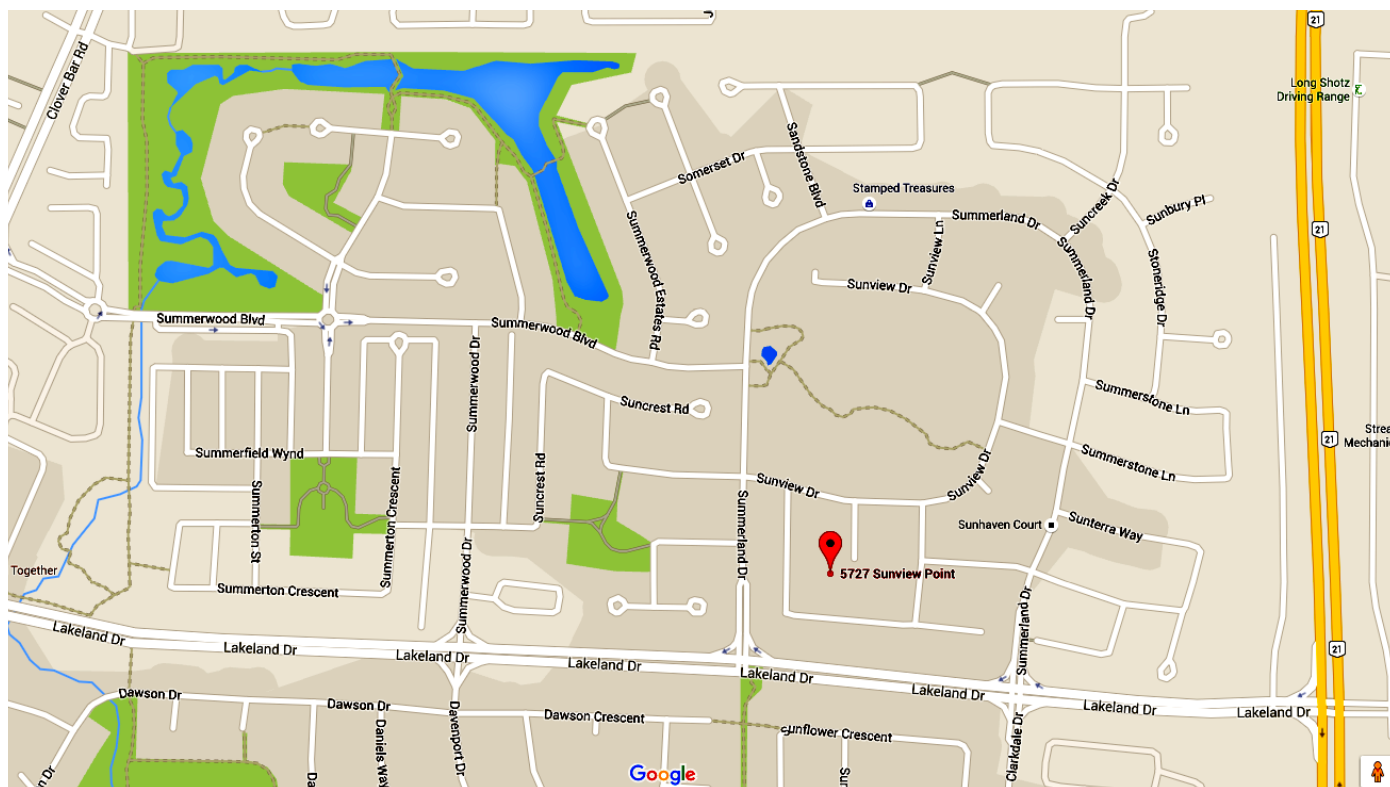
The silent auction lots were sold and the meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hrs. ✕

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ENS Barbecue

June 24, 2017

5727 Sunview Point,
Sherwood Park, AB
Phone: 780-271-1362



Coming Events

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

Sept 1, 2017: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 5.

Sept 13, 2017: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

Sept 22: Issue 5 of the 2017 PLANCHET

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

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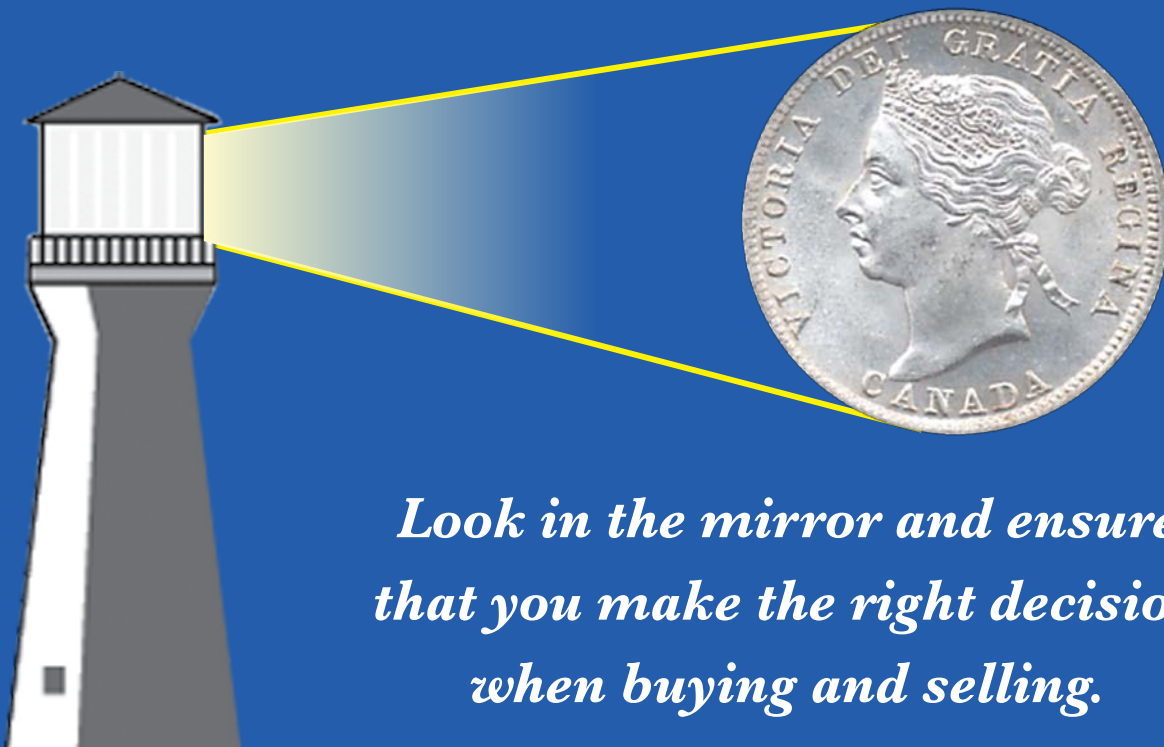
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Oh You Beautiful Doll

by Terence Cheesman



It could be said of the history of ancient Greece that much of it is really the story of the city of Athens and her interactions with the rest of the world. Perhaps one of the more enduring legacies of this city is the adoption of Democracy in 508 B.C. Though this system was completely suspended about 140 years later, it represents the first attempt at this form of governance in history. Like a number of other cities in the Greek world, Athens began to experiment with the use of coinage, sometime in the mid sixth century B.C. The current speculation is around 545 B.C. The first large denomination coin was the didrachm, a silver coin weighing some 8.6 grams.

Initially, like the earliest electrum coinages of Asia Minor, there was no standardized design, nor was there any hint of an inscription identifying the origin of the coinage. However, by 525 B.C., this changed. The iconic image of the helmeted head of the goddess Athena on the obverse, and a figure of a standing owl on the reverse, was first adopted. Usually on the upper left, slightly above the owl is an olive spray, and to the right is ΑΘΕ. This is one of the earliest examples of an inscription being placed on a coin. It would translate "of the Athenians". This nationalist design and legend made explicit where the coin came from. Some think that this act of actually naming the city from which the coin came

represents a shift from the coin being minted principally for local use to that of foreign trade, but I disagree. Many coins, most notably the Aeginean turtle, do not have any inscription and were often used in foreign trade. The rationale for the inclusion of an inscription may have more to do with either a change in internal mint organization or authority or it could be political. This design remained more or less constant until the cessation of Athenian silver coinage sometime around 60 B.C. Another innovation was the adoption of the tetradrachm, a coin double the weight at about 17.2 grams and twice the value of the previous issues. This would place the coin roughly the value as an electrum Hekte. It would bring this coinage into line with that produced in Asia Minor as it would seem at this time that the Hekte became the dominant coin produced while its double, the Trite, was dropped from production.



Figure 1
(500 – 485 B.C.)

This initial owl coinage was both crudely designed and crudely struck. Mine is on a remarkably dumpy flan (figure 1) and is likely to have been minted sometime between 500 B.C. and 480 B.C. The helmet is plain, with a long neck guard. Its crest is attached to the bowl by a rick rack support, decorated with a

series of triangular shapes. The eye is diamond shaped with a clear pupil, though in the case of my coin it is somewhat smushed. The hair, which can be seen below the helmet end, is a series of tight, circular curls. The nose is long and the chin is weak. The owl on the reverse is standing to the right with its head facing.

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Figure 2
(470 – 464 B.C.)



Figure 3
(circa 454 B.C.)



Figure 4
(circa 450 B.C.)

The legs are parallel. As noted before the legend ΑΘΕ is present. This is one of the earliest examples of an inscription being placed on a coin. Despite its deficiencies, it seems to have been minted in large numbers. This is because Athens had control of a large deposit of silver located at Laurion, a group of mines near Cape Sounion about 50 kilometers south east from the city. These mines gave the citizens of Athens the wealth to fuel her policies which led to conflict with the greatest empire at that time, Persia.

The two Persian invasions of Greece, and the ensuing defeat at the hands of the Greeks, caused some changes in the coinage minted in Athens which seems to have resumed circa 475 B.C. some four years after the victory at Plataea. The Persian capture and sack of the city probably led to a cessation of coinage for a number of years. One feature of the renewed coinage (see figure 2) is that the image of Athena on the obverse and the figure of the owl on the reverse become progressively larger, as do the flans upon which the coin is struck. The elaborate crest support has been replaced by a very thin band which given that the flans are now bigger, can accommodate a much larger image of Athena. The helmet bowl is now decorated with three olive leaves stuck in the visor as well as a decorative palmet. The hair loses the decorative curls and is depicted as two large waves, one overlapping the other. The eye seems to be quite narrow. The reverse punch is deeply struck. The owl no longer stands straight up and seems to be walking. Its head is set at a very slight angle and its tail feathers are depicted as three distinct prongs. The olive branch above the bird is joined by a small crescent shape. Both this, as well as the olive leaves on the obverse refer to the victory over Persia, either at Marathon, a battle

fought in 490 B.C. or Salamis, the great naval battle fought in 480 B.C. The rest of the design seems to more or less a refinement of what preceded it.

However, this design coincided with the titanic struggle between Athens and Sparta which started in 460 B.C. and ended in 404 B.C. As large sums of money were needed by Athens to pay for this war, this type was repeated in vast numbers throughout the duration of the war. As such the design changed though not dramatically. The first major revision seems to have started circa 454 B.C. (Flament Group 1, figure 3). Again the designs become larger to the point that the full obverse is rarely seen on the coins. On the reverse, the owl's head is now tilted to roughly a forty five degree angle and the tail feathers are now rendered as a single prong. Over the course of the war, the design endured some very subtle modifications.



Figure 5
(415 – 410 B.C.)

Fairly early on, the head of the owl is straightened, though the engraving is still very fine (figure 4). On this group, the head of the owl seems to be tilted upwards, a feature less noticeable on the earlier coins. Later the style of both the head of Athena and the owl becomes coarser. Also the indentation

created by the reverse punch becomes shallower. Another one of my later owls (figure 5) is likely from the beginning of the Flaments Group 3 coins, which would place its issue around 415 BC. The head of Athena is basically the same as the earlier coins although the archaic frontal eye is beginning to open

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Sometimes there are other directions and opportunities.

Greg and Tracy

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Figure 6
(392 – 380 B.C.)

up at the end toward the nose. Interestingly, the pupil is very subtly drawn within the eye, a feature not always seen on earlier coins. The lips are reinforced by two strong lines. The palmetus on the helmet is simplified. The owl, though still “walking”, is seen with its head parallel to the exergue line. The head is also larger relative to its body than what is seen on earlier coins.

In March 404 B.C. Athens, with her empire in revolt, her fleet destroyed and her citizens starving, surrendered to the Peloponnesian League headed by Sparta ending a phase of the war which began in 431 B.C. This war left her finances in tatters. The magnificent silver tetradrachm coinage, perhaps one of the first national coinages to gain international acceptance, was reduced to silver plated coins and a fiduciary bronze coinage, part of an emergency issue started in 406 B.C. The term “how the mighty has fallen” could not have been more appropriate.

After the war, the citizens of Athens began to rebuild their lives. However, the process by which the coinage was restored is a bit murky. It would seem that the token coinage first created during the emergency decree in 406 B.C. continued to be accepted at least until 391 B.C. when the Athenian

assembly voted to demonetise this plated coinage in favour of a new silver coinage. The fundamental question is whether or not, the Athenians began to mint, albeit on a limited basis a new silver coinage after the end of the war in 404 B.C.

Athenian coins are never cutting edge technically, nor are they particularly artistic. In fact, they can be downright ugly. When one compares Athenian tetradrachms to contemporary Sicilian coins, the difference can be quite profound. Whether it be stylistic or technical criteria, the Sicilian coins seem to be much more advanced. The same can be said for many of the coins minted in Italy, mainland Greece or even Asia Minor. One could see something of a parallel between the Athenian coinage and the current U.S. coinage, and the concerns may be similar. Both currencies have international acceptance, which is very good for trade, and there might be a reluctance to change anything for fear that this acceptance may be lost with an altered design. However, what is proposed as a likely candidate for this restored coinage takes crudely engraved coinage to a new low. The X series is very rare and very controversial. At present I have not been able to find an image on line. One of the reasons this coin is controversial

is that for quite a number of years, the coins were considered to be contemporary copies, perhaps of Egyptian origin, of the standard Athenian tetradrachm generally believed to have been minted from 454 B.C to as late as 404 B.C.

It is possible that this series could have been minted in Athens, however there is a bit of a problem. That is according to Gresham’s law, “good money will always be driven out by bad”. Thus we have to accept that a more or less pure silver tetradrachm would be found in circulation with base metal tetradrachms nominally worth the same value but intrinsically worth far less. Athenians would have pulled out the good money leaving only the bad in circulation. However, there is a problem, again unknown. While the state has effectively declared itself to be bankrupt in 406 B.C., Athenian citizens may still have access to some quantities of the older pure silver coinage. Thus the emergency coinage could have been an unwelcome but tolerated minority within the Athenian marketplace. The new silver coinage may have been restricted to international transactions or the emergency coinage may have been sharply devalued, not by decree, but by what would now be called market forces. Any of these possibilities do exist. Furthermore Gresham’s law is not immediate. One only needs to look at a fairly recent event in the coinage of our own country. More or less “good” silver coins were minted up to 1967, then a more debased group in 1968. However, it was not until the mid 1970’s, as a result of a sudden spike in the price of silver, that this coinage was rapidly pulled from circulation.

We are on much firmer ground with the next series of coins struck by Athens, although there is some controversy about when it began. When I bought my example (figure 6),

I referred to it as a "doll face" and I still do. Some scholars propose a date of 400 B.C. while others favor a date as late as 390 B.C. The year 393 B.C. is the date of inception that I currently favour. It is in that year that the Athenian admiral Conan returned to Athens with a large consignment of Persian money to be used for the rebuilding of the Long Walls which joined the city of Athens with its harbour town of Piraeus. This made Athens an independent state, as the wall connecting the harbour to the city made it immune from being starved out as a result of a siege. 353 B.C. is considered by most as the final year of production of this coinage. The coins are struck on small, dumpy flans. The weight is good. The image of Athena is rendered with a rather large eye which is for the first time seen in profile and includes a very slight bulge of the eyeball. Athena is also depicted with a very long nose and a weak chin. The mouth is set with a slight smile. The ear is very simply rendered. A single line denotes the shape of the ear along with a dot. The ornamentation of the helmet, as well as the hair, is very simple and seems to copy the fifth century tetradrachm issues in good silver. As in the earlier issues, the design cut was much too large for the flans struck so that the crest of the helmet is usually off the flan.

The reverse, though crudely engraved, is very traditional looking. However the image of the owl is somewhat more squat than on the earlier coins. Unlike the obverse, the reverse die, which seems to be square punch, is somewhat smaller than the flan and thus the whole design is present. The olive branch in the upper left, is crowded but the crescent just below is clear. The legend AΘE which is to the



Figure 7
(353 – 290 B.C.)

right of the owl, is very similar to the fifth century coinage though the letters are somewhat larger. Again roughly translated the legend would read ATHE and would be an abbreviation for the words "of the Athenians".

This coinage was minted possibly for some time ending in 353 B.C. when all the tetradrachm coinage was called in and restruck as the so called Pi tetradrachms (figure 7). These are called such as the palmet ornamentation on the bowl of the helmet resembles the Greek letter Pi or Π. The need for this reform was obvious. Much of the coinage circulating in Athens was struck between the years 454 and 406 B. C. making them between sixty and a hundred years old. Many coins would be quite badly worn. These coins, though no more crudely engraved than what proceeded them are often be found in absolutely wretched condition largely because of the manner by which the older coins were converted into blanks for the newer. Despite being struck on rather thick flans, the old coins were folded over, sometimes more than once. This produced a flan that often was shaped something like a jelly bean. Needless to say, a rather

crudely engraved coin struck on a very misshapen flan had the predictably depressing result.

The decree of 353 B.C. seems to indicate that all then circulating issues were to be brought in to be restruck, thus it is difficult to assess just how much of this coinage was initially produced. I would favour a relatively small number, as it would make little sense to restrick the coinage unless the vast majority in circulation were either badly worn or had some other damage. Later on, once the process of restricking had been completed, coins similar to figure 7 continued to be struck for about 50 years. Athens never did regain the power she enjoyed in the fifth century. Instead the city became one of many minor states, all jockeying for position and favour. The real power was held by the great monarchies of Egypt, Syria and Macedon, all of which held sway over large territories. Later even these powerful states were swept away by the rising power of Rome, and Athens too succumbed, and later found itself within the orbit of the Roman Empire. ☒

Down to the Sea in Warships

The Nautical Coinage of Ancient Phaselis

by **Wayne Hansen**



Prow of Galley

Obverse of Phaselis Stater (circa 350 BC)

Of course there is some truth to this quip. Collecting ancient mint products can be expensive, but there are also benefits – like ‘friends with benefits’, only different. In this case, the excitement centers on the attractive classical silver staters of Phaselis. Although they are not terribly large, and their subject matter is limited, it’s quite obvious that the designs of these issues were intended to impress. This is partly because Phaselis issued its whole series of city-state coins focused entirely on ancient, Greek-styled warships, and partly because each coin’s obverse showed a ship’s prow while each reverse showed a ship’s stern. This was a very unusual approach, but it probably made a lot of sense since their world revolved around the comings and goings of ships in the city’s harbors. The extensive series was made even more interesting when each coin was embellished with a variety of ship styles and unique combinations of minting symbols. Phaselis staters were once thought to be fairly rare, however one or more recent hoards have increased the number of coins and new die combinations in the market – important both to academics and to anyone with an interest in Greek coinage. The increased availability, however short-lived, also led to the possibility that some of us run-of-the-mill collectors might find an affordable example.

‘They say that ancient coin collecting is god’s way of telling you that you have too much money.’

(Paraphrase of Anthony Bourdain’s comment about cocaine.)

Location and Historical Perspective

The independently minded, native inhabitants of the rugged Lycian peninsula were already well known for issuing an assortment of crudely produced, pre-dynastic and dynastic coinages circa 500 BC (see my previous article, ‘A Fine Lion Stater of Mithrapata’, *The Planchet*, February 2016). Since the coast of Lycia was mostly inaccessible, these native Lycians largely stuck to its interior. The city of Phaselis was, however, located in one of the more accessible spots along Lycia’s east coast (see Figure 1), and it was the only Lycian settlement that was founded by Greeks. Being navigation-savvy and adventurous, waves of Greek migrants established most of the permanent colonies along coastal Asia Minor, and Phaselis was no exception. It was actually colonists from the island of

Rhodes, a distance of 460 sea kilometers to the west, who founded Phaselis. With the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization centuries earlier, Dorian Greeks migrated first into the south of Greece, then subsequently colonized the island of Rhodes in the 8th century BC. After they established that island's three main cities, these new Rhodians were somehow motivated to create even more settlements on the adjacent Asia Minor mainland – including the towns of Kos, Halikarnassos, Knidos and Phaselis. Phaselis was established circa 690 BC, largely because of its strategic position and its fine natural harbors. It was easily accessible to other populated centers along the south and west coasts of Asia Minor, so it became a thriving commercial center serving the highly trafficked, eastern Mediterranean trade routes that stretched from Greece and the Aegean in the west, to Cyprus, Syria, Phoenicia and Egypt in the east.

Initial development of the Phaselis town-site occurred on its acropolis, at the hilly end of its harbor peninsula, 30 meters above the water. Figure 2 shows the city plan, highlighting the acropolis, the main civic structures (including Roman additions such as baths, gymnasium and more agoras) and also a swampy section between the commercial area and the northern plateau. Figure 3 shows photos of the current site. The acropolis, about eight hectares in area, was walled from an early date and easily defended from land or sea (the original walls were rebuilt following a siege by Ptolemaic Macedonians in 309 BC). The acropolis was fitted with many fresh water cisterns, likely similar to ones I saw in the ruins of nearby Kadyanda, which were dug into rock perhaps three or four meters deep. Fresh water was funneled to these cisterns and used when required in dry

periods, although in later times, a major aqueduct augmented the city's supply. The city expanded into three other sectors – the first was a civic/commercial area immediately below the acropolis and adjacent to the three harbors, the second was an urban zone to the west of the commercial zone and the third was another fortified area atop a sizable plateau to the north. The largest structures were constructed in the civic/commercial area at the base of the acropolis. This area featured a 24-meter wide main street connecting the three harbors, a large theater, a temple to Zeus, a meeting hall and an agora.

A good description of the civic site can be found on the 'Phaselis Project' website, which reports on a five-year surface exploration survey conducted by Akdeniz University from 2012 to 2016 (see <http://www.phaselis.org>). The study notes that the southward bulge of the Lycian coastline improved the efficiency of ship travel in the eastern Mediterranean since it allowed a bit shorter routing for through traffic. Phaselis itself provided excellent port facilities on Lycia's eastern shores. Its three natural harbors, the large North Harbor, the South (Commercial) Harbor and the small, enclosed City Harbor were well protected, so that with a few additional breakwaters and jettys, ships could be sheltered in any wind or weather conditions. This was very important since all cargo ships and warships mostly followed the coast. They were, by their nature, relatively slow, and storms could be very destructive. The report notes that war galleys particularly had to dock each night given the number of soldiers and crew on board – there was not enough space to rest and sleep. It can be deduced that Phaselis needed the war galleys depicted on its coins to protect not only its own trading vessels but also to police the

general merchant traffic of other city states trading along that part of that Asia Minor coast. Down to Roman times, trade flowed back and forth from the Aegean islands to Ionia, Rhodes and Phaselis and then on to Cyprus, Phoenicia and Egypt. The city's warships were also likely pressed into service to support conquering Persian and Macedonian kings when required, similar to the case with the conquered Phoenician cities.

Phaselis was first captured by the Persians in its Asia Minor conquest of 546 BC, after which it was embroiled in Persia's conflict with Greece early in the 5th century. Though Lycians revolted and were independent at times after the Greek victory in 480, the region was taken over by Alexander the Great and his Macedonian successors beginning in 332 BC. Lycian residents who weren't first displaced, or eradicated, by the Persians, were Hellenized by Alexander and succeeding Macedonian kings. Phaselis later came under Egyptian/Ptolemaic rule from 209 to 197 BC, then given to Rhodian control under the treaty of Apamea in 190 BC. In 160 BC, Rome took control of the city under a Lycian confederacy, but in the 1st century BC the entire coast was threatened by pirates (many Lycian) who even occupied Phaselis at times. With these and other assaults, plus the rise of ports at Antalya and Alanya to the east, the fortunes of the city faded.

Phaselis ruins visible today are a mix of the original Greek settlement foundations and Roman improvements, including the main street, temple, baths, gymnasium, agoras with shops, cemeteries, aqueduct and the rebuilt theater. Some of the harbor constructions are now submerged such that they are more like beaches, while other areas of the ancient city have not been excavated.

Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of Ancient Phaselis




Figure 1 – Phaselis is located on the southern coast of Asia Minor on the west side of what is now known as the Bay of Antalya. It was the best port on the Lycian peninsula, which was generally mountainous in the interior and mostly craggy and inhospitable along the rest of the coast.

Figure 2 – City Plan of Ancient Phaselis



Figure 2 – The city plan shows the acropolis on the right surrounded by the three harbors (North Harbor, South Harbor plus the small City Harbor left of the theater), the main civic commercial area with the main street below the theater, the swampy area just left of center and the fortified plateau on the far left.

(Plan courtesy J. Schafer (ed) 'Phaselis, Beiträge zur Topographie und Geschichte der Stadt und ihre Hafen' (1981), adapted from romanaqueducts.info.)




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Figure 3A – View of Ancient Phaselis Site



Figure 3A – Founded by Greeks, ancient Phaselis consisted of a dispersed townsite and three harbors along a rocky, semi-protected coastline. As you can see from the photos above, many of the civic ruins are located at the base of the hilly peninsula set between the two main harbors. The city's first settlement was built as an acropolis on the hill at the end of the peninsula. The hill also provided a convenient backstop for the city's original Greek theater.

Top Photo: View of the three harbors with ruins on the main peninsula (including the main street connecting the North Harbor and City Harbor). Bottom Left Photo: Closeup of city harbor with theater. Bottom Right Photo: View across bay to Phaselis south harbor, with Mt Olympos in the background.

(Photos courtesy phaselis.org, phaselis.org, turkishtravelblog.com, respectively.)

Figure 3B – Closeup of Ancient Phaselis



Figure 3B – Left Photo: Main street looking towards City Harbor. Right Photo: View of theater and Mt Olympos. (Photos courtesy stkakdeniz.com and phaselis.org.)



Phaselis Coinage

Stater production at Phaselis was concentrated in three main periods as outlined below. The city's coinage efforts were likely related to the need for coinage but also the general prosperity of the city-state at the time. Of course gaps may have been filled through the use of other coinages circulating in the western Mediterranean – understandable, since the city was situated along a heavily trafficked section of the Asia Minor coast.

As mentioned in the introduction, Phaselis adopted the unique strategy of placing an ancient warship prow design on its coin obverses and a warship stern on its reverses. It is interesting to note that Phaselis chose to incorporate the iconography of a boar on its first prow issues during the archaic period – a time when corresponding reverse designs were not used. This coincided with the popularity of boar obverses elsewhere on the Lycian peninsula in that pre-dynastic period, which featured boar heads, foreparts or

full boars (another such coin is shown in the Addendum). Those other Lycian coins were struck in the isolated interior by unknown leaders and were often just as crude as the earliest Phaselis examples. The small coastal town of Phaselis was the only location adapting the boar motif to a maritime theme. By the classical period, the city was larger and obviously more cosmopolitan, or at least exposed to more international trade and traffic, so it was free to proclaim the importance of its naval prowess. Its coins are solid in fabric and design. Although some dies might otherwise be considered unnecessarily cluttered with random symbols, it is the symbols that add additional levels of interest to already interesting warship designs. Both the ship designs and many of the specific symbols are not often seen on other coinages.

This article focuses on Phaselis staters because they are the main product of its civic mint. They were also the largest of its

silver denominations throughout the Persian occupancy (starting 546 BC) and the Macedonian takeover (starting 332 BC). Stater weights remained fairly consistent over hundreds of years, ranging between 10.2 and 11.0 grams of silver. Images of typical Phaselis staters, arranged by broad period, are shown in Figure 4. The only Phaselis denomination larger than a stater was minted briefly, between 221-190 BC, when the now Hellenized city struck annually dated, late-posthumous Alexandrian tetradrachms in the usual Herakles/Zeus style (not illustrated here). These tetradrachms were struck in the hiatus between the two post-classical stater issues described in Figure 4C. At all other times, staters were the main output of the Phaselis mint, although a few smaller denominations were also produced along the way (see list following – these images can be seen at CNG Research Sold Coins, Asia Minor Coins, acsearch and/or Wildwinds).

Small denominations at Phaselis by period:

Archaic	550–480 BC	Drachm/one-third stater, 3.25–3.5g, prow / rough punch reverse.
Classical	circa 440 BC	Drachm/one-third stater, 3.48g, prow / incuse stern reverse.
	circa 411 BC	Quarter stater, 2.34g, prow / incuse stern reverse.
	411–350 BC	Obol, 0.74g, prow / anchor reverse.
Late	220–80 BC	'Drachm', 2.00–2.60g, head of Apollo / kithara reverse.
	250–167 BC	Bronzes, AE 8 – AE19, prow / stern or standing Athena reverse.

Figure 4 – Phaselis Stater Issues By Period



Figure 4A – Archaic Staters (circa 550–490 BC)

These archaic coins are scarce and fairly simply executed, at times only barely conveying that the obverse is a ship prow in the guise of a boar forepart. I have arranged the six photos more or less in sequence, with the simplest design and crudest punch types on top, indicating that they were struck closer to the start date of 550 BC. The obverse prow design became more distinctive in the two bottom rows, at

the same time as the reverse punches began to incorporate individual markings and increasingly geometric patterns, towards 490 BC. Note the addition of a dolphin below the boar prow in the middle row.

(Photos courtesy: first row – CNG/NAC; second row – Nomos/Roma; third row – Gorney & Mosch.)



Figure 4B - Classical Staters (circa 440 BC / 380–330 BC)

The single coin in the first row, with a square reverse punch, is a rare, early classical example. It was minted around 440 BC – just after the crude, archaic/geometric reverse punches were replaced by a decorated ship stern punch. This is the first version of the ship stern design that subsequently became the civic standard. The issue also included an equally rare, incuse stern reverse drachm with the same types.

Examples shown on the bottom two rows were all minted in the last half of the classical period, sometime in the 4th century BC. These later classical issues now form the major component of the Phaselis coin series. Previously, there were only two known examples of the coins seen in the second row. But with the advent of recently found hoard coins, the number of these known examples has greatly expanded. Classical Phaselis coins are characterized by semi-realistic prow and stern designs on both obverse/reverse, a wide range of dies and die combinations, plus a wide range of interesting obverse and reverse symbols seen on many of the new hoard dies. These symbols are

unusually large and prominent, numbering 2–5 per coin, representing images of gorgons, victory, celebration and creatures of the sea, land and air. All of which makes for interesting choices when browsing current offerings and sold coin references.

Within this great variety of classical staters, there are two broad categories – the compact, more classically styled, symbol-laden type as seen in the first row; and the plainer looking, broader flan, symbol-deprived type seen in the second row. You will notice that the compact, early style coins maintain a simple, three-letter, Greek 'FAS' legend for Phaselis (ΦΑΣ), while the later type add one or two additional letters to the basic civic name 'FASH' or 'FASHL' (ΦΑΣΗ–ΦΑΣΗΛ). This is the usual pattern in Greek coinage, where chunky flans, simple images and no legend eventually transform into regular flans, detailed images and longer legends.

(Photos for all rows courtesy CNG/Nomos website.)



Figure 4C – Post-Classical Staters (circa 250–200 BC / 167–130 BC)

These post-classical coins were struck well after the Macedonian invasion of Asia Minor. The style of the 3rd century coin on the left is not too dissimilar from classical coins, however the 2nd century coin on the right is quite different. The ship prow on the second coin is moved to the reverse of the coin, and a head of Apollo is substituted on the obverse – a significant departure from all previous issues, which began four hundred years earlier. Both of the late

coins are also different because a full magistrate's name is found on each reverse die. As noted above, Phaselis's usual stater coinage was fully or partially replaced in the 221–190 BC hiatus by dated issues of late-posthumous Alexander tetradrachms. Issues of these late civic staters are as scarce as the archaic types.

(Photos courtesy CNG/Nomos website.)



A Poem of the Sea

Down to the sea indeed – not in a time of the aforementioned galleys and pentakonters but in a romantic era of tall ships and trade winds. The sentiment and conditions of the 19th century sailing era might be different from the ancient sea-going experience, but the following poem pays universal homage to the lonely spirit of the sea.

Sea Fever

by John Masefield

*I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.*

*I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.*

*I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.*

British poet John Edward Masefield studied at King's School in Warwick before training as a merchant seaman. In 1895, he deserted his ship in New York City and worked there in a carpet factory before returning to London to write poems describing his experience at sea. (poetryfoundation.org)

Featured Stater

My stater is one of many 4th century BC Phaselis coins that suddenly appeared in auctions and websites over the last two years. My preference would have been to obtain one of the earliest, archaic types, but they are quite rare. So I bought one of the classical staters from

the recent group instead (see Figure 5A). Its particular combination of ship style and obverse star-ketos symbols is less frequently seen in the series, but there are a few examples in CNG sales. I have a good overall impression of the coin, even though it is somewhat worn, the

flan is tight and it was partly under-struck. The images on both sides are reasonably centered, the main features are fully outlined and it has a good color. The coin's design and fabric provide an attractive classical gravitas, including the uneven strike on an oblong flan.

Figure 5A – Featured Phaselis Stater



Stater of Phaselis – circa 350 BC (10.36g, 22.4x19.0mm, 9h)

Obv: Prow of galley with lion rampant, star above; ketos below;

Rev: ΦΑΣ; Stern of galley with tripod on deck; (dolphin below);

Figure 5A – This classical stater has five symbols to distinguish its issue – the attacking lion on the fighting platform, the star or planet in front of the prow, the ketos swimming on waves, the tripod on deck and a dolphin below the stern. The designs are well centered, showing the main war ship features and most symbols to advantage. The symbols are diverse and interesting in their own right, plus only a few known coins include the ketos and the star (the tripod and dolphin are more common). Ex: Praefectus Coins.

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

Figure 5B – Other Phaselis Examples



Obv: Prow with gorgon, cicada

Rev: ΦΑΣ; Stern with wreath on pole

Obv: Prow with monogram

Rev: ΦΑΣΗ; Stern

Figure 5B – These two recent hoard staters were purchased by another local collector. They are from the same classical group as the featured stater (as seen in Figure 4B) and represent both of the usual, early and late types in that group. Both are nicely centered on great flans and are very well preserved. Ex: Pars Coins.

(Collection of T Cheesman / photos by the author.)

Ancient Galleys

Phaselis ship stater designs represent a typical Mediterranean war galley from the classical Greek era, most likely a trireme with three banks of oars. There is considerable background information provided about galleys in the www.wikipedia.org listing for 'Galley'. I'll summarize and interpolate a few interesting points in this regard. A galley was originally an eastern Mediterranean rowed ship used for trade, warfare or piracy. There is evidence that early versions were used in the Old Kingdom of Egypt (2700–2200 BC) for transport of soldiers in raids to the Levant and for transport of booty and slaves on return. They were then used increasingly for trade, especially by the Phoenicians and perhaps by the Minoans, although there are few records of their ships or exploits. Greeks began using galleys in the second half of the 2nd millennium BC. These had a single bank of rowers and were initially used to transport soldiers to battle. Phoenicians were most likely the first to construct a two level galley – see below.

There were of course many varieties of galleys depending on use. Wider ones, rigged with larger sails, were used for cargo, while long, narrow ones with multiple banks of rowers were built for speed and attack in wartime. Before the 14th century BC, galleys looked similar whether used for commerce or war, and soldiers were ferried like any other commodity. The first true galleys had 15 or 25 pairs of oars in one row, so they were called triaconters ('thirty-oars') or pentaconters ('fifty-oars'), respectively. They could also be called monoremes because of their single bank of rowers. They were relatively slow, travelling at only about 5 to 5.5 knots. Un-decked hulls were later decked. In the 14th century, narrower, dedicated galleys were developed to support a raiding industry. Whereas trading vessels usually had a length/width ratio of approximately 4:1, raiding and war galleys had a ratio closer to 8:1 or 10:1.

Galleys of the eastern Mediterranean type fought in wars of Assyria, Egypt, Phoenicia, Greece, Macedon,

Carthage and Rome, dominating naval warfare from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. It was in the 8th century that two-rowed pentaconters were first built (much shorter than the earlier equivalent), and newly devised battering rams (usually cast bronze weighing up to 2 tonnes) were first fitted to war galleys. The rams were attached at a downward angle to strike just below the waterline, and they were bolted to a separate flange on the main hull so they might detach if they became jammed into an enemy ship. The rams identified the new ships as being very different from cargo vessels and specifically dedicated to naval warfare. Until then, the galleys were used for boarding and hand-to-hand fighting, but the ram allowed a war galley to punch a hole in the side of an opposing ship in order to completely disable and sink it. The two-rowed pentaconters fitted with the new bow rams (being about 25 meters in length and capable of travelling at up to 7.5 knots) were the first genuine warships.

Competition among states led to the creation of more advanced galleys. There had to be a balance between speed and maneuverability in order to overtake and outflank an enemy ship. To achieve more speed and carry more personnel, military galleys became increasingly larger, and more rows, or banks, of oars were added, starting with the aforementioned, two-rowed pentaconters. Mediterranean galleys with two rows of oars were called biremes, and galleys with three banks of oars were called triremes. Triremes, at about 40 meters in length, were arguably the most efficient and fastest galleys in history, based on tests with a full-scale replica built in the 1980s (which could cruise at a speed of 7–8 knots and sprint at 10 knots for short distances). By adding more banks of oars, the ship was relatively shorter and could still be easily turned. Classical triremes, which were developed at least by the mid-6th century and generally used by all powers by the 5th century BC, probably accommodated about 170 rowers and a command/military crew of 30. Such ships were reportedly built with a relatively light oak frame and soft wood planking – not intended for long journeys or prolonged water contact – the rowers could apparently haul them ashore at night if necessary. Triremes were already used by all participants in both of the Greco-Persian Wars and the Peloponnesian War, including by Athens, Corinth, Aegina, Sparta and Phoenicia, plus other Greek cities under Persian domination. Hundreds of such ships would be involved in each sea battle

right down to the Carthaginian-Roman period. The naval battle at Salamis alone involved close to 400 triremes on the Greek side and at least twice as many on the Persian side (many more were lost in storms and battles on the way – for an interesting internet read, check out the ‘Battle of Salamis’ on wikipedia). By the time of Alexander the Great and the Macedonian successors, additional rowers were often added to operate each oar – perhaps two, three, five or more – so there were the banks or rows of oars (up to three for the trireme) and rows of rowers on each oar for increased power, probably because they needed to carry extra soldiers or equipment.

Triremes were advanced in design and expensive to build and maintain. Some cities owned hundreds ships, and many, or even all, of these could be lost in storms or a single military campaign – as was the case when Athens attacked Sicilian Syracuse in 415–413 BC, losing 200 ships and thousands of soldiers – Athens never recovered. Only well-developed and prosperous city-states, or a conglomeration of city-states (as with vassal cities under the Persian Empire) could afford the cost, which was mostly related to the cost of ship construction, bases for the ships to dock, plus crews and crew supplies (20 triremes required the feeding of 4,000 men). Surprisingly, the oarsmen were almost entirely lower class citizens or soldiers who were paid and well trained for the task. It was only in an emergency,

or when there were multiple rowers needed on an oar, that unskilled slaves or criminals might be used to assist the skilled rowers.

In Closing...

The great thing about Greek city state coins is their diversity. The metal and physical parameters of Phaselis staters are similar to staters from other cities, however the design and orientation of the prow and stern dies is unique. These linked obverse-reverse ship images must have been particularly interesting to its citizens since the same coin types were used, off and on, for four hundred years. The combination must have become ingrained in their civic identity, and they stuck with it. We find the coins interesting for much the same reasons – besides focusing our attention on the city’s most fascinating and powerful war-faring instrument, and allowing us to hold pieces of classical artistry, they stimulate our own primitive maritime sense. Galleys were the mega-weapon of their day, and they would have been especially awe-inspiring to local peoples – much as we now feel when we stand next to a space shuttle. The Phaselis series is also interesting since its multiple die variations provide us with teasing glimpses of design differences in ancient war ship construction, which is something we wouldn’t otherwise see every day. We can only imagine how much of a curse or a blessing it was for a city to be so closely tied to the sea.



Figure 6 – Greek Galley



Figure 6 – This galley illustration approximates the style of trireme warship used by the city of Phaselis on its staters, although it seems undersized for the number of oars. Note the three rows of oars, the evil-eye and battering ram configuration of the bow, plus the fan-shaped stern decoration called an apluster (sometimes used by itself on ancient coins to symbolize maritime power). This image also shows a small fighting platform placed over the bow deck, similar to the one shown on the Phaselis coins. (Illustration posted by Mitch Williamson on the Cog and Galley website – he has an interesting account of galley warfare in a number of posts about the Peloponnesian War at: <http://www.cogandgalley.com/2009/11/>).

Imagine the scene:

Hundreds of triremes on each side poised for battle, slowly cruising in packs while searching for a quick advantage. The overseer of the lead ship encourages the heaving crew to pull together, the drum master holds a steady beat while waiting for the signal and the steersman braces the massive rudder as the wind tries to push the ship askew. The commander finds a weak point – an enemy ship has misread a turn – so he barks the command for full speed. The drum master immediately launches into an ever-quicken pace while the oarsmen move faster and faster, struggling to keep control of their oars and suck enough air to feed their muscles. With increasing speed, the mighty bronze ram begins to rise slightly toward the choppy surface. At a critical moment, the commander pivots the ship using a hard rudder turn to expose the side of the hapless enemy. As our ship closes in, and the raft of undulating oars swing in quick

unison, horn blowers on the top deck blast urgent warnings of threat and fear. Anticipating combat, the ship's contingent of metal-clad soldier/marines lets out a great, guttural roar and rush to the fighting platform, thrusting their spears into the air and notching their arrows. At full speed, the bow wake widens, and the slightly submerged ram glows intensely in the morning sun as ship plows on. The arrows begin to fly from both sides, and the better spear throwers let loose their weapons as soon as the range narrows. With one last great blast on the horns and a mighty yell from the soldiers, the battering ram crashes randomly into the enemy's angled oars and then strikes the fragile hull just under the waterline. Enemy rowers scream as water fills the enemy hull and panic takes hold, while crazed and bloodied soldiers battle fiercely on the subsiding deck. The gorgons and the gods are truly having their way.

Addenda



Another Interesting Boar Stater from Lycia

This is a very rare, if not unique, silver stater that was minted in the rugged hills of Lycia around 500 BC. It also featured a boar head design on its obverse that was similar to the earliest silver staters of Phaselis, but this boar was not attached to a ship. It was struck by an unknown Lycian dynast/king at a slightly lighter weight standard than was used in Phaselis (9.0 grams versus 10.5 grams). Several other boar stater issues were struck by these dynasts, often showing the whole boar forepart and sometimes the whole boar. I also have a forepart coin that is closer in weight to the Phaselis issues at 9.5 grams, but this boar head coin is useful since it confirms that the boar motif was common in Lycia and since it demonstrates that the first defined incuse punches began to incorporate crude reverse images (this one presents us with an unprecedented scene of a bird head and plants while Phaselis chose a ship stern). Around 480 BC, these square incuse reverse punches were ditched in favor of full format reverse dies, initiating the classical period. Ex: Calgary Coin/Freeman & Sear. (Collection of the author and photo by the author.)

A Contemporary Ship Prow Coin

Here is a different issue and different denomination of a ship prow coin, but it is reasonably contemporary with the usual classical Phaselis staters since it was minted circa 350-330 BC. It is from the Greek settlement and port of Kios in Bithynia, just east of Byzantion on the Sea of Marmara and around the southwest coast of Asia Minor from Phaselis. Kios was an important point on the Silk Road, providing easy access to the sea. The coin is a hemidrachm of 13.5 mm and 2.55 grams so

it is quite a bit smaller than the Phaselis staters. However, the sentiment is the same in that it promotes the galley image (complete with star motif), giving it almost equal billing as the head of Apollo on its obverse. Like later Phaselis staters, this coin provides readable legends – KIA below the Apollo head (partly hidden on this example) and a magistrate name, PROXENOS, on the reverse. (Collection of the author and photo by the author.)



Credit: the small ship decoration used between sections of the text is borrowed from the *Phaselis Project*, a 2011 archeological and natural history survey commemorating the 200th anniversary of the rediscovery of the ancient Phaselis site. It is seen at <http://www.phaselis.org> and licensed under Creative Commons Attribution.



20¢ & 25¢ Coins

Canadian Retail Coin Prices

by Dean Silver



Victoria 20¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1858 – Partial Cross rev	59.57	90.76	119.15	169.82	212.13	254.45	296.76	339.08	425.56	598.54	788.77	1,169
1858 – Full Cross rev	62.38	95.03	124.76	177.82	222.13	266.44	310.75	355.06	445.62	626.74	825.93	1,224

Victoria 25¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1870	21.27	41.95	72.15	141.98	188.28	234.58	280.88	327.18	401.86	551.22	773.92	1,219
1871	27.17	49.55	88.53	184.56	243.98	303.40	362.82	422.24	544.35	788.58	1,075	1,648
1871H	26.95	55.37	107.86	239.97	310.62	381.27	451.92	522.57	637.91	868.59	1,106	1,581
1872H	12.92	22.27	38.42	72.38	98.33	124.28	150.23	176.17	237.69	360.74	552.29	935.39
1874H	12.92	22.27	37.30	73.82	103.67	133.51	163.36	193.20	247.40	355.79	477.53	721.03
1874H V's/A's Canada	20.25	37.61	63.65	127.30	175.03	222.77	270.51	318.24	414.68	607.56	800.43	1,186
1875H	317.36	645.85	1,153	2,601	3,251	3,901	4,551	5,201	6,711	9,731	13,622	21,404
1880 Narrow O	46.77	94.65	208.79	436.24	550.59	664.94	779.29	893.64	1,092	1,488	1,898	2,717
1880 Wide O	109.68	246.65	523.38	969.87	1,244	1,518	1,792	2,066	2,442	3,196	4,416	6,856
1881H	25.06	46.77	94.65	208.05	266.82	325.59	384.37	443.14	580.66	855.70	1,266	2,088
1882H	26.59	52.34	104.03	218.12	276.84	335.57	394.29	453.02	598.43	889.25	1,228	1,904
1883H	19.05	33.18	67.37	137.96	177.67	217.39	257.10	296.82	368.46	511.74	687.91	1,040
1885	111.91	261.68	486.63	924.27	1,111	1,298	1,485	1,672	2,122	3,020	4,027	6,040
1886	37.59	80.20	167.92	345.86	459.90	573.93	687.97	802.01	994.15	1,378	1,880	2,882
1887	131.40	266.69	472.70	952.09	1,185	1,417	1,649	1,882	2,550	3,886	5,220	7,886
1888	19.56	43.98	84.63	168.15	210.00	251.86	293.71	335.57	430.65	620.80	838.92	1,275
1889	127.12	283.96	631.94	1,186	1,466	1,745	2,025	2,305	2,745	3,624	5,231	8,445
1890H	30.06	54.01	109.68	233.85	302.05	370.25	438.46	506.66	627.30	868.59	1,156	1,731
1891	92.73	195.49	342.39	587.39	728.66	869.93	1,011.20	1,152	1,333	1,693	2,090	2,884
1892	18.60	37.58	78.86	168.89	209.49	250.09	290.69	331.28	413.87	579.04	779.48	1,180
1893	136.96	263.16	501.25	827.07	962.71	1,098	1,234	1,370	1,520	1,821	2,233	3,057
1894	26.17	51.37	114.70	256.10	299.26	342.41	385.57	428.72	508.53	668.14	876.01	1,292
1899	12.25	21.49	43.43	107.46	141.84	176.22	210.60	244.98	320.79	472.40	672.87	1,074
1900	11.03	20.10	35.18	78.86	106.61	134.36	162.11	189.86	243.63	351.17	466.44	696.97
1901	11.03	20.10	35.18	87.25	124.16	161.07	197.98	234.90	288.37	395.32	534.51	812.90

Edward 25¢	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1902H	15.08	30.15	52.83	75.50	95.30	115.09	134.88	154.68	182.55	238.28	286.92	384.18
1902	21.27	43.99	77.11	110.24	159.24	208.24	257.23	306.23	394.31	570.47	768.20	1,164
1903	24.05	50.67	85.12	119.56	175.37	231.18	286.99	342.80	429.20	602.01	899.10	1,493
1904	39.75	94.65	195.20	295.74	372.83	449.92	527.02	604.11	770.20	1,102	1,585	2,550
1905	22.38	50.11	117.34	184.56	242.93	301.31	359.68	418.05	580.71	906.03	1,374	2,311
1906 Lrg Crown	20.71	42.61	68.63	94.65	144.76	194.87	244.97	295.08	354.48	473.27	671.84	1,069
1906 Sml Crown	3,730	5,537	8,138	10,738	12,248	13,758	15,268	16,778	19,016	23,490	26,845	33,557
1907	13.36	27.06	56.31	85.57	118.71	151.84	184.98	218.12	264.69	357.84	464.42	677.59
1908	30.08	67.67	100.95	134.23	177.23	220.23	263.23	306.23	361.62	472.40	541.36	679.26
1909	19.31	46.77	82.95	119.13	163.55	207.97	252.40	296.82	371.26	520.13	706.80	1,080
1910	12.92	27.28	45.52	63.76	81.38	98.99	116.61	134.23	164.99	226.51	294.28	429.84

DTS AVERAGE • 25¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

George V 25¢	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1911	14.54	29.26	47.76	66.26	84.21	102.17	120.12	138.08	162.58	211.58	274.68	400.89
1912	11.66	18.65	26.87	35.09	49.70	64.31	78.93	93.54	136.22	221.57	337.87	570.47
1913	11.25	17.70	26.37	35.04	49.66	64.29	78.91	93.54	129.47	201.34	298.66	493.30
1914	13.53	21.55	35.84	50.13	65.28	80.43	95.58	110.74	174.97	303.44	471.40	807.33
1915	35.18	90.60	208.98	327.35	435.52	543.68	651.85	760.02	1,089	1,748	2,617	4,354
1916	8.88	16.39	24.34	32.29	40.58	48.86	57.15	65.44	91.16	142.62	204.14	327.18
1917	8.24	12.53	17.54	22.56	29.50	36.45	43.39	50.34	61.95	85.19	121.67	194.63
1918	8.24	10.80	13.64	16.48	22.66	28.84	35.02	41.20	52.08	73.82	99.51	150.89
1919	8.24	10.80	13.64	16.48	22.66	28.84	35.02	41.20	49.18	65.14	96.69	159.79
1920	8.43	11.86	17.40	22.94	30.43	37.92	45.40	52.89	71.08	107.46	150.52	236.64
1921	21.44	42.32	93.54	144.77	199.05	253.33	307.62	361.90	537.84	889.72	1,193	1,798
No 1922 to 1926 25¢	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1927	45.65	81.84	129.01	176.17	225.15	274.12	323.10	372.07	488.38	721.01	966.90	1,459
1928	8.29	11.36	16.42	21.49	32.13	42.76	53.40	64.03	78.50	107.46	147.14	226.51
1929	8.29	11.36	15.75	20.14	29.02	37.91	46.79	55.68	67.74	91.87	136.75	226.51
1930	8.49	12.08	21.35	30.62	41.48	52.34	63.19	74.05	88.53	117.48	181.33	309.02
1931	8.91	14.05	26.79	39.53	52.01	64.50	76.98	89.46	106.97	141.98	216.22	364.69
1932	8.63	13.25	26.11	38.97	50.59	62.20	73.81	85.43	103.35	139.19	212.50	359.11
1933	8.35	15.04	29.33	43.62	59.86	76.10	92.33	108.57	131.21	176.50	215.10	292.31
1934	8.63	16.44	33.39	50.34	67.95	85.57	103.19	120.80	150.45	209.73	280.87	423.16
1935	9.02	15.04	28.68	42.31	54.84	67.37	79.90	92.42	111.95	151.01	190.16	268.45
1936	9.02	12.53	16.30	20.06	25.49	30.91	36.33	41.76	50.11	66.81	92.48	143.81
1936 Bar	32.55	62.08	94.29	126.51	159.12	191.74	224.35	256.97	294.44	369.38	473.21	680.87
1936 Dot rev Bow	49.33	111.91	186.80	261.69	332.68	403.67	474.66	545.65	640.31	829.62	1,008	1,364

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DTS AVERAGE • 25¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

George VI 25¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 62	MS 63
1937	4.01	6.89	9.78	11.10	12.43	13.75	15.08	20.10	22.09	26.07	53.13	66.67
1938	5.14	9.40	15.91	18.22	20.52	22.82	25.13	39.53	58.28	95.76	223.32	287.10
1939	4.64	8.52	12.03	14.04	16.06	18.08	20.10	30.62	44.54	72.38	159.00	202.31
1940	3.88	5.89	8.24	9.31	10.38	11.46	12.53	16.05	24.58	41.62	70.94	85.59
1941	3.88	5.89	8.24	9.31	10.38	11.46	12.53	16.05	20.39	29.07	64.66	82.46
1942	3.88	5.89	8.24	9.31	10.38	11.46	12.53	16.05	21.56	32.58	76.44	98.37
1943	3.88	5.89	8.24	9.31	10.38	11.46	12.53	16.05	20.61	29.73	70.00	90.14
1943 Nose-clash rev	77.04	116.17	156.50	180.57	204.65	228.72	252.79	384.61	468.06	634.97	1,401	1,784
1944	4.39	6.89	8.57	9.81	11.05	12.29	13.53	17.04	23.61	36.75	86.04	110.69
1945	3.88	5.89	8.24	9.31	10.38	11.46	12.53	16.05	20.80	30.29	72.79	94.04
1946	4.64	8.52	12.03	14.04	16.04	18.05	20.05	35.09	45.76	67.11	133.81	167.15
1947	4.64	8.52	12.53	14.41	16.29	18.17	20.05	40.09	50.95	72.68	161.65	206.14
1947 Maple Leaf	5.78	7.52	10.03	11.29	12.55	13.81	15.08	20.10	22.09	26.06	50.62	62.90
1947 Dot rev date	71.26	107.46	144.76	167.03	189.30	211.57	233.83	355.76	432.95	587.35	1,296	1,651
1948	4.64	8.52	12.53	14.04	15.55	17.05	18.56	35.09	49.29	77.69	166.67	211.15
1949	3.51	5.64	9.02	9.52	10.03	10.53	11.03	16.08	17.57	20.55	49.12	63.41
1950	3.51	5.64	9.02	9.52	10.03	10.53	11.03	16.08	17.40	20.05	45.11	57.64
1951 High Relief	4.01	6.14	10.03	11.04	12.05	13.06	14.07	16.08	17.42	20.10	36.37	44.50
1951 Low Relief	46.14	92.28	217.36	246.63	275.90	305.17	334.43	504.20	782.02	1,338	2,227	2,671
1952 Low Relief	3.51	5.64	9.02	9.52	10.03	10.53	11.03	16.08	17.40	20.05	45.11	57.64
1952 High Relief	5.09	8.02	10.03	11.03	12.03	13.03	14.04	20.05	28.14	44.31	91.08	114.46

Elizabeth II 25¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63	MS 64	MS 65
1953 - NSF	3.51	4.59	5.59	6.84	8.10	9.18	12.52	17.11	21.70	26.29	30.88	126.04
1953 - SF	3.84	5.18	7.93	9.47	11.02	14.02	17.98	28.51	39.04	49.57	60.10	400.67
1954	5.09	8.43	10.10	12.10	14.11	20.45	35.81	64.42	93.03	121.64	150.25	500.83
1955	3.51	4.59	5.59	6.84	8.10	9.18	15.36	24.04	32.72	41.40	50.08	250.42
1956	3.51	4.59	5.59	6.84	8.10	9.18	12.52	16.90	21.29	25.67	30.05	125.21
1957	3.42	4.42	5.43	6.59	7.76	8.85	12.19	15.40	18.61	21.83	25.04	85.14
1958	3.42	4.42	5.43	6.59	7.76	8.85	11.19	13.81	16.44	19.07	21.70	76.79
1959	3.42	4.26	5.26	6.43	7.60	8.51	10.85	15.65	20.45	25.25	30.05	150.25
1960	3.42	4.26	5.26	6.43	7.60	8.51	10.85	13.56	16.28	18.99	21.70	85.14
1961	3.42	4.26	5.26	6.43	7.60	8.51	10.85	13.56	16.28	18.99	21.70	85.14
1962	3.26	4.09	5.09	6.18	7.26	8.18	10.18	12.27	14.36	16.44	18.53	75.13
1963	3.26	4.09	4.92	5.84	6.76	7.68	9.85	11.56	13.27	14.98	16.69	60.10
1964	3.26	4.09	4.92	5.84	6.76	7.68	9.85	11.56	13.27	14.98	16.69	50.08
1965	3.26	4.09	4.92	5.84	6.76	7.68	9.85	11.56	13.27	14.98	16.69	50.08
1966	3.26	4.09	4.92	5.84	6.76	7.68	9.85	11.56	13.27	14.98	16.69	50.08
1967	3.26	4.09	4.92	5.84	6.76	7.68	9.68	10.98	12.27	13.56	14.86	35.06
1968 Silver	3.26	3.92	4.59	5.34	6.09	6.84	8.68	10.23	11.77	13.31	14.86	35.06
1968 Nickel	0.67	0.92	1.17	1.42	1.67	1.92	2.17	4.13	6.09	8.06	10.02	43.41
1969	0.67	0.92	1.17	1.42	1.67	1.92	2.17	4.13	6.09	8.06	10.02	45.08
1970 thru 1979	0.33	0.39	0.44	0.50	0.56	0.61	1.72	4.92	8.12	11.32	14.52	41.28
1973 Large Bust	75.13	138.56	170.28	187.81	205.34	257.93	375.63	699.08	1,023	1,346	1,669	3,840
1978 small denticles	0.55	0.60	0.68	0.75	0.82	0.92	1.99	5.83	9.67	13.52	17.36	44.41
1980 thru 1989	0.39	0.44	0.50	0.56	0.61	0.67	1.78	5.34	8.90	12.46	16.03	81.30
1980 Far Beads	0.67	0.72	0.78	0.83	0.89	1.00	2.39	7.44	12.48	17.53	22.58	125.78
1980 Near Beads	0.72	0.78	0.83	0.89	0.94	1.06	2.50	9.87	17.23	24.60	31.96	138.30
1990 thru 1999	0.37	0.42	0.47	0.53	0.59	0.66	1.74	5.15	8.55	11.96	15.36	46.08
1991	0.56	0.83	1.11	1.67	2.22	2.78	8.89	12.74	16.58	20.43	24.28	74.17
2000 thru 2009	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.48	0.53	0.59	1.28	3.62	5.96	8.30	10.64	31.29
2001 no P	0.35	0.41	0.47	0.53	0.59	0.65	2.17	4.58	6.99	9.41	11.82	34.77
2002P Caribou Dot after date	2.17	3.28	4.39	5.50	6.61	7.72	11.06	21.06	31.06	41.06	51.06	90.33
2010 thru 2016	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.48	0.53	0.59	1.28	2.84	4.39	5.95	7.51	20.65

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It's a Presidential Thing

Part 2: American presidents
in the early 20th century

by Marc Bink

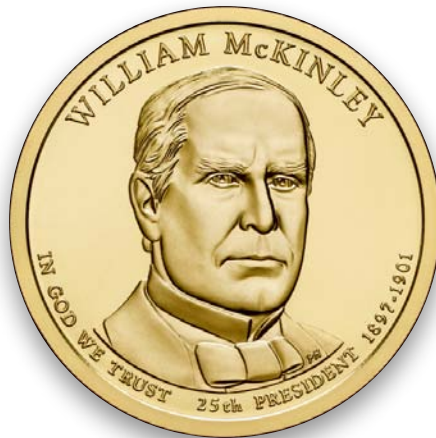
Last issue we looked at the record of the 18th and 19th century US presidents and discovered that there were a few decent ones, but a lot more were mediocre ones. The 19th century on a whole was a growing up period for the US; a time where it matured politically and economically. It expanded from the initial 13 Colonies in New England all the way out to the west coast. By the end of the 19th century, the explorers had run out of land to explore. Behind them came the colonists, the farmers, industrialists, and in the case of California, the speculators and the film industry. In the east, industry was “king”; the steel mills were cranking out more and more product. In the 1820s, a system of production utilizing fewer workers, assembly lines and machines to produce identical parts (“The American System”) was finally coming into its own and beginning to outstrip the traditional European industries.

**USA Presidential Dollar
Coins (2007–2016)**



Politically things were changing too. Campaigns were starting to change. Previously, candidates for president stayed home, debated one another, but going out and making stump speeches was very much frowned upon. The office was to speak of The Man, not the other way around. The campaign of 1896 started to change all of that. The Democratic Party's candidate, William Bryan, campaigned against McKinley's idea of formalizing the Gold Standard, something McKinley held dear. Bryan did a whistle-stop tour of the US, McKinley chose to stay home and speak from his front step. There are recordings of some of these which give a person an idea of what kind of an orator McKinley was.

McKinley was the eventual victor. He campaigned on the Gold Standard, something he felt would reign in the Robber Barons and break the perpetual boom-bust cycles the country was in. He had campaigned on Cleveland's inaction and unpopularity; Cleveland had tried to kick-start a moribund economy, but was very much at the whim of the Robber Barons who seemingly made their own rules and got away with everything but murder. McKinley was able to do just that; get things going again. It also helped that he appeared at the right time in the cycle; but his gold standard and the creation of the Fed was certainly helping things along. He also started having a hard look at the



William McKinley
Presidency: 1897-1901

Robber Barons. It was around this time that investigative journalism started making some inroads. Magazines like Harper's and McClure's Magazine. These new style reporters, commonly called "muckrakers", started covering in great detail all the ills that these Robber Barons were inflicting. They also started to go after political machines, like Tammany Hall. These "machines", were usually run by a "boss" who was for the most part legal, but there was a lot of shade and looking away going on. One thing they would do was buy a politician or two, and then get their way. They owned men like Cleveland, Garfield, and others, or at least they "made" them to where they owed some allegiance to look away. McKinley started to question that, and during his second term, brought on a firebrand named Theodore

Roosevelt who had just finished breaking the Hall in New York as his running mate. Things were looking up.

Another thing that happened while McKinley was running the show was the Spanish-American War of 1898 which cemented the US as a world power. It started innocently enough, McKinley was trying to persuade the Spanish to grant the island of Cuba its independence by sending a battleship to go and serve as a reminder in Havana harbour. A subtle little trick, it wasn't too well received by the Spanish who grudgingly left it alone but tried to restrict the crew's movements. Then something happened and there was a huge explosion; and the USS Maine was no more. It was blown to pieces, no one is sure what happened. None of its 260 officers and crew survived either. This was all McKinley needed; he sent in the troops and soon had most of the Spanish empire in his possession. Not bad for a republic founded on the premise for destroying imperialism.

The Spanish American War guaranteed McKinley a second term and it made Teddy Roosevelt's reputation. It also set about making William Taft's reputation in Manilla too. He was appointed by McKinley as the governor of the newly "liberated" Philippines. While initially not well received by a population who figured they were getting rid of one oppressor and gaining

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a louder one, Taft ruled the Philippines justly and fairly and was mourned when he and his family left a few years later.

McKinley was about half way through his second term when he was shot by a disgruntled anarchist named Leon Czolgosz. In this day and age, McKinley might have survived. However, doctors were still not washing up properly and as a result, McKinley developed gangrene and died 8 days later. Czolgosz got the chair 45 days later and Roosevelt got the job he'd been lusting after ever since he was a boy.

And he wasn't much past being a boy, at least in presidential terms. Roosevelt was 42 when he took over from McKinley. He had been put up to the vice-presidency after McKinley's first running mate died; publicly to show youth in the White House, ostensibly though to take him out of circulation by sidelining him in a powerless job. Roosevelt had gone after the "machine" in his previous role as governor of New York, and they repaid him by shuffling him on hopefully to what they assumed would amount to a dead end and finish his political career. Now he was back in the saddle, and he became their worst nightmare.

Roosevelt was a good writer and he understood the power of the press; as long as they were on his side. So he cultivated them



Theodore Roosevelt
Presidency: 1901–1909

and catered to their progressive ideas. He really did speak for the little guy as he set about breaking up the trusts and putting an end to the robber barons and their pervading influence. It was under Roosevelt's administration that we have the anti-trust laws, the banks were reigned in and big business was given rules to play fair. Government was about to get bigger as Teddy started more and more initiatives aimed at protecting the little guy and surprisingly enough, even the environment. "Talk softly, but carry a big stick" was his motto, and he lived it. He was responsible for the National Parks Act in the US, patterned off of the one here in Canada. Where it didn't work for Roosevelt was in his approach to the party/political system in the US; here the "machines" were too

entrenched, and they were in no way motivated to work with Roosevelt. They only did so grudgingly once the press got a hold of what Roosevelt was trying to achieve and publicized it. After that, they usually gave in. But everything Roosevelt got done he did with a fight. On the plus side, he earned a Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the end to the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. By the time he intervened, it was pretty much a foregone conclusion that the Japanese had won. However, the Japanese also had an inkling that Russia had an almost unlimited supply of manpower that would eventually overwhelm even the most modern army, so they were also motivated to negotiate. Too bad they didn't heed that sentiment 35 years later when Theodore's cousin Franklin was running the show.

Roosevelt completed McKinley's term and was elected in 1904 on his own merit. He started grooming his good friend William Howard Taft to be his successor, believing that a president gets stale and should only serve two terms. He would soon regret those sentiments.

Theodore Roosevelt easily ranks up there as one of America's best presidents; he would have been tickled pink to know that his effigy is in the company of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln on Mt. Rushmore.



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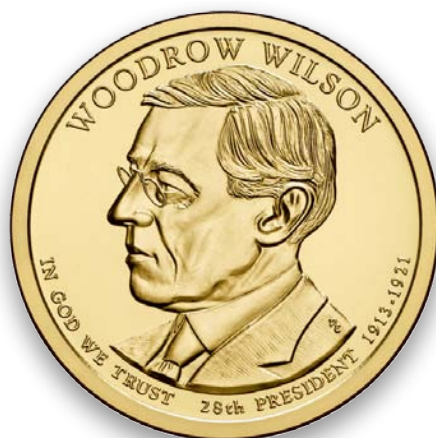
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William Howard Taft was a gentle giant. He always strove to do the right thing and do his duty. He had a passionate respect for the law, and only ever wanted to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He never wanted to be the President. His wife egged him on, and prior to that it was his family. He served under Roosevelt as the first Governor of the Philippines and is recognized as being the best governor that the Philippines had prior to its independence in 1946. He was the right man for the job. The climate disagreed with him, and so he came home. Roosevelt had then groomed him to take over as the Republican Party's choice in 1908, and riding Roosevelt's coat-tails he handily won. And then instead of furthering Roosevelt's initiatives, he dialed it back and ran a care-taker style of government. This was too much for his old friend Roosevelt, who then decided to take another run at the Presidency in 1912. Taft by this time had had enough, he wanted out, his health and family life was in tatters. Roosevelt lost out on the Republican nomination, started his own party and split the vote and went down to defeat, dragging Taft with him. Taft for the most part was a good president, he did some good things, tried to keep the peace in Europe and was passionate about East Asia. He was replaced in 1913 by Woodrow



William Howard Taft
Presidency: 1909–1913



Woodrow Wilson
Presidency: 1913–1921

Wilson, a rather dour and lifeless individual who looked more the part of a stern school master than a president.

Wilson was as much as an academic as Taft was a lawyer.

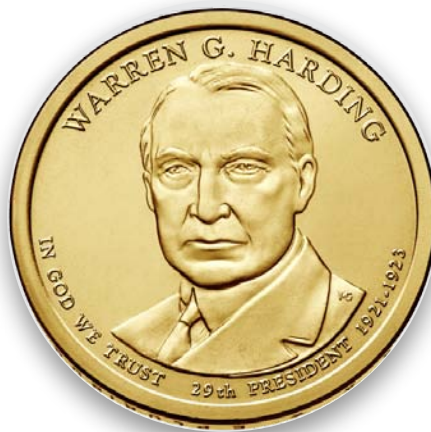
Woodrow Wilson was the first southern born president since the Civil War. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister who had a significant role in the Confederacy. Wilson junior went to Princeton in the north and became its president. He then went on to be the governor of New Jersey prior to running on the Democratic ticket in 1912 against both Taft and Roosevelt. At the onset, he was given a snowball's chance, but soon proved the better of the three and a credible alternative. As far as being president was concerned, Wilson wasn't a bad one; he steered the US around a major war through the most of it, and only got involved very late and then made the difference.¹ Because of the US's new-found influence, he was assured a seat at the peace conference in Paris in 1919. His infamous "14 points" was a major draw for the majority of the European combatants, but, like many high minded ideas, it was soon superseded by the greed and territorial demands of the victors. By failing to follow the Wilson plan, the seeds were set for the next big was

¹ World War I was started in 1914 when a Bosnian Serb by the name of Gavrillo Princip shot and killed the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Ferdinand. The Austrians mobilized, which set the Russians mobilizing, and this lead to the Germans and the French mobilizing. Telegram traffic between the regal heads of state in the last days was frantic, but once the process started, it had taken on a life of its own and could not be stopped. Ultimatums were traded and ignored, and the world soon found itself in the grips of one of the most senseless and bloodiest wars in all of human history. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers went to their deaths in the trenches of France; the war became one of attrition. The Americans entered it late in 1917; by this point the French and the British were on the ropes and the Germans weren't much further behind but had the upper hand. They gave one last push in 1918, brought the Allies to the brink of defeat and then collapsed. The American armies picked up where the exhausted French and Commonwealth forces left off and then drove the Germans back to Germany. By the fall of 1918, Germany was defeated and starving; sensing that a total home-front collapse was imminent, Generals Hindenburg and Ludendorff of the German High Command convinced the Kaiser to approve a surrender. They then drove him into exile in an attempt to stave off a revolution in Germany. It was too little too late. Hindenburg was ultimately responsible for Germany's defeat and while he started and perpetuated the "stab in the back" story about Germany's defeat, he was the one who actually stabbed Germany in the back; not once but twice, he did it again in 1933 when he allowed Hitler to become Chancellor of Germany.

20 years later. Wilson recognized this, and campaigned for the freedom and the rights of many minorities in Europe when in Paris in 1919. The experience drained him and took a serious toll on his health; he had a stroke shortly after returning. He never did fully recover from it. While Wilson was convalescing, his wife and staff took over the running of the government and kept prying eyes away. But a president is meant to be seen and heard, so when Wilson was doing neither, the press was having a field day. The country soon learned of his condition, and they allowed him to finish out his second term in 1921. And, as it was known to happen in the past, a good president was replaced by an interesting one that started with a lot of promise and was very popular, Warren G. Harding.

Warren G. Harding was a pretty popular guy when he ended up getting elected. The nation was tired of Wilson, and there was no guarantee that his health would hold out. Too bad that neither the American people nor Harding himself knew that he had a fatal heart condition that was figuratively waiting to explode. Wilson actually out-lived him by a few months.

Harding started out right, was very popular as stated previously, but soon the cracks started to appear. First off, was a stain that he couldn't quite shake; something which dated back to the days when he was first starting out and courting his soon-to-be wife. Apparently someone had started the rumour that he had a black ancestor in his past. The rumour was unfounded; but no one knew that. Of course, once the muckrakers got a hold of it, it was something he couldn't shake. The other thing was a past affair or two; soon there were rumours that he fathered a child. His own marriage was childless, and his wife was a



Warren G. Harding
Presidency: 1921–1923



Calvin Coolidge
Presidency: 1923–1929

formidable and intimidating person. She if anything is responsible for the person that Warren Harding became. She drove him to the top. But, like the rumour of his ancestry, it was largely unfounded and only fully disproved long after he was dead. More scandals soon loomed.

Harding did some good things too. He presided over the Washington Naval Treaty which limited how many capital ships each of the world's main powers could build. By setting these limits, he was able to start securing repayment of war loans

incurred by the UK and France during the war. Both Britain and France didn't have Germany to worry about, and the Americans weren't all that interested in being a world power yet, so that meant both states didn't have to rebuild huge navies anymore. Harding also tried to straighten out the economy, which had been in recession since the end of the war. He saw government's role as one to help business out; which started to undo what Roosevelt had sought to end ten years earlier.

The US wasn't a very free place in the early 20th century, especially if you were a person of colour. This was the height of the lynching period, where black people in the "Ole South" could find themselves with a rope around their necks for the slightest infractions. The federal government had done little to protect them, and of course, nor had any of the southern states. Harding backed an anti-lynching bill, only to let it die later on. One thing he did do was free political prisoners incarcerated during the war. Wilson wouldn't free any of them until the war was officially over. This occurred in 1921, and Harding commuted a lot of sentences. At the same time though, the army was busy dealing with veteran's groups protesting bad or non-existent pensions and benefits and labour was rioting in the streets. To top it off, the country was "dry" and the Mob and the illegal booze trade were flourishing. Harding himself was no teetotaler, and somehow managed to get his stash from somewhere too; even though the man was considered a good orator there were times where he was visibly "off", and of course the wags thought he was drunk. He might have been, who knows.

All the same, it didn't do him any good. He was on a western tour² when he suddenly took ill

and endured a series of heart attacks, the last one being fatal. He was 57. His death was initially considered a national tragedy, and then the scandals started breaking and soon it was revealed that just about everyone in his administration was "on the take" somehow. After all, it was the 1920s, and it was America. Who wasn't on the take then?

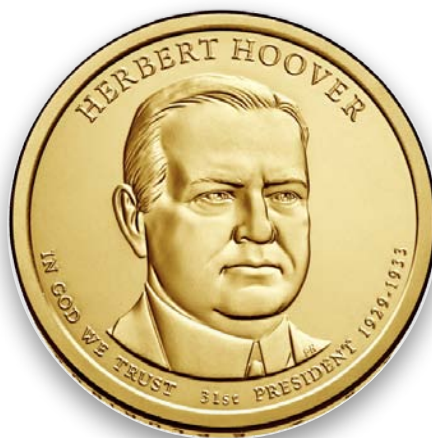
There was one person, the man who replaced Harding, Calvin Coolidge. Coolidge was Harding's vice president and while very quiet and unassuming, he was a man capable of serious well thought out action. He had distinguished himself during the Boston Police Strike, and come to national attention then. "Silent Cal" was a man of few words, but when he spoke it meant something. Apparently he also had a very dry sense of humour too.

He was also cheap. He rented, never owned, and his family remembers a very frugal lifestyle. He treated the government the same way too; he believed that government should be smaller and accountable to the people. So he persecuted all of the officials tainted by scandal, and restored the public's faith in the US government. He won the office on his own right in 1925. He was lucky in that he presided over one of the country's most prosperous times, the "roaring 20s". So economically, he didn't have to do much. He did reduce the tax load, and he did settle out with the veterans. Labour was also dealt with, and unions were becoming more and more powerful. Foreign policy wise, there wasn't much going on except the constant dealings with the Germans and their war debt.

Coolidge decided not to run in 1928, but was also reluctant to

help out his eventual successor, Herbert Hoover for reasons that he more or less kept to himself. He was the proper man for the job at the time, and he could have won another term. People liked his style of government, and the caretaker role suited him fine. As it was, he had had enough and was looking forward to retirement, which unfortunately he never really got. He died a short while later of heart disease.

Back to the coins for a moment; we've cycled through 30 of them by this point. The portraits are fairly simple and more or less face-on instead of the



Herbert Hoover
Presidency: 1929–1933

traditional profile. All the men are not smiling or showing any real animation. They tend to look as dour and lifeless as they now are.

Herbert Hoover was next. He was a very interesting person. He started off behind the eight-ball, becoming an orphan at age 9. Surprisingly enough, he would be considered half-Canadian; his mother came from Canadian stock. After his parent's death, he ended up with an uncle. He

managed to put himself through school and became a mining engineer. The career lead him to Australia, China, and Russia to exploit copper and gold mines. In his spare time he managed to write a book on mining that is still valid today. He was known as a trouble shooter, a man who could take a failing venture and whip it into shape and turn it around. This proved to be very lucrative for him, and by 1914 he was rich. He was also on his own by that time, and soon took an interest in humanitarian issues largely as a result of what he was hearing during the First World War. He provided food and humanitarian aid to Belgium and France, and eventually also to immediate post-war Germany. He soon found this work all-consuming and embarked on a public career. By 1928 he had made his reputation as a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, and public speaker. He had served in both the Harding and Coolidge administrations and was free of taint. With the US sliding into a major economic depression, he seemed to be the right man for the job. Unfortunately, it was not to be.

Hoover was a conservative. He was what was recently known as a "progressive" conservative, which meant he had a social conscience but refused to spend money on it. He knew what governments and NGOs could do, he basically pioneered the genre during the Great War. So he felt he knew what the country needed, and that was to dial back any support and let what was going to happen, sort of happen. He felt there was no point in government throwing good money after bad; and he knew there wasn't enough money in the world that could get the US out of the economic depression it was in, it would have to run

² Harding was also the first sitting US president to visit Canada during his last western tour in 1923. He did not officially meet with anyone from the Canadian government.

its course. He was a big believer in balanced budgets, so there was no prying open the government coffers. He also grudgingly signed some very protectionist legislation into law, against his better judgement. The funny thing is, most of his policies were sound enough that once the US would have emerged from the Depression it would have been on a better footing. In the meantime, the people starved, men criss-crossed the country looking for work, Oklahoma dried up and the Okies moved to Beverly Hills in broken down old wrecks. Public opinion turned on Hoover, and he never stood a chance against Franklin Roosevelt's well-oiled machine. There was one thing Roosevelt could do that Hoover could not and in the end had no desire to, and that was speak to the public. Roosevelt criss-crossed the country on a whistle-stop campaign tour, and Hoover tried to do the same, but ended up getting pelted by eggs and offal; after a few temper-driven faux-pas which did nothing to help his cause, Hoover gave up and waited out the inevitable result. Looking at his coin, Hoover's image looks better than he did in real life, which shows how much his image has been rehabilitated since his defeat.

Franklin D. Roosevelt ranks up there as a very interesting individual. He had a privileged life; he grew up into money, and in theory the world was his oyster. He really didn't know what

he wanted to do with life, so he gravitated to politics once he finished university. Although his degree was in history, he aspired to be a lawyer, and never really made it. He kind of was that rich kid that would never really amount to much; he dabbled in this, did a bit of that, nothing really well though. But then something changed; after his cousin Theodore became president in 1901, Franklin was inspired to go into politics. He was a Democrat whereas Teddy was a Republican, just as well as far as the political "machines" were concerned, two Roosevelts in the same party would be too dangerous. Franklin served as Assistant Secretary to the Navy in 1913, and eventually became the Governor of New York. He had a hiatus in between time, where he contracted polio and lost the use of his legs. For a while it seemed he wasn't going to make it; while he had survived the disease, the once physically fit and active Roosevelt had no idea of what to do going forward. He assumed that the public would want nothing to do with a cripple and that his political career was over. He then dug deep and harnessed his formidable willpower and determined that he would walk again, no matter what it took. He wore painful braces when in public; he was never publically seen in a wheelchair. He is always shown standing or walking, the public having no idea what the actual extent of his debilitation was.

As far as his presidency was concerned, he was ranked as one

of the best ones. The stories of how his "New Deal" broke the Depression are legendary, and invariably false. He never really got the "New Deal" through Congress. Sure, parts of it were implemented, but in actuality it was World War II that ended the Depression, not anything his administration actually accomplished. Yes, his policies and talking the US off gold stopped the flight of capital and stabilized the economy, but it wasn't growing either. There was no money to be had anywhere, and with no money came no demand for products. He started the labour corps and a few other short-term initiatives building infrastructure, but all that accomplished was to buy him an election and some more time. By the time the war started, most of his social initiatives were running out of gas and on life support. What the war allowed was it allowed him to finally get those more contentious parts of the New Deal ratified into wartime law. Coupled with the ten-fold increase in military procurement and Lend Lease, it was a powerful kick-start to a moribund economy.

Roosevelt was a powerful speaker and very much in tune with his age. He used all forms of mass media to his advantage and was able to rally the public to make the sacrifices needed. He was the right man for the job at the right time. He was also progressive enough to see what kind of a role the US was going to have in the world after the war³. So he

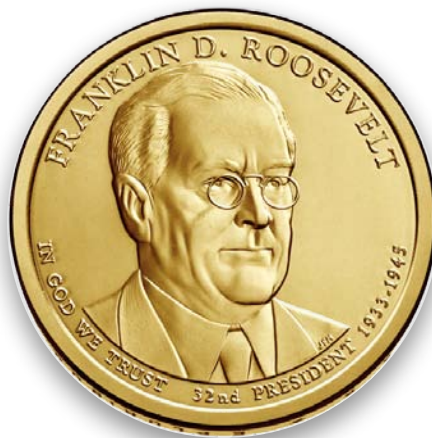
³ The Americans got into World War II late as well. They joined on December 7th, 1941 after a Japanese surprise attack on Hawaii. Once in, the US economy kicked into high gear and out-produced the Axis powers 2 to 1 by 1944. This was something that the Japanese knew and Hitler never understood; the fact that the American economy was more or less limitless once unleashed. Soon bombers, tanks and trucks along with armies were headed over to the theatres of war, and after a steep learning curve the Allies started to win and beat the Axis powers. Germany fell first; the Russians in the East broke them and the American lead armies in the West steamrolled over the remains. And then came Japan's turn; and with it the Atom Bomb, which ended things quickly in 1945, shortly after Roosevelt's death. Roosevelt understood that this war had destroyed the traditional European power structure and that the US could no longer afford to be isolationist. His "brain rust" saw that the only way the US could prevent from sliding back into the Depression was if they made the whole world a customer for US goods. They also understood that they would have to at least rebuild a large portion of Europe. The interesting thing was that Roosevelt and his people assumed they'd be helping bring the Soviet Union out of the dark ages; not their former enemies, the Germans.

started lining up support and people to go over to the occupied territories and start promoting American ideals. As it was in the early 30s, Roosevelt knew to hire a “brain trust” and get the best minds working on the problem. He was a great organizer and facilitator and knew how to motivate people and groups to do his bidding.

And then, months into his 4th term, he died. America all of a sudden was rudderless, and her Allies were worried; what would this all mean for the war effort now?

Roosevelt’s portrait on the coin doesn’t much look like him. He looks like the unpopular school-master that everyone hated; one wonders why the US mint didn’t go with the portrait used on the dime. That portrait at least looks like FDR and captures the essence of the man; alert and confident.

Harry S. Truman had a big problem. He knew he was way out of his league. He did the right thing though, he took the oath of office and swore to uphold the Constitution of the US all while knowing next to nothing about it. He was a haberdasher from Missouri; The “show me” state, and he needed to be shown what to do. But Truman was nothing if not stubborn and a quick study; by the time he went to Potsdam to meet up with Churchill and Stalin, he was pretty well informed of what was going on. He decided fairly early on he wasn’t about to let “Uncle Joe” Stalin eat his lunch. But Roosevelt and his people had left him a mediocre hand that he didn’t quite know how to play. He made up for it in the end by standing up to Soviet demands and instead of pulling everyone home again he left an army in Europe. He also recruited a brain trust, and sent ex-president Herbert Hoover over to Germany to figure out what to do about the



Franklin D. Roosevelt

Presidency: 1933–1945



Harry S. Truman

Presidency: 1945–1953

Germans and how to feed them. Hoover made a set of recommendations and started feeding the Germans. Truman then sent General George Marshall over to kick-start the rebuilding process and get the locals back on their own two feet as fast as possible. Considering how limited Truman’s viewpoint was a year prior, by 1946 he had a long range world view and a very good idea what was going on. He also managed to get himself re-elected in 1948, just barely, and then stewarded the US and the “free world” through some nasty events. First was the

Berlin Blockade, where the US successfully defended its right to remain in Berlin, and then the Korean War. The biggest thing about the Truman era was the fact that he ended as he had started; nothing was solved, he was at a disadvantage, and he still wasn’t well regarded or liked. But by holding his ground and establishing a few ground rules (such as the Truman Doctrine to contain the spread of Communism) he inevitably made the world a little safer for democracy.

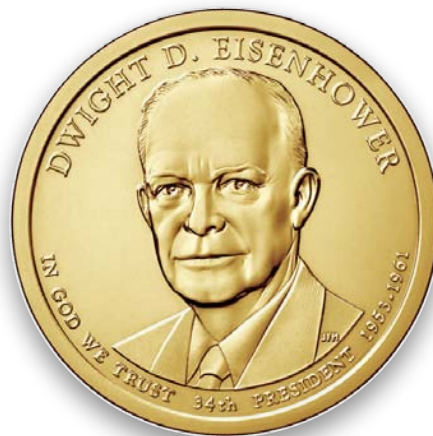
Harry Truman was followed by a wartime hero, Dwight Eisenhower. Eisenhower was a career general staff officer, he had served under Pershing, MacArthur and George Marshall. By the time World War II started, Eisenhower had never had a frontline command. This was something that did bother him, he felt that by 1940-41 that the army career he had sought would never happen and he would retire a Colonel and that was it. Needless to say, he was wrong. General Marshall trusted him for his cool demeanour, this was a man who was steady, methodical and far-sighted. Eisenhower soon whipped American troops into shape and unlike his predecessors, he learned and implemented with every setback. By the time the war was over, he was heralded as the architect of the Allied victory. This of course pained his rival, Montgomery of El-Alamein, who had front-line experience and had achieved some notable victories. Montgomery had a particular disdain for Eisenhower who he saw as being too plebeian and egalitarian plus totally inexperienced to do the job before him.

Eisenhower was already in everyone’s political radar in 1948, when Truman came up for his second term. Truman was worried that Ike would sign up for the Democrats, but in typical

Eisenhower fashion, Ike wouldn't declare allegiance to either party as long as he was part of the army. He had taken over from General Marshall who was now in the process of refinancing and rebuilding Western Europe. However, Ike wasn't finished with the army yet, so he refused to be "drafted" and stayed where he was. Most pundits saw this as Ike having missed his "finest hour", and he would soon be relegated to the also-rans of history. But Ike wasn't quite done yet, and again, fate intervened. First, there was the Korean War, and then afterwards, there was Nato, and this was after stabilizing and rebuilding Western Europe. He left his former mentor MacArthur alone in the east, feeling that there was no point in a competition that he would lose. By 1952 this had changed; he had retired from active duty and was the President of Columbia University. He was being pressured out by academics who felt his business and defense contacts weren't conducive to running a university. He decided to declare himself as part of the Republican Party, and ran against Adlai Stevenson whom he handily defeated.

Eisenhower's administration was considered very paternal in nature, while Truman's was considered reactive. Eisenhower arrived at a time when America needed a strong father figure to set the course straight and lay out the big plan for the US's new role in the world. His major accomplishments were ending the Korean War, and then not getting involved in another one. In doing so, he managed to keep the Soviet Union and Communism contained all while furthering American style democracy. He finally put the

isolationists down, and allowed American interests to go worldwide. Because of pressures in the House he was not able to contain McCarthyism, nor was he able to completely steer clear of scandal. His vice president, Richard Nixon, was rumoured to have some pretty shady money contacts and that should have precluded him from being Ike's running mate. Eisenhower, to his personal credit, didn't have much use for "Tricky Dick" Nixon; but he was able to deflect the spotlight away and keep his administration in the clear. Eisenhower was seen as a no-nonsense kind of person; the Russians knew exactly what



Dwight D. Eisenhower
Presidency: 1953–1961

to expect. Ike had learned a lot about them during the Second World War, and he wasn't about to let them get away with the same stunts twice. After Stalin died, he welcomed the new regime; but served notice that he wasn't about to accept any crap and drew the line in the Suez and in Vietnam. The new Soviet chief, Nikita Khrushchev, decided that he could live with it and backed off.

Eisenhower also started a huge infrastructure program in the US designed to get people moving and shorten the times required to move from one end of the country to another. He had been impressed by the one good thing the Nazi regime in Germany had accomplished, the Autobahn system. He understood how it served to guarantee the military quick movement from one side of the country to the next. The problem was how to do that in a country the size of the United States. In Germany, it was easier, the whole country was about the size of central and southern Alberta and had a huge population density which made moving labour and equipment easier. It did not stretch across 4 time zones and numerous climate zones like the US does. Eisenhower also extended the GI Bill, which allowed for thousands of ex-servicemen to obtain an education and re-integrate into society. The timing of all these moves coincided with the beginning of the most prosperous economic period the US had ever experienced. People living in the US seemed to have everything; money, jobs, the ability to go anywhere and a free system. What was not appreciated though, was the fact that this lifestyle only suited a certain class of people, and that all the minorities in the US could not and were not expected to partake. This was still a time where Sammy Davis Jr. had to enter a Los Vegas casino he was slated to play at through the back door and he was not permitted to stay there, he had to go to the black area across the tracks after his show.⁴ Eisenhower lorded over a society rich with money and power, and as a result, could do no

⁴ As late as the 1960s, people of colour generally were not permitted on the "Strip" unless they were employed there. This only started to change after Frank Sinatra put up a fuss when he heard that Sammy Davis had to come in the back door and wasn't permitted to have a drink with him in the hotel they were both playing at. The hotel, upon evaluating how much money losing the both of them would cost, acquiesced and grudgingly permitted Davis to stay.

wrong. To this day subsequent presidents have all promised a return to these stable, "white bread and picket fence" times.

Eisenhower won two terms and would have easily won a third, were it not for the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution which now prohibited a president from running for a third term. So he helped set up Richard Nixon as his successor, and then promptly left him to hang and lose the election in 1960.

The artwork on Eisenhower's coin is pretty uninspired, like he

and the whole era was. Boring, comfortable and safe...just like living at home.

Eisenhower could see where it was all heading though, and he warned the nation of letting the "industrial military complex" have too much control over the destiny of the country. He warned of this in his farewell address to the country as he turned over power to his successor, the youthful John F. Kennedy. By the time Ike made this speech, nobody was listening. It was the Dawn of Camelot; a new era, a modern one, one which

promised new technologies and prosperity for all.

Now we're heading into the modern era...things really get interesting from here on in. The US is beginning to parallel Gibbon's "The Fall of the Roman Empire"; we're now getting into the modern equivalent to Gibbon's 3rd century section when morals and civility started to decay and shift.

I'll finish this off in part three, I promise... 

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

Answer to the Puzzle Page
 from the April 2017 issue of
THE PLANCHET:

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

Adams	Grant	Lincoln	Roosevelt
Arthur	Harding	Madison	Taft
Buchanan	Harrison	McKinley	Taylor
Coolidge	Hayes	Monroe	Truman
Eisenhower	Hoover	Nixon	Tyler
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