

The **PLANCHET**

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Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 65 · Issue 4



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June 2018

RCNA
Best Local Club
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2015

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The **PLANCHET**

Volume 65 · Issue 4

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A Penny's Worth by Marc Bink

The Planchet Team

Editor-In-Chief

Joe Kennedy

Co-Editors

Wayne Hansen

Marc Bink

Pierre Driessen

Henry Nagtegaal

Content Editor

Chris Hale

On-Line Distribution

Pierre Driessen

Printing and Mailing

Howard Gilbey

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

June, 2018

So it seems summer is finally upon us.

After this past winter, it's about time. Finally we can get outside and get some things done in the warm sunny weather.

The first of these things is the club BBQ. This year Mirko Dumanovic has agreed to host it. It's going to be a bit earlier than usual this year, on Saturday, June 9th. As is the usual custom, please bring your own chairs, beverages and a plate of something for the potluck. It promises to be a good time, and hopefully the weather holds. We will be holding an Executive Meeting prior to the BBQ at 1:30.

Otherwise, there isn't much going on. We're heading into our summer break, and most of

you I'm sure have made plans to be places and doing things. Hopefully some of these things involve coins and upgrading or building your collection. As for myself, I just hope I can take things easy and relax a bit, the fall season comes up way too quickly as it is.

So without much further ado, enjoy this month's Planchet, Joe has quite an interesting issue cooked up for us. This is the last issue for the season; the Planchet resumes again in September. That should hopefully give me some time to come up with another article... Speaking of cooking, I hope to see you at the BBQ and again in September at the Pizza night!

I'd like to wish you all a happy and safe summer! ☺



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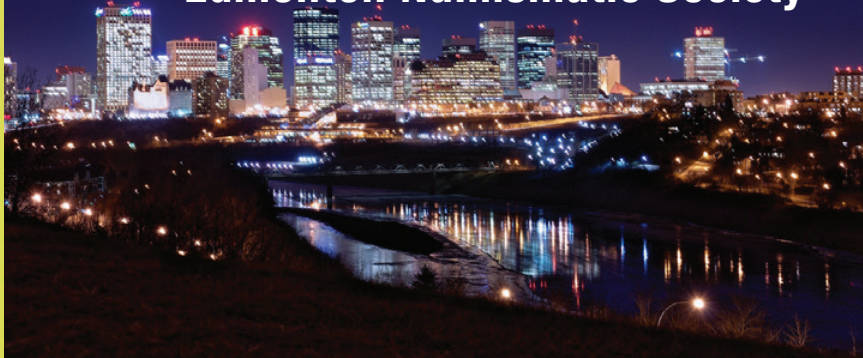
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Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018

Location: To be announced

Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm

- ENS Society Matters
- Show and tell: bring your recent finds to share
- Silent auction
- Presentation
- Refreshments: coffee, tea, pop and cookies
- Door prize draws

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

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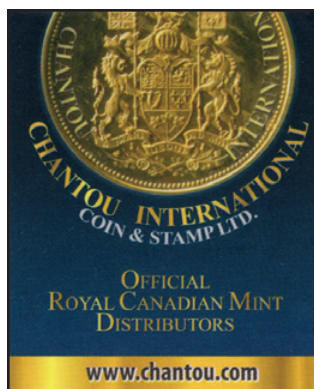
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About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

May 9, 2018 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:16 hrs and welcomed the 42 members in attendance.

Club Matters

Joe Kennedy and Henry Nagtegaal were praised for publishing another great issue of The Planchet.

Mirko Dumanovic volunteered to host the annual ENS BBQ this year. It will be held on Saturday June 9. As in previous years, those attending will have to bring their own chairs and beverages.

The Executive should have something to report at the June 13 meeting about where the ENS will host monthly meetings, commencing in September 2018.

It was announced that Howard Gilbey will once again be the ENS club delegate at the 2018 RCNA Convention, which will be held in Mississauga, Ontario from August 7 – 11.

Upcoming Executive Meeting

The ENS Executive will be meeting on June 9 at 13:30 hrs at Mirko Dumanovic's residence.

Show and Tell

Items circulated for Show & Tell included:

- A 1950 silver dollar along with a collection of business strike nickel dollars with cameos.
- Two 1934 series \$5 Imperial bank notes.
- 1938 and 1939 high grade 50 cent coins.

Presentation

Wayne Hansen gave a presentation called "Strange Things on Greek Coins".

Conclusion

The door prizes were drawn, the silent auction lots were sold and the meeting was adjourned at 20:52 hrs. ☹️



2018–19 Executive

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Pierre Driessen – **Treasurer**

Mitch Goudreau – **Secretary**

Joe Kennedy – **Editor-In-Chief**

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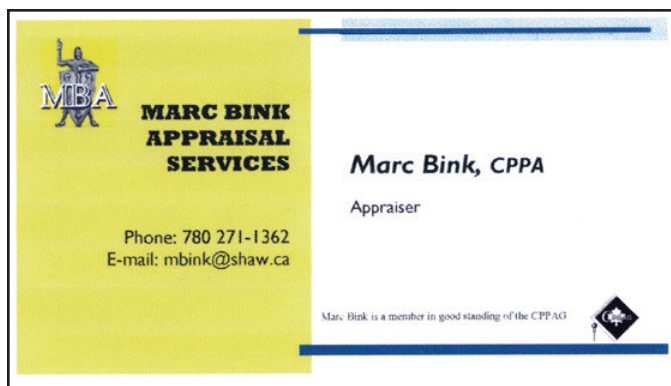
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Coming Events

September 1: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 5.

September 12: ENS Meeting; 7:15 pm start.

September 21: Issue 5 of the 2018 PLANCHET

October 10: ENS Meeting; 7:15 pm start.

October 12: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 6.

November 2: Issue 6 of the 2018 PLANCHET

November 10 & 11: ENS Fall 2018 Coin Show

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

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Greg and Tracy

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A Denarius of Galba

by **Terence Cheesman**



Last fall, a fairly important collection of the coinage of the Roman emperor Galba appeared in the marketplace. Though by no means complete, the collection had a very nice run of denarii of that emperor. Since the examples of Galba's coinage in my collection were not that nice, I decided to use the opportunity to pick up one or more new ones. I was successful in getting only one. Galba became emperor after the death of Nero in 68 A.D. Nero was widely unpopular with many segments of society and in March of 68 A.D., a Romanized Gaul named Gaius Vindex rose in rebellion. The reasons for this rebellion are many, but discontent over the tax policies of Nero was the prime motivator. Vindex not only didn't have an army, some of the most powerful units in the Roman army were stationed close by. Vindex tried to offset this discrepancy by calling on Galba who was governor of Spain to join the rebellion. Galba dithered, and the Roman legions marched in and destroyed Vindex's ragtag forces sometime in May. Here is where the whole thing should of ended, but...

Even though up to this point Galba did nothing, this did not stop Nero from declaring him a traitor and marking him down for what would be no doubt a very painful execution. However, after the Roman army defeated Vindex, they tried to acclaim their commander as emperor. Even though he refused, this really did not bode well for Nero's future. A number of other generals now declared for Galba, and armed with this support, he then marched on Rome. In June 68 A.D., Nero committed suicide, and Galba now effectively became emperor. It was at this point he began striking coins from the mint of Rome.


As noted above, my coin is a silver denarius. The obverse legend is IMP. SEV. GALBA CAESAR AVG. In full this would be IMPERATOR SERVIUS GALBA CAESAR AUGUSTUS. Roughly translated, the legend would read, "The victorious army commander Severius Galba heir to Julius Caesar and the revered (Octavian-Augustus)". The portrait of Galba on this denarius is quite remarkable. To understand its visual impact, we first have to examine the coin portraits of his predecessor Nero. Nero was the last of the Julio-Claudian emperors, the ruling dynasty that had governed the empire for about the last one hundred years. Nero was about sixteen when he became emperor and died some 13 years later. His later portraits show a heavy set man with a double chin and with hair arranged in the latest fashion copied from the extravagant hairstyle adopted by charioteers. Thus his image is modern, flashy and would appeal to a similar group who would today admire and try to emulate the look of rock stars, movie actors and other such celebrities. Galba is totally different. The portrait of Galba reproduces his features with

great fidelity. He has a strong, aquiline nose, a strong jutting jaw and pursed lips. The skin on the face is tight to the skull with very little fleshiness evident and the hair is depicted cut very short in copying current military fashion. Despite his age, Galba is depicted as a vigorous military commander. His portrait defies not only the conventions established by Nero, it actually defies the conventions set up by the entire Julio-Claudian dynasty and is very reminiscent of some of the coin portraits from the late Roman republic.

The reverse legend is ROMA RENASC. In full this would read ROMA RENASCERIS. Roughly translated this would mean, "Rome is renewed or revived". The image of Roma is depicted helmeted, advancing right holding Victory in her right hand and a transverse spear, pointing downward, in her left. The message that this image is trying to convey is, that under Galba, the Roman state, which had endured the chaotic rule of Nero, has been returned to proper government. What is less clear is exactly what else is implied. As noted above, the image of Galba owes more to the portraiture of the late republic than it does of the Julio-Claudian dynasty. Every emperor after Augustus emphasised his often-tenuous connection through blood or marriage to him. Galba could not even attempt to do so because by the time he became emperor, there simply was no one left alive that could claim a blood connection with Augustus. Galba had to chart a new course. He had to establish a new foundation for his legitimacy. The imagery on this coin was one facet of the propaganda effort to create this goal.

This experiment was short lived. As emperor he was indolent and apathetic. He allowed himself to be dominated by his favorites

and in the spirit of austerity, refused to pay the Praetorian Guard the reward promised to them in his name (a really bad idea). Given this toxic situation, it was not surprising that on January 15, 69 A.D. he was attacked and killed by a unit of discontented Praetorians. The Roman historian Tacitus rather succinctly summed up his career as emperor, "All pronounced him worthy of the empire until he became emperor." Three other men tried to grapple with the chaos created by the death of Nero. Two more would die within the year. The last one Vespasian, survived long enough to create a second imperial dynasty. ☒



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Out of Africa

A Horned Apollo Didrachm of Kyrene

by **Wayne Hansen**



Head of Apollo Karneios

Obverse of Kyrene Didrachm (308–305 BC)

There are precious few places that a ‘Greek’ collector can go to get away from it all, aside from the usual tawdry happy-hour bars, nose-to-toes spas and pachinko parlors of course. For relief, one must look to the fringes of the ancient Greek world, including Black Sea cities and Far Eastern kingdoms, plus Celtic and other tribal entities. I have already written about some of these places because they are different. There is another area, however, that is even more overlooked, since it was in the middle of nowhere. Midway along the northern coast of Africa, between Carthage to the west and Egypt to the east, was the Greek city of Kyrene, now in northeastern Libya. While both Carthage and Egypt were adjacent to major economic and cultural centers in classical times, Kyrene was partially inland and quite isolated, with only the sparsely populated southern areas of Crete across a stretch of the Mediterranean. Nonetheless, Kyrene does provide some surprises for the coin-weary, morosely curious, ancient history buff.

Coins of Kyrene don't show up very often. They stand out, partly because their obverse/reverse dies present us with unusual numismatic designs, and because ...they don't show up very often. Actually, they are usually quite pleasant in appearance, even though they can also be poorly struck and not well preserved. The early, archaic and classically

styled tetradrachms are rare, incorporating simple plant designs and a rustic Zeus portrait. Later coins include the rare gold staters and the more prevalent silver didrachms, the latter with an unusual horned Apollo portrait in place of Zeus. I happened to see one of these Apollo types at a dealer's table in San Francisco, which kind of startled

me because I didn't expect it. I was at a disadvantage on the price since I was a bit dazzled, and since coin shows always reduce your access to references and previous sold info. I should have concentrated on noticing the coin's faults. Still, the didrachm was interesting, and it did look nice in hand. More on the coin later.



Kyrenaica and Silphium

The region of Kyrenaica was originally occupied by a few tribes, including the Libu, before Greeks took an interest in the 7th century BC. Greeks established settlements mostly along the western coast, where the five main outposts were together called the Pentapolis (a term sometimes used for the whole western district). Kyrene was the most important of these five western cities. On the other hand, the less desirable eastern part of Kyrenaica, also called Marmarica, did not contain any major cities because of local conditions.

Colonists from the island of Thera (now called Santorini) founded Kyrene circa 631 BC, after they were forced out by a great famine. The city was named after the local spring, Kyre, which was dedicated to the god Apollo. Persian forces overran the entire Pentapolis, including Kyrene, after they conquered Egypt in 525 BC. Alexander the Great did the same in 332 BC, with Ptolemy I of Egypt later annexing it as part of the Ptolemaic Kingdom. In 96 BC, remnants of the Ptolemaic Dynasty bequeathed it to the Roman Republic.

Kyrene was situated within the productive northern zone of Kyrenaica, where a variety of

agricultural products such as barley, wheat, olive oil, wine, figs, sheep and cattle were farmed. The city also became the main export center for a herbal plant called silphium, or silphion, which was renowned in antiquity as a seasoning, a medicinal cure and an aphrodisiac. The active ingredients came from the juice and roots, while the stock was used for either food or fodder. The plant was important enough that the Minoans and Egyptians apparently created a separate glyph to represent it (mind you, the glyphs could also represent the folly of spending your life savings to buy a few scraggly silphium starter plants from a Kyrenian get-rich-quick-scheme con artist – beware the tulip craze – we will never know).

The silphium/silphion plants seen on Kyrene's coins are little understood. There is a disputed notion that the plant may be related to a couple of similar existing species of fennel plant from the genus *Ferula*, but the coin type is, almost certainly, an extinct giant fennel from that genus. The plants reportedly grew in a coastal region 125 miles by 35 miles in area, either entirely in the wild or both wild and cultivated. The Kyrenaicans thought they were a gift from Apollo. They probably became extinct from

overgrazing or over harvesting, although the effect of a drying climate may have also played a role – consider the advance of the Sahara to the south. In its market heyday, silphium products were shipped to many areas of the Mediterranean, although they were particularly prized by the Romans. We are comforted to know, according to Pliny, that the last stalk of silphium found in Kyrenaica was presented to Nero 'as a curiosity' in the 1st century AD. With the loss of exports, and with devastating earthquakes, the city was abandoned in the 4th century AD.

Kyrene had earlier become wealthy enough from silphium exports to support several advanced educational, intellectual and artistic institutions. The city also constructed many nicely designed and detailed Greek Hellenistic buildings to accommodate its civic requirements. Its progressive school of thinkers and philosophers promoted 'moral cheerfulness' where happiness amounted to 'the sum of human pleasures'. I assume that, even then, collecting musty old coins would not have added any amount of pleasure to one's overall happiness scale. Frustration scale, maybe. Poverty scale, for sure.

Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of Kyrene



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Figure 2 – Views of Ancient Kyrene Site



Figure 2 – These are the ruins of Kyrene, located several kilometers inland from the North African coast. The bottom photos are of the city's two main centers of worship – the Temple of Zeus (left) and the Temple of Apollo (right).

Kyrene Coinage

Judging by its coins, the Greek inhabitants of Kyrene worshipped both Zeus, in the guise of Zeus Ammon, and Apollo, known as Apollo Karneios. A substantial temple was built and dedicated to each of them as a civic incarnation (see Figure 2) – places where their specific attributes would have been tapped to benefit the city. Their coin images were adorned with the curled horn of Ammon – Kyrene was the only place where this happened. Ammon was the chief god of the region, a combination of Amun-Ra, the main god of Egyptian Thebes, and the cultish tribal god of local tribes. Since this new conflated god was supreme, the Greeks equated him to Zeus and were somewhat successful in exporting the cult back to parts of the Greek mainland, including Sparta. Ammon was an oracular god who resided at the sacred oasis of Siwa in Kyrenaica. That is where Alexander the Great went to be deified, and where he also secured the horn of Ammon for his Lysimachos portraits.



Kyrene's earliest coins were crude and archaic, beginning circa 500-490 BC in the Persian era. They were lumpy tetradrachms focused almost entirely on the silphium plant and its seed pods, although one coin also showed an incuse gorgon head and one incorporated two flanking dolphins. Silphium was so important to the city's economy it had become a civic badge. By 480 BC, the head of Zeus Ammon also appeared on the reverse, and it was issued in both tetradrachm and drachm denominations (with hemi-drachm variants). Similar, but rare, tetradrachms were issued sporadically down to the late 400's and early 300's.

The later issues only materialized when Alexander occupied the area, and then when Ptolemy took control. After 331 BC, some unique versions of Kyrene gold staters were issued, with artistic Nike/quadrigea obverses and a standing Zeus, followed by gold hemi-staters issued after 322 BC showing silphium plants plus other devices. Ptolemy began striking more varieties of the city's gold and silver coins towards the time he named himself King of Egypt in 305 BC. The city struck a lengthy series of its main silver didrachms, with many die variations, starting around 308 BC and continuing to the middle of the next century. They all featured the Apollo Karneios obverse and a full silphium plant profile on the reverse, however the portrait style, portrait facing direction, civic legend details and monograms changed throughout. Later Ptolemies struck occasional small to gigantic bronzes in Kyrene, based on Egyptian Ptolemaic bronze motifs.

Featured Didrachm

Silver didrachms from the late 4th century BC are the most numerous coins in the Kyrene series, but they are not very common. They were issued during the Ptolemaic annexation period, that is, after the Alexandrian takeovers discussed above. The coins are called didrachms, rather than the more generic staters, because the city had also issued earlier attic tetradrachms (much like the Hekatomnid dynasts, Maussollos and Pixodaros, before 350 BC). The Apollo/silphium types are standard for the didrachms. The first four letters of the city

name, K-Y-R-A, are provided on the coin's reverse to confirm attribution, while a cornucopia has been added to the reverse field, either as a symbol of its specific issue sequence, or as a reference to the bounty/prosperity of the city. This reverse die has an unusual arrangement of the civic letters, showing them entirely separate from each other in four quadrants. The anatomy of the silphium plant shows up quite well, which is interesting. Its fleshy leaves/branches are sensuously curved, in contrast to the four rigidly straight, seed-like stalks emerging from the

branch bases. The fluted trunk of the plant always reminds me of celery.

The horned Apollo of Kyrene would have embodied Apollo's usual attributes as the god of the sun, light, music, healing, poetry, truth and prophesy. He was the son of Zeus and the sister of the goddess Artemis. Along with his role as purveyor of medicine and healing, he was also seen as the protector of colonists, so he would have fit in well with Kyrene and its silphium industry.

Figure 3 – Featured Kyrene Didrachm



Didrachm of Kyrene – 308–305 BC

Obv: Youthful head of Apollo Karneios fitted with horn of Ammon.

Rev: Silphium plant with fluted stalk, 3 tiers of leaves and flower ball on top; cornucopia symbol; K–Y over P–A (K–Y over R–A).

Data: 7.61g, 19.0 x 18.2mm, 6h. Mint: Kyrene, Kyrenaika, North Africa.

Reference: SNG Copenhagen 1234; BMC 230-31.

Acquired: PBJI Coins, May 2013.

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

Figure 3 – This is one of those easily recognized coins based on its mid-size, style, young horned Apollo head and droopy, branched plant. Its condition is reasonable for this type. Its tight flan doesn't allow a full appreciation of the images on either side, but at least both sides are nicely centered. Similar issues after 300 BC tend to have a bit more generous flan, more monograms or symbols and sometimes a finer style of portrait. Still, Apollo's horn draws attention to his tousled hair and earnest, uplifted face. The silphium plant shown here is reasonably detailed, giving us a good idea of its captivating characteristics – captivating enough to cause its demise. The two lower letters of the coin's reverse legend are partially off the flan, common to this issue although later dies attempted to correct the problem by keeping all the letters closer together near the center.

Figure 4 – Other Kyrene Examples



Early Kyrene Issues (circa 500-375 BC)

Row 1: Tetradrachm 16.99g; Hemidrachm 1.72g.

Row 2: Tetradrachm 16.35g; Drachm 2.74g.

Row 3: Tetradrachm 13.08g; Tetradrachm 13.25g.



Later Kyrene Issues (circa 331-290 BC)

Row 1: Stater 8.68g; Drachm 4.31g; Stater 8.56g

Row 2: Hemidrachm 2.14g; Didrachm 7.59g; 1/10 Stater 0.85g.

Figure 4 – Here are a few coins issued by Kyrene, with the earlier group struck during its Persian interlude and the later ones struck during its Macedonian/Ptolemaic occupation. There were a few other gold issues and even some bronze coins with more Ptolemaic designs that are

not shown - these are generally from a later period and even into the 2nd century BC. The early coins are fascinating for their boldness, while the later ones can be quite evocative. They owe a lot to the uniqueness of their images, where horned deities and the silphium profile are used.

In Closing...

It's always good to improve the diversity of your collection by adding new coin types. In this case, I added a unique variation of an Apollo portrait and a strange plant. That the plant had to become extinct to make

it more interesting, is a minor detail, a mere quibble in the art of assembling a collection. That the coin is from Kyrene adds even more to the mix since Kyrene is a more than usually exotic North African mint.

Now, if we can only find a way to make 'Promotion of Extinct North African Plants on Greek Coins' a tax-deductible activity, we will have done something truly useful. ☒



Quotes on Remote/Isolated (Kyrene)

What I discovered all over Ireland is that people living simple lives by the sea or in the remote countryside seem a lot calmer than city folk with their iPads and their Android phones.

– James Nesbitt

There's a very go-to kind of attitude in New Zealand that stems from that psyche of being quite isolated and not being able to rely on the rest of the world's infrastructure.

– Peter Jackson

I was from a tiny little island, which I always say is one corn field away from a horror film: it was, like, isolated, and everybody knew everybody, and you go to school with the grandkids of the grandparents that your grandparents went to school with.

– Dove Cameron

Quotes on Extinction (of Silphium)

Extinction is the rule. Survival is the exception.

– Carl Sagan

In the history of the world, all five mass extinctions have been accompanied by massive climate change, so we are facing an incredibly serious threat. In fact, we are technically in the sixth mass extinction right now, and it is the first mass extinction being attributed to humans.

– Cameron Russell

Nature doesn't need people – people need nature; nature would survive the extinction of the human being and go on just fine, but human culture, human beings, cannot survive without nature.

– Harrison Ford

Though it might be nice to imagine there once was a time when man lived in harmony with nature, it's not clear that he ever really did.

– Elizabeth Kolbert

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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 Small 2	12.92	22.27	38.42	72.38	98.33	124.28	150.23	176.17	237.69	360.74	552.29	935.39
1872H Large 2	14.53	25.06	43.22	77.81	104.82	131.84	158.85	185.86	250.77	380.58	573.31	958.78
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	21.76	40.41	68.38	136.77	188.05	239.34	290.63	341.91	445.52	652.74	859.96	1,274
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 0	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 0	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	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

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
Note: A total of 960 25¢ pieces were issued to "Sundry Persons" (*NOT a numismatic reference)												
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



DTS AVERAGE • 25¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

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
Note: The Numismatic Section began Annual (Yearly) production of Uncirculated Coin Sets.												
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
Note: The Numismatic Section Facility was expanded due to increased demand for Uncirculated Coin Sets.												
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



David Peter Coins

Canadian Personal Property Appraiser

P.O. Box 4511
Edmonton, AB
T6E 4T7

780-995-8199

worldcoin@gmail.com

J & T Numismatics

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hondijack@yahoo.ca
403-922-7123

Tom
tomthecarpenter@live.ca
403-891-1545



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Pound Foolish and Penny Wise

A Treatise on Ancient Numismatic Books

by Marc Bink



We live in a technologically highly advanced but disposable society. Sure; there's more than enough information everywhere. Everyone is either glued to a computer screen or a phone; no one is required to memorize anything anymore, just ask Google or Siri who seems to know everything. We are becoming more and more reliant on these little machines. Everywhere you look, there's something that's "Smart" or hooked up online, learning, storing and processing information. But we now live in a world where the public record is actually diminishing rather than increasing. Surprising as it seems, computers and the internet have actually decreased the public record rather than added to it. This is especially true of old books, and with the advent of Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies one can only assume that the demise of cash money is not too far behind. This doesn't bode well for our hobby in the future.

What I mean by the term “public record” is the evidence or detritus our society leaves behind that more or less explains how and why we lived. The Greeks left behind coins, architectural monuments and pottery, the Romans did the same and left scrolls and graffiti everywhere. The medieval period left behind more of the same, as well as books, handwritten and elaborately illustrated, as did the early modern era. Its part of the reason many of us become coin collectors; it’s a chance to go back into history and actually have something from that period.

As technology increased in the 20th century, the number of things left behind started to decrease. As our housing, furnishings and other odds and ends became cheaper and more affordable, the less it was destined to last, and the odds that it would last even 100 years becomes an issue. In our grandparent’s day they left photos, books, diaries and personal items like watches that were built to last. Sure, nowadays we have digital cameras which take moving pictures and are far easier and better than the old things were, but do they last more than 2 battery life-cycles,

and what happens when the storage method is no longer supported or goes obsolete? How many 8-tracks or Super 8 films do you have that are still taking up space, utterly useless because there’s no way to unlock the data on them?

It’s pretty bad that our society’s public record will largely consist of a landfill. Future generations will marvel at the amounts of junk we generated and how much we threw away. Future generations of archeologists will assume we did nothing but pay out money for stuff that lasted only a few minutes or for a single



Stephen Leake book

Written in 1726, this is considered his definitive work. He at least kept the coins depicted in the plates close to the real size. I’ve placed a couple of real coins opposite to the plates, you can see that in many cases, the depictions are fairly accurate and to scale.

purpose and then discarded; they'll assume we spent most of our time throwing stuff away. They'll also assume that we were either incredibly gullible or very accepting of mediocrity and shoddy goods because everything thrown out is more or less pristine. And then there's all of the old electronics; they'll stare at those empty black screens and be completely unable to get anything working because the system that drove them is completely unsupported, and the electronics so badly built, they would need to be completely re-engineered in order to run. And with no CD backups anymore,

most software will have to be redeveloped from scratch because it was all downloaded to begin with. Oh yes, we're really advanced as a society. And if it all goes to pieces in the future, no one would ever know it 1000 years from now. They will probably assume that the world ended in around 1990, when photographic film started to disappear.

And even as far as coinage goes, what do we have now that actually explains what we are as a society? They've even cheapened that and made it disposable. No circulating coinage

actually has an intrinsic value anymore, large denominations that were once made out of gold are now banknotes made out of plastic. None of this stuff is going to end up on the public record, it too has been rendered disposable.

I have to concede one thing; I'm right up there when it comes to being reliant on the smart phone. I carry the thing around constantly and more than once I've used Google or Wikipedia to prove a point or look some obscure fact up. But I also admit, I'm also still a dinosaur. I love old books.



Stephen Leake book

Another page from the Stephen Leake reference book (1726).

It is rare when one can combine hobbies. But I am able to do just that. Yes, I collect coins, and I enjoy researching the history behind them. So I'm constantly seen with my nose in some book somewhere. If you were to look at the library in my house, you'd realise why it is that I will never ever be rich. I have a history library that rivals anything in any public library. I love books; unfortunately once they're bought and paid for, they tend to be next to worthless and once the book is more than 20 years old, it tends to be considered an old resource and not worth much except as a bird cage liner. There's no real used market for old history books as there are for pulp novels. So here they all are, holding the floor in the bonus room down.

I'm like that eccentric old professor you see in the movies; my office is surrounded by stacks and stacks of reference material on a variety of topics. Whatever it is with regards to collectibles or history, chances are I've got a book on that. I'm all about the public record thing.

My money is tied up in old things. My wife somehow puts up with the fact that I spend copious amounts of money that might be better served as our potential retirement income on stuff that others have tossed out or replaced with something newer generations ago. It's got to be a sickness. At first it started rather benignly with old coins; they didn't cost that much or take up much space. Then it went to old cameras, watches and clocks, toss in a couple dozen old cars and now she's pretty much at wit's end. Good thing I never got into old furniture, I think that would pretty much drive her over the edge...so now what else?

So it probably came as no surprise that I started getting into really old books. It started as a lark; I was on an eBay mission one night, trying to find the oldest coin book I could find. I assumed (incorrectly, as it turned out) that old coin books would be completely worthless and unwanted, meaning an opportunity to kill a few easy hours on eBay. The first volume I came up with was "An Essay on Medals" by John Pinkerton.¹ It was published in 1789. I managed to get a rebound copy of volume 1 and it was cheap. As usual, it was inevitably just a teaser; the old "be careful what you wish for" sort of thing and more reinforcement that I had absolutely no clue as to what I was doing. The copy I have was rebound in the early 20th century, and it desperately needed a volume 2 to make it complete. It took me another two years before I was able to find one, and it cost me double of what the volume 1 did. It was a wreck; the text block and the plates were all ok and in good shape, it has the original covers, but some moron duct-taped the spine once the original one fell off. But now I have the set, and that's the important thing. So now in order to make them a matching set again, I'll have to get both of them rebound. I'm thinking of doing this, I just have to find someone who'll be able to re-bind them in a period correct material and look without charging a king's ransom for them. In the end, it might be worth my while to find a better set of them in original binding as opposed to getting these two rebuilt – lesson learned at considerable expense (again).

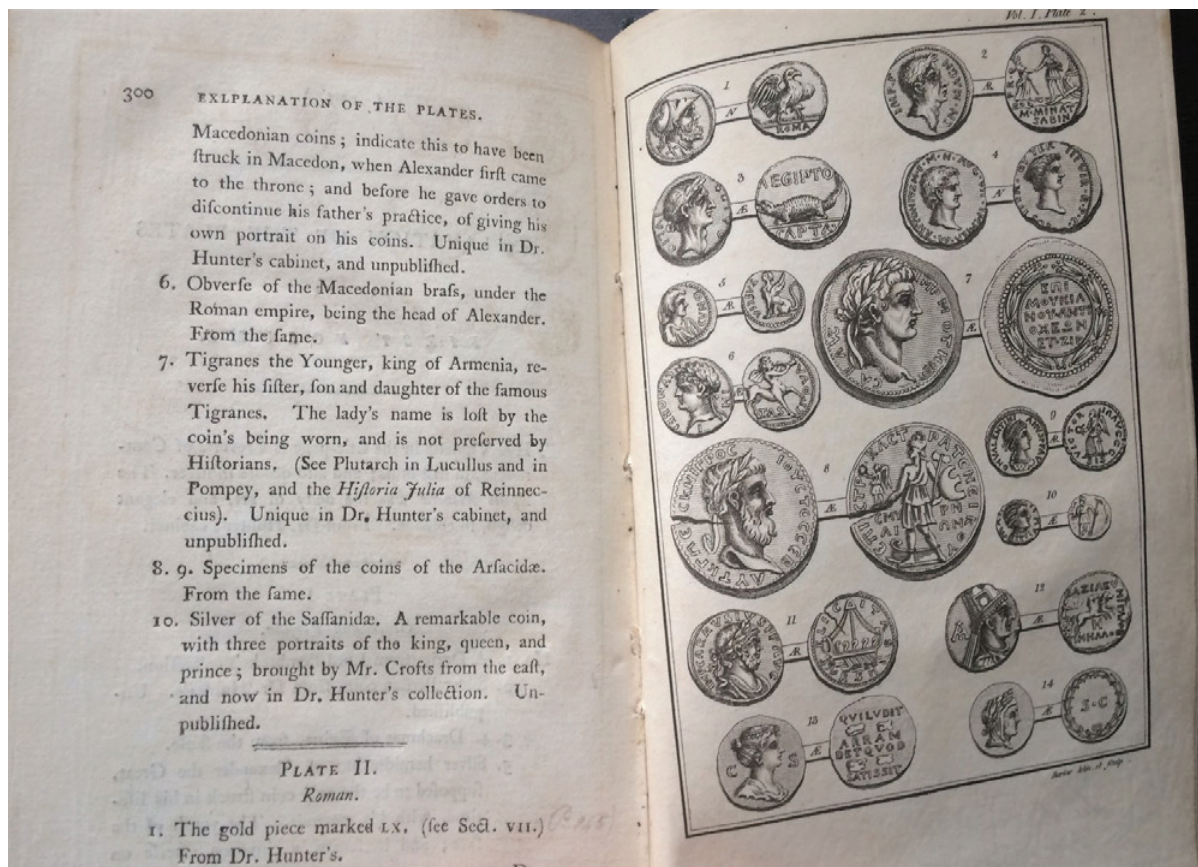
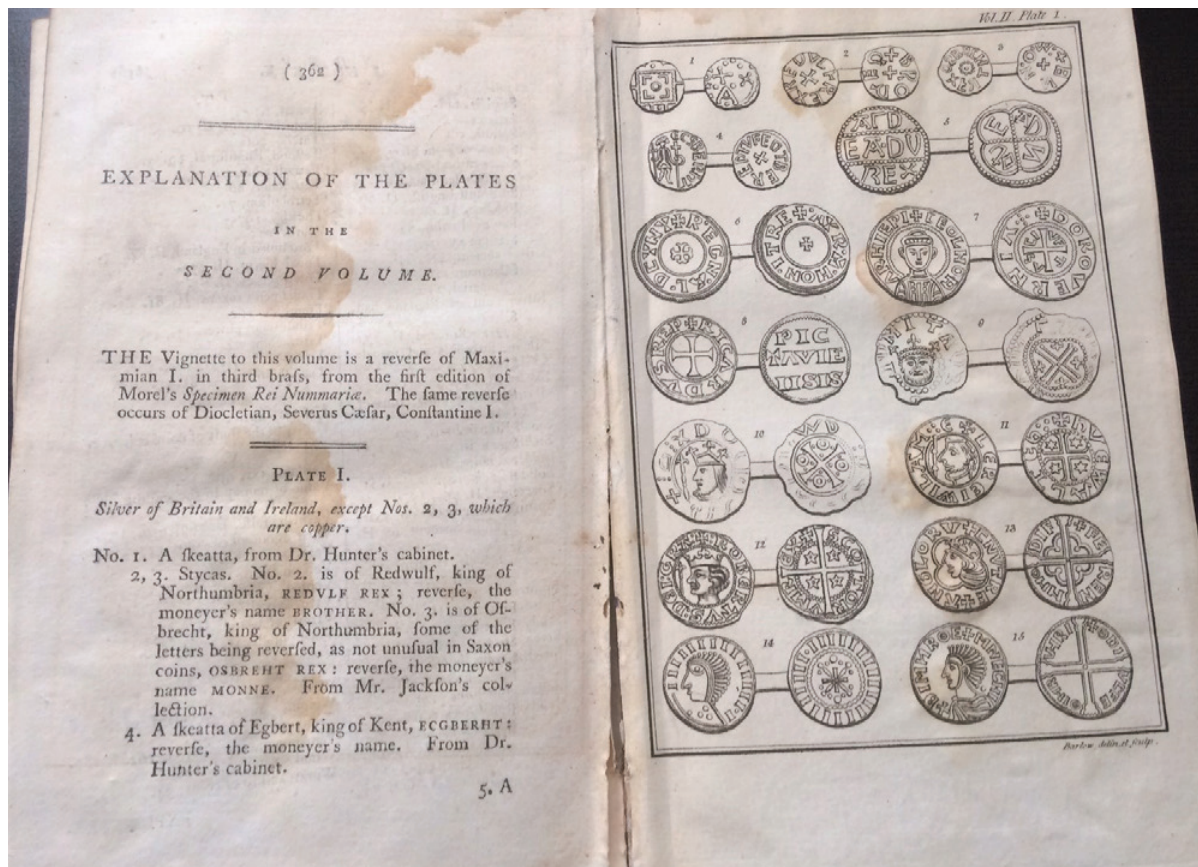
But that was the start. Soon I was pouring through old books, and not necessarily just coin books. General history, military

history, travel and exploration, reference, you name it, I was looking at all of it. Of course, some made it home, others didn't. Pretty soon I'd amassed a fair size collection of antique coin books as well as a number on other subjects that were all printed prior to 1850. I'd learned a lot as well; what not to buy as well as what's good and what isn't. I've got a lot of both now and as usual, it's been an expensive education.

My cut-off point is 1850; the reason for that is paper quality. Odds are that a reference book printed prior to 1850 still has good rag paper in it is pretty good, one printed afterwards is usually wood pulp. Books printed in the US after 1840 just about all seem to be made from pulp, so a collector has to be watching for "foxing" (discolouring and staining of the paper) and brittleness indicating that the book is disintegrating. I've unfortunately got a few of these, and it may well be I may be the last owner because in 20 years the book will have turned to dust. I also endeavor to buy a complete set if there is more than one volume, the likelihood of ever seeing the missing books is slim to none. I have a couple of incomplete sets that ended up coming to me cheap but they were for a good reason, I'll never be able to complete the set and the seller already knew that.

It's also best to try and collect them in original binding. Books are a lot like coins; condition, patina and originality is everything. Impaired copies of anything are just that, impaired and an expensive fix. I'm not sure if I want to learn how to bind books, but I might have to. I have a lot of good books that are suffering from advanced old age and lack

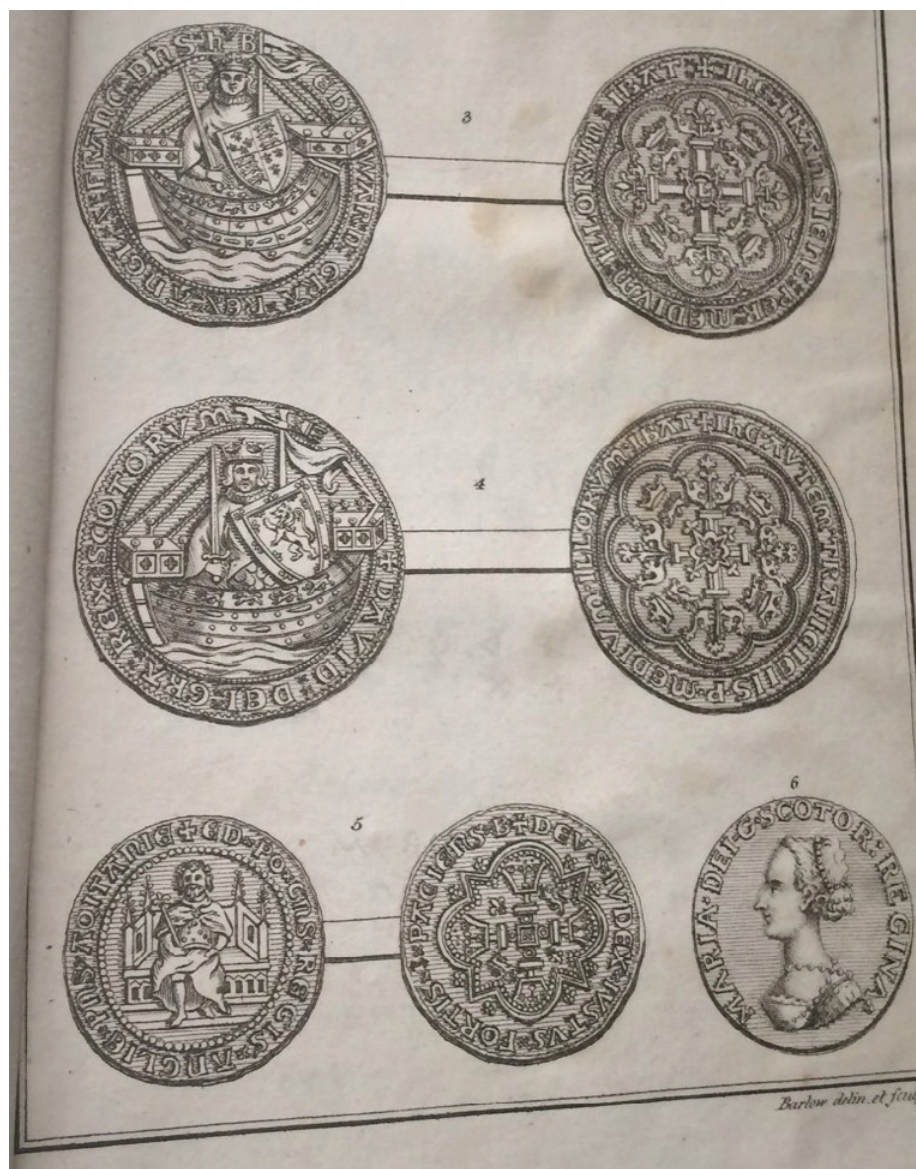
¹ John Pinkerton, 1758-1826, Scottish antiquarian, numismatist and cartographer.



Pinkerton book spreads
Did any of these ancients actually exist?

of care. Preservation is what we all strive to achieve, be it in coins or old paper products. Try and buy the best you can afford. "Repaired" books are just like holed coins that have been plugged; it's a silk purse made from a sow's ear. It's not a big deal if the book is purely for reference, but if you're collecting and you come across a Melancthon printed in Wittenberg in 1570 that's got detached boards and missing a few pages but has been "expertly repaired" and repaginated, it might look like a great deal but I'd avoid it. You'll always regret laying out the big money on something that you will inevitably have to explain. It's like buying a plugged 1945 dollar in VG that has been polished, sure it's rare, but...

"Known" authors and some subject matter will fetch more interest and more money than more generic stuff. Unless you really want to collect famous authors and "first editions", stay away from anything written by Newton, Cook, or anyone very famous. It'll invariably be overpriced. Same thing with "first editions". I'd love a first edition set of Gibbon's "The Fall of the Roman Empire", but in actuality the later edition that I have is the better one because it has the added material and an addendum that the original didn't have. A first edition of Darwin published in London in 1859 is a fair bit of money, but the later edition published a year or so later looks the same and is corrected. If you really want to read a famous author, check out the free copy on Google before you buy it. I don't have too much stuff from "known" people, but what I do have cost me a fair bit more and I'm not entirely sure it was worth it, considering that the content is available somewhere for free or still in print.



British gold Nobles in the Pinkerton book

A lovely plate featuring some British gold Nobles. The artwork is impressive.

Of course there's an easier and cheaper way of collecting old books. I recently bought a CD that has all of the old standards on it, things like the RIC (Roman Imperial Coinage) and countless other titles that have been out of print for well over 150 years. But it's not the same; sure, the content is there, but like most CDs available on line, it's a large PDF that isn't searchable. So you end up going through hours of material looking for that one thing; and then you'd better print that page because you'll

never see it again otherwise, you can't bookmark it. So in the end, one ends up with a ton of loose-leaf pages laying around everywhere. Having the actual book is a lot easier to read and more compact. I have a heck of a time reading computer screens, I need it in paper in front of me. Yeah, I know, it's that T-Rex thing again.

I've used the other books in my numismatic articles too. They serve as a fascinating snapshot of their time. I've learned



William Sanderson book frontispiece

This is the image that should appear on the first page of my book. It doesn't, and that's why my book didn't cost as much as it should. This is William Sanderson as he would have appeared in 1656. It was common practice to put a portrait of the author as the frontispiece; in my book it has long since disappeared. The difference in price is tenfold if everything is there and not missing or torn. Doodled images also decrease the value substantially, I once saw a copy of a Queen Anne biography that had her with a moustache and a goatee going as well as smoking a pipe. It was all very old, probably done right when it was new in 1725, but it still knocked the price of the book in half.

more of late medieval Europe from Peter Heylyn² than I got out of any modern book covering that period. The reason was because Heylyn wasn't holding anything back; there was no political correctness in those days; as long as one didn't slag God or the King, they left you alone. Heylyn's "Mikrocosmos, a little description of the great world" (my copy is a 3rd edition from 1633) is great in that he writes about every other race and culture in the known world and he does it through a very "WASP" English filter. He hasn't got a nice thing to say about anybody, including the Scots or the Welsh. Heylyn was an Anglican minister and a scholar, but he was not a traveller, he never went anywhere outside of England in his life. He based the whole thing on his studies and then confirmed it by doing interviews with people who had travelled or were sea captains. It must have cost him quite a bit of beer to get the information he did, but by this third issue, he had corrected the "fiction" of the first two editions, and was getting successively better and more accurate. Recently I saw a 5th issue, published after his death in 1662 that was much larger and purported to be a definitive source of what the world was like in the late 17th century. From what I've read, he nailed it; he's very entertaining as well as blunt. Compared to most modern history books that can't seem to apologize enough for winning the wars or spreading the culture, it's refreshing to read.

One of Heylyn's compatriots and competitors was William Sanderson.³ Both men were historians, and each figured the other was an idiot. Sanderson was a child of privilege; he had

² Peter Heylyn, 1599-1662, English ecclesiastical historian, geographer and author.

³ Sir William Sanderson, 1586-1676, English Royalist historian and Courtier.

worked and had been to Court. Heylyn was not. Sanderson's book on Mary Queen of Scots and James was the basis of my Stuarts series. Although tedious, it was a fascinating read and a neat source of personal anecdotes because he personally knew King James. He had been involved with the Royal Court up until the time of Charles' demise and had somehow managed to keep his own head on while writing royalist books. I'm not sure how he got away with it, but the copy of his book I have is printed in 1656 which puts it right in the middle of the Commonwealth period when the English king was in exile. Apparently both men did suffer as loss of privilege, both had regained it during the Restoration, but Heylyn ended up in poor health and died shortly afterwards.

What both of these kinds of books provide is a background to set up the period with which the coins were made. Understand the time, understand the reasons for what is on a coin, it's that simple.

Then there are books in foreign languages. One thing I very much regret is that I have never learned how to read or speak Latin. The ability to read or understand Latin would open up so much more of classical scholarship and the ancient world to me. I would then go to the original sources for information, rather than relying on translations. I've discovered that fact with German; I have a few books in German that are almost impossible to translate to English, as the meaning of the whole thing would be lost. One of these is a very dry little tome out of Schaffhausen that was printed in 1667; it offers a fascinating insight to church history from

the dawn of time to the present day. **Georg Horn's**⁴ version of the Reformation is interesting to say the least; the book is incredibly difficult to read and make sense of, but when one finally does "get it", what he had to say makes sense. We're used to the 30 Year's War from an English perspective, Horn wrote it from a Protestant German perspective and was still smarting about it when he wrote about it 20 years after the fact. Apparently he spent some time writing and studying the English Civil War first hand; I haven't read that part of the book yet, but I'm sure his insights will be unique.

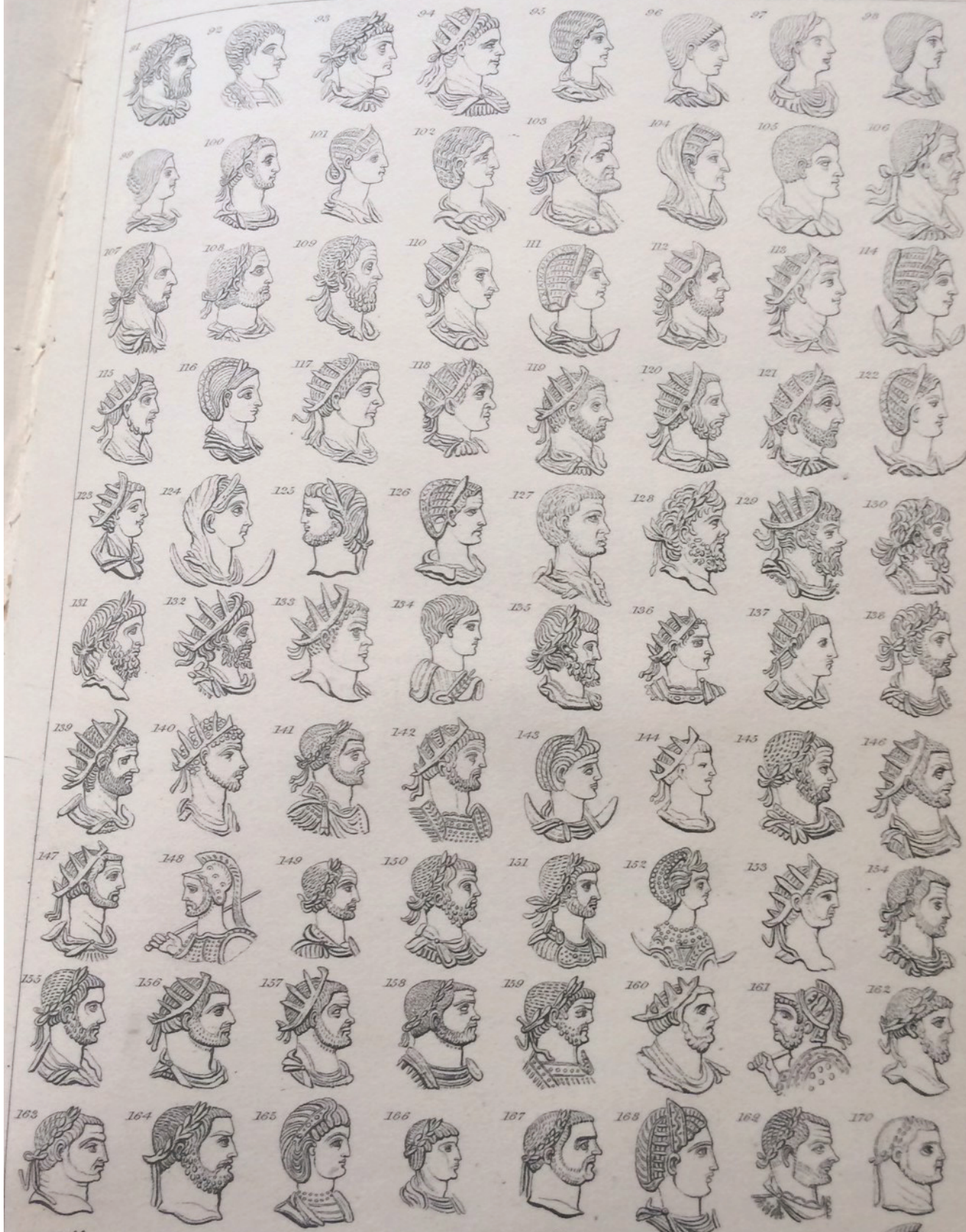
Most modern scholars will at some point in time migrate over to Wikipedia online. I tend to use this as a starting point; a stepping stone if you will, a Wikipedia article invariably leads to more questions and points the direction with which to continue the research. In many cases, Wikipedia uses actual coins to depict famous people of the day or deities or allegorical figures of various areas. While never a credible source of information due to lack of peer review, Wikipedia doubles as an old fashioned encyclopedia; it gets one started. So an old encyclopedia set can also do the same thing. I have one from 1908 which is an excellent resource, and judging by the condition of the books I'm the first person who's actually used them. That's one of the joys of buying old reference material, in many cases it was well preserved because it's only function was to impart the impression that the owner was well read; in many cases the books were never read. I have a set of late 19th century English history books that are almost in as printed state; they've never been cracked. My 1825 Gibbons set is like that. Reference books

are also likely to have better quality paper in them, they cost a fortune to make in their day and were usually well bound, unlike a lot of pulp novels or travelogues which were put together on the cheap.

And speaking of travelogues, I have a number from the 18th and 19th centuries. What better way to get a feel for what was happening in a certain place than by reading someone's account of it? I have a couple of old books that talk about my home town in Germany. In fact, they're the source for some of the woodcuts I have hanging in the house. For years I've had these old copies of old early 19th century woodcuts hanging and have always wondered where they originated from. Now I know, I've got the book. The books also tell me of what life was like, how much things cost, how easy it was to get or find a room, and how long it took to travel via carriage from one place to the next. For example, a trip to Hamburg from Lübeck is about 60 kilometers. With a car it can be done in less than an hour, in fact, at average Autobahn speeds it's about half an hour in rush hour traffic. By horse and buggy at the beginning of the 19th century, this was a two day trip, at mid-century by train it took the better part of a day. By the end of the 19th century it took three hours. That's progress; and by the end of the century the fare was about as much as it was at the beginning, just the currencies had changed, but the silver weight was essentially the same. It cost around 10 Goldmark, or 9 vereinsthalers or 96 Schillinge (2 Reichsthaler) depending upon which period you were in. Now you can get the same fare for 16 or 17 Euro and the trip takes 37 minutes. The point here is that I can find

⁴ Georg Horn, 1620-1670, German history and geography professor at Leiden University.

PORTRAITS ON ROMAN COINS.



On Coins (1845)

This book was published in 1844 and it finally depicts Roman coins as they would actually have appeared. Compare that to the picture of the Roman History book.



Fold out plate

Included in a Roman History book by Basil Kennett, (1674–1715). This was considered the definitive history of Rome until Gibbon published in 1780. Fold out plates like these are rare; most usually end up getting cut out or ripped. They also tended to increase the price of the book as it meant placing them in by hand on each copy.

records of this stuff and I can now put it into perspective. By the same token, an old airline brochure from the 1930s confirmed an old suspicion of mine; I had always wondered why it is next to impossible to find aerial photos of Germany during the 3rd Reich period prior to the "Allied Renovations" (WW II). The Deutsche Lufthansa inflight magazine that I have confirmed that they actually took your camera away from you and gave it back after the flight. No word if the Gestapo actually developed and viewed your film during the flight.

One thing that is always interesting to read is how officials make life difficult at frontiers. It seems that all throughout history customs officials were jerks. Must be a prerequisite or something. Even as far back as 1685, this one bishop I'm reading about had issues going between what's now Holland and a German city state. He wasn't robbed, beaten, left for dead and found wandering naked next to a highway though, but that's happened to a few travelers that I've read who didn't pay the right amount of homage or bribes to local officials.

Whenever we buy a new coin book, we tend to believe that it contains the absolute latest in numismatic scholarship. Invariably it doesn't, it's all been done before. I was surprised with just how much the early modern world knew about the Roman Empire and classical coinages when I started reading that first Pinkerton back however many years ago. I realized that when it came to money, the rules and what was known about it was very clear. Greek coins offered history and stories all on their own; they were the story. Not much was written but the

legends and fables tell the stories. By the Roman times things became a bit more allegorical and required explanations which the ancients readily provided. You just have to find the source, and that may be like finding a needle in a haystack.

A good many numismatic books have pictures in the form of plates in them. These are a gem in on their own. Since there were no photographs these things were hand drawn. Some are pretty crude, others not so bad. Some of them are stylized, they serve as a facsimile, where others tried to be as accurate as possible. To find a book with all of its plates intact is a real treat. Most ended up getting torn out and used as artwork in lawyer's offices or where ever something that implied that the bearer supposedly had some cultural or historical sophistication was required. A good many ancient and medieval books were destroyed this way. And it wasn't only a modern phenomenon; it has been going on since the advent of the printing press. Even older one-off manuscripts were torn up, recycled or just wantonly destroyed once the printing press rendered the art of handwriting or copying books obsolete.

The old rule is, the better the book, the better the plate. Expensive books had coloured plates and were printed on good quality rag paper. Low quality books were invariably printed on acid treated wood pulp paper, most of which started disintegrating the moment it was made. Books from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day suffer from this. I have 300 year old books where the text and text block is in better shape than some I have from the 1940s.

One such catalog that will never survive the test of time is our favorite Krause catalog. Take a look at a 20 year old example and see how fragile the paper is already getting. In 30-40 years it will start coming apart; my 1977 edition is already foxing and turning that unhealthy brown that old newsprint gets when it ages. One has to remember though, Krause makes money by constantly updating and revamping the catalog so that collectors always have to buy the latest issue to keep up. The business model seems to be successful, so why tamper with it? And besides, who actually pays money for a marked up 40 year old coin catalog? You'd actually be surprised. Coin books are some of the hottest old books out there. Mostly because the subject matter is still relevant and the history doesn't change; each book out there actually adds to the diaspora of knowledge and is still relevant.

We're always hearing about out of print copies coming up, or we know someone who has a copy of what we're looking for. When I first got into medieval coinage, I went after a copy of the Saurma⁵ until I finally was able to get a credible mid-seventies reprint at a reasonable price. I know of some people who have dog-eared and ugly old copies that have loose or missing pages who paid a fortune for these books in the pre-internet age. Back before the internet, these copies were treasured and kept and used until they fell apart. Every so often one of the big coin publishing houses would announce a reprint run which would invariably get sold out to special customers or institutions before it was even printed. The general public would lose out or be forced to find a copy in the library. Nowadays however,

⁵ Die Saurmasche Münzsammlung, an auction catalog first printed in 1892 that still is one of the definitive works on medieval German small change. It's a horrible book.

reprint runs get more exposure, I was able to pick up a limited reprint of **Behrens**⁶. Coins of Lübeck published first in 1906. My copy is a direct reprint, the only difference is the paper quality and the binding. My newer book is cardboard and pulp.

That started to change in the late 90s. Once the internet came into being and widespread use, old coin books started showing up, first for big dollars and then for a lot less when it was realized just how much was available. Once Google started their digitization project, a lot of these old books got digitized and were available for free download or for a modest fee. But that is evolving too; someone at Google has realized that knowledge is power and it's worth charging money for it. So now some of these old books are costing money again, but worse yet, you're paying for a picture of them, you'd have to supply the paper and the printer ink to actually get a tangible book out of it. So that \$10 download isn't looking that cheap anymore, especially when they tamper with the formatting and the delivery systems of digital products. How many people still have pictures or word files on old floppy discs? Who still has a drive that would do anything with it? Let's just assume for example's sake that you went out and bought a compendium of old coin books on CD; there are about 300 books, all of them unique and old. Lately it has been rumoured that CDs and DVDs are going the way of the Dodo and may not be supported in 5 years. So then what? What happens to your entire library's worth of medieval and early modern coin books? Better download them to something else, and then hope that doesn't go obsolete

in a few years. You'll have that problem, I've still got the physical book. I'm reading and you're transferring huge cumbersome files from one media to another. This is how the public record is actually disappearing. As these books go more and more over to digital, it means a physical book has probably hit the trash or been destroyed. No one needs them anymore.

That said though, have you ever tried to read one on an e-reader? It's not easy, invariably the copy is a photocopy and not very good. A lot of books printed in the 17th and 18th centuries and into the 19th century are quite difficult to read because of the unique language usage. A book from the 17th century is like reading the King James Version of the Bible, with all the "shalts, thous and interesting spellings" along with the infamous "long S" which can make the word "suck" look obscene. The "long S" finally disappeared in the first decade of the 19th century, this made things easier. Type face has gone from a gothic to a more modern serif font over the years. German language stuff was in a gothic font all the way through the Second World War, it was only after the war that they modernized. It might have had something to do with the fact that all the old publishing houses were completely burned out as a result of the bombing. Maybe out of all that misery there was some good that came of that. One thing a book allows that an E-reader can't is the ability to page mark, go back easily and put it down to take notes or look something up. A book is designed for study, an e-reader is designed for glancing and speed reading.

There's no going back, easily anyway. E-readers are great for novels and magazines.

The other advantage I have with a book is all I need is a candle to read it by. It never needs to be recharged. The earlier books have large print because it must have been assumed that everyone needed spectacles or read in the dark. Maybe the candle quality was poor and the light they gave off was lousy, who knows. I guess the e-reader's only other advantage is portability; an old book takes up space, and if it's really old, they sometimes get musty and smell bad. An e-reader only smells bad when it catches fire after it shorts out. You can use the old book to put that fire out too.

Bottom line is, never discount an old book. One very distasteful individual by the name of **Goebbels**⁷ said years ago, "From every book something new can be learned", probably the most honest observation and comment that man ever made, and ultimately it's true. (He made the comment after a mass book burning at the Bebelplatz in Berlin in 1934.) From every book, no matter how insignificant, I've learned something. And it's been something related to numismatics or the history of coinage, all the better. The journey has been worth the price, in terms of money spent or in time.

And, just for the public record, I'm trying to do my part to preserve the public record by keeping paper copies of the *Planchet*. I have a set in my office. The problem is, they're printed on pulp paper, so they'll survive the electronic edition by about 100 years or so. There's

⁶ "Münzen und Medaillen der Stadt und des Bistums Lübeck", Heinrich Behrens, first printed in Berlin in 1905. This is still considered the definitive work on the German city of Lübeck coins and medallions.

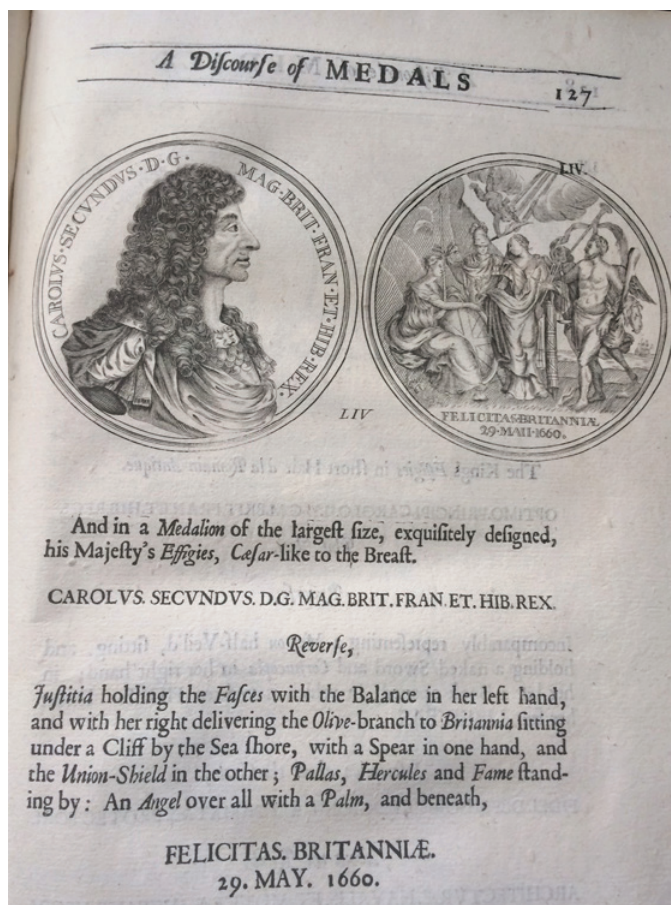
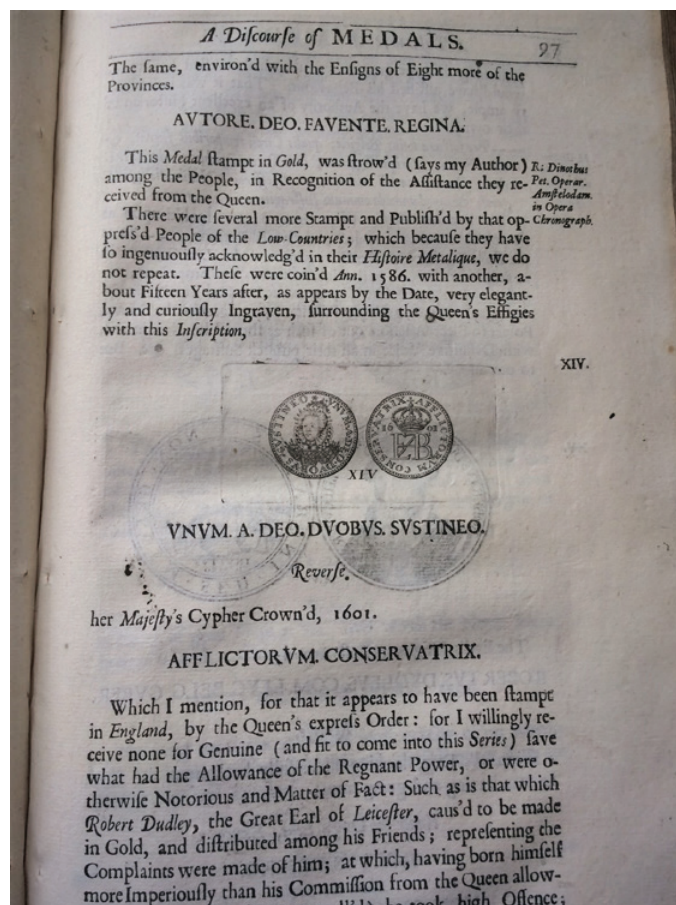
a good chance that after you've read this on your PC or other electronic device you'll just hit "X" and "pfft!" It's gone. I'll at least still have the paper.

And so, without much further ado, I return now to my latest acquisition, a "Historical Account

of English Money, from the Conquest to the Uniting of the two Kingdoms" by a Mr. Stephen Martin **Leake**⁸, published in London in 1726. It apparently was his definitive work, and it was published very early on in his career. Apparently it was reprinted many times throughout

his lifetime and afterwards, it served as his major source of income. After that, there's "Numismata; a Discourse of Medals Antient and Modern", by **John Evelyn**⁹ in 1697.

Happy trails! ☺



Evelyn medals

John Evelyn published these in 1697. He even states that they are probably all fantasies, probably never struck. So why did he write this book?

⁷ Josef Goebbels, 1897-1945, Nazi propaganda minister and general all-around ogre.

⁸ Stephen Martin Leake, 1702-1773, English numismatist and author.

⁹ John Evelyn, 1620-1706, English historian, author and scholar, master gardener and a numismatist, a true period Renaissance man.

Clipped Error Coins

by Joe Kennedy

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

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

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

Blakesley effect

clip

clock

collar

curved (clip)

date (visible)

double (clip)

elliptical (clip)

fragment

incomplete (clip)

multiple (clips)

oclock

partial (clip)

percent

planchet

press

ragged (clip)

single (clip)

straight (clip)

tilted

triple (clip)

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