

# The **PLANCHET**



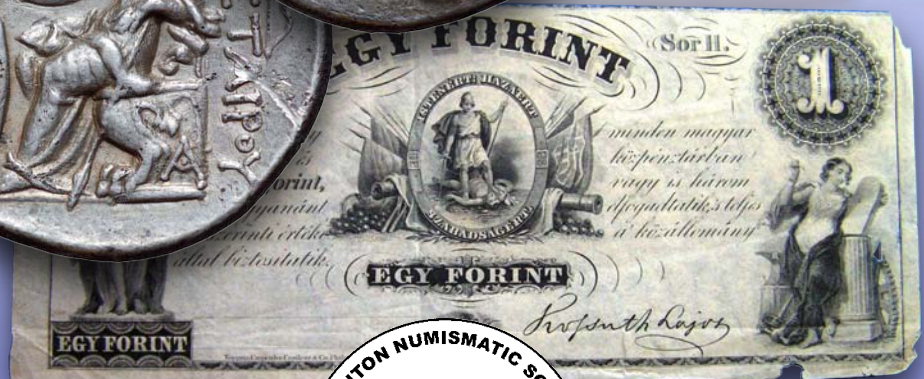
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Coulda,  
Woulda  
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Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 63 • Issue 3



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May 2016

# The PLANCHET

Volume 63 • Issue 3

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### **ON THE COVER**

Electrum Hekte of Ionian mint  
(600–580 BC)

Seleukos I tetradrachm

1 Forint note, Kossuth issue

Background: Rodhocetus (extinct)

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# Message from the President

**Marc Bink**

**May 2016**

Recently Ray Neiman from the National Pride Stamp and Coin shop announced that he was going to be retiring and winding his shop down by the end of May. That's only about a month away. The Edmonton coin scene is losing a longtime "institution" and legend once he retires. Ray has been a club member and a staunch supporter of the ENS pretty much since the beginning when he started his shop up. When customers came in he would always try and sell them on a membership or tell them about people he knew in the club that shared the same interests. Most of us, at some point, returned to the hobby or got our start in coin collecting at Ray's shop. And, most of us were recruited into the club at Ray's shop. (I'm pretty sure almost all of us on the current Executive either worked for Ray or were recruited at Ray's shop). So the club is going to lose one of its biggest boosters when Ray closes down; that will mean the rest of us will have to pick up the slack when it comes to recruiting and selling coin collecting as a fun and challenging hobby.

A club is only as strong or vibrant as its members. We're lucky in that we have a lot of

motivated people who are great supporters of the club, whether it is at the shows, or volunteering, or even just walking around wearing the club jacket. We are always trying to recruit more and younger members; and in that regard we could probably do more; we have to do more. A quick look around the room at any of our meetings shows that most of our members are retired or in the later stages of their working lives; there are very few younger people coming in to our meetings. In short, we're all getting a bit long in the tooth. In order for the club to continue to succeed and remain a vibrant concern, we need to attract and groom new people for succession planning.

Most of the general public view coin collecting as "boring" or "an old man's hobby", and have this misconception that all coin collectors do is sit in their darkened basements and fondle coins. It's up to us to dispel that fiction. I'm trying to do my part, I've got print copies of the Planchet in my office and I've always got something that is numismatic-related with me at all times. It's amazing how much attention my key chain attracts with all of its holed and unloved crown-sized coins

(one of which is a rare 1945 Canadian dollar). I've found it to be quite the icebreaker when it comes to talking about coins and coin collecting. It's usually as simple as cracking or taking a chip out of a table when I drop that key chain. I've bought a few nice tables that way, and it does tend to get conversations going. (Ok, you don't have to go to those extremes... and there's a caveat; the conversations usually weren't that good or positive as a result) I've managed to recruit a few new members with our Planchet, proving that quality and original articles about coins and coinage history do actually sell. Simply wearing the club jacket or the Black Shirt has also attracted attention, more in the question of "what does 'numismatic' mean?". It then becomes a great place to start a conversation "well, let me tell you..." So there are a number of ways one can sell coin collecting and the club as fun and interesting.

So what are you doing? Have you talked to your grandchildren about coins? Have they seen your collection? Give it a try; kids love to collect things with a story behind them. You might be surprised what might come of it.

And, in conclusion, on behalf of the Executive and the club membership, I'd like to wish Ray the best of luck and Godspeed, and many enjoyable years in retirement, he's earned it. ☺

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# @ the Next Meeting

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

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# About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

## April 13, 2016 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:22 hrs and welcomed the 38 members in attendance, along with a visitor named George who is interested in selling his collection.

After a short discussion, July 10 was chosen as the date of this year's ENS BBQ. Marc was encouraged / steered towards volunteering to be the host, which he graciously agreed to, pending his wife's approval.

A few points were brought up regarding our very successful March 2016 coin show. We had an attendance of almost 1100. A new record was set for the silent auction with sales of \$4985. The club is considering allowing dealers to set up on the Friday evening of our next show which will be held on Nov 12-13, 2016. We will of course make the necessary security arrangements to support this.

### Show & Tell

Several items were circulated for the Show & Tell portion of the meeting:

- A Latvian bank note issued before Latvia was annexed in WWII.

- For golf enthusiasts a 5 Pound Scottish Bank Note, depicting St. Andrews which is widely considered to be the "home of golf".

- Also from the British Isles, a 1935 crown of George V celebrating his 25th anniversary on the throne, depicting in Art Deco style, St. George slaying the dragon.

- As a piece of ENS history, a leather note issued by our club in 1964, was also proudly passed around.

### Door Prizes

Tickets were drawn for the door prizes before the members took a short break to socialize.

### Presentation

Mirko Dumanovic gave a well-researched presentation on Byzantine coins. He also brought along about 70 coins to display.

### Conclusion

The silent auction lots were sold, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:58 hrs.



## 2016-17 Executive

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# The Kraken Cometh

by **Wayne Hansen**

There are three valuable lessons I have learned in all my years: don't work on electrical panels with the power on, don't drink homemade tequila while shingling your roof and don't claim your cat as a tax dependent. Obviously, the next most important rule is don't buy ancient Greek coins unless they have good detail and at least a bit of attitude. Carelessness in this regard will leave you with a bunch of slugs that could have been contenders but only at some distant point in their ancient history. You will soon wonder how they ended up in your collection, and then you will wonder how best to sell them. It's better to find nice coins in the beginning – coins that you won't tire looking at, that are somehow special, that you would like to show others and that continue to tell stories.

The featured 2,600 year old electrum hekte (one-sixth stater) shown above is a nice example that is still a contender. Besides being well centered and struck on fresh electrum, it has a few other intriguing attributes – rarity, unknown origin, unique obverse/reverse images and uncertain meaning of its designs. It is one of the types that I stumbled upon without any previous inkling that it even existed. After debating about buying it for a while, I concluded that such loveliness was worth the extra cost.\*

## An Uncertain Mint

From its simply executed designs, the electrum metal, the globular profile of the flan, the use of an incuse punch and the lack of lettering, you can see that the featured hekte was struck very soon after the earliest period of coin development. It was a period of great innovation spurred by individuals and authorities trying to develop a reliable currency for commercial and/or city state reasons. A large number of small coinage issues were produced in western Asia



**Linear Head of a Lion or Ketos**

Obverse of an Unknown Ionian Hekte  
(600-580 BC)

Minor at that time, but the coins were not marked to indicate the issuer or place of striking. Even though the coins do not have a specific attribution, the weights of individual examples and their related denominations can link the issue to a specific region – in this case, the weight of my hekte is similar to other issues found in Ionia (see Figure 1). Such unattributed Ionia issues are labeled 'Uncertain' or 'Unknown' Ionia.

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\* (Mind you, I also thought that it was worth paying extra to see a living, breathing, headless woman at a midway freak show in 1955 – 'She's Alive, She's Alive' they said. There she was, sitting on a bare stage in a little walled-off, grassy area of the tent, moving her arms, with fake feeding tubes sprouting from her fake abbreviated neck. Next time I'm at the freak show, the headless woman is off my list.)



# Coming Events

May 11, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start. Presentation by Wayne Hansen: *Adventures in the World of Electrum*

June 8, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

June 17, 2016: June issue of THE PLANCHET

July 2016: ENS Barbecue. (exact date TBD)

September 14, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

September 23, 2016: September issue of THE PLANCHET

October 12, 2016: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

October 28, 2016: October issue of THE PLANCHET

November 5 & 6, 2016: ENS Fall Show

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

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

**Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of Ionia**



**Figure 1 – Ionia is a district found along the west coast of Asia Minor, well known as a center of early coin production. Ancient Ionian cities such as Ephesos, Miletos and Phokaia minted many types of electrum coinages starting around 625 BC, some of which were the earliest ever struck.**

## A Rare Coin

As with my attempt at coin tracking for the geometric trites in a recent article (The Lion and the Star, Early Electrum Trites of Lydia and Ionia, The Planchet December 2015), I thought it would be interesting to prepare a visual montage of the available sale images for these 'Unknown' Ionia electrum hektes. There are not many such images, although I may not have exhausted all possibilities. I thought at one point that there were fewer but then found another 12, generally poor examples in a 2013 auction. The coin descriptions always say that the obverse depicts back-to-back lion heads, while the reverse shows a volute design (except for the odd sub-group with plain punches in Figure 2B). The descriptions also usually say they are an unpublished type, then they list two or three auction records as the reference. However, this unknown lion/ketos type was included in a recent publication by J Linzalone, *'Electrum and the Invention of Coinage'*, Dec 2011 (his reference is Linzalone 1067).

The earliest auction listings I found for the issue were prepared by Gorny and Mosch (G & M) in 2001 and Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) in May 2002. Similar to the geometric trite situation, the sudden and sporadic hektes listings would seem to confirm that they had been a small issue from a localized area and that little hoard groups had been uncovered in 2001 or shortly before. The new hektes are probably slightly scarcer than even the geometric trites. Also similar to the trites, the hektes are somewhat erratically struck, and many are found in a worn state, meaning they would have been intended for circulation. Interestingly, I have seen at least four different obverse dies on the few available examples. It seems that there may be more obverse die variations than reverse types, since the same reverse punch is predominantly found on the known examples.



**Figure 2A – Early CNG Hekte Sale Examples**



**Group 2A** (6 coins) – Lot from CNG Triton VI Auction (2003). This is an early group of 6 lion/ketos hektes which was sold as one lot. Three of the coins have an unusual, parallel obverse head style, and one in the upper right has a different obverse and reverse altogether. (*Images courtesy of CNG.*)

**Figure 2B – G&M Hekte Sale Examples**



**Group 2B** (18 coins) – Lots from Gorny & Mosch Auctions (2001-2013) – G & M offered these 18 hektes in several auctions, but most (12) were sold in Auction 212, March 2013. Many of the coins in that sale differed from the norm since their obverses were excessively degraded from a combination of worn dies and circulation, but also because their reverses were struck with two to three small, plain punches rather than the single decorated punch seen on other specimens (see coins in the top two rows above). It is likely that the coins from the 2013 auction came from a specific hoard. Since the obverse design of the degraded

coins seems to be from the same series as more typical coins, it might be concluded that plain punches were substituted for the single decorated punch later in the series. The other Gorny and Mosch coins included in the bottom two rows more closely resemble the usual type seen in Group 2C below. The two coins shown in black and white (left end of first and third rows) are from 2001 and are therefore the earliest images available. The coin at the end of the third row down has an unusual almond shaped lion eye and a reverse with pellets within the double punch. (*Images courtesy of Gorny and Mosch.*)

**Figure 2C – Other Hekte Sale Examples**



**Group 2C** (15 coins) – Individual Auction, Dealer and Reference Items (2002-2015) – These 15 lion/ketos hektes examples from various sources are a more typical smattering of the usual coins available. These coins are from CNG (7), including my featured coin in blue, Roma (2),

Gemini IV (2), Tkalec (1), G&N (1), Heritage, ex Gorny & Mosch (1) and the Linzalone reference (1). The coins are all struck from variations of the same obverse/reverse types. The Linzalone 1067 reference coin is in the center of the bottom row.

*(Images courtesy of the sources noted, except for the featured coin by the author.)*

**Figure 2** – Groups 2A, 2B and 2C above provide a montage of the 39 publically offered lion/ketos type hektes. Most of the coins used the same reverse die, and they seemed to appear in the market beginning in 2001. I purchased my featured coin recently from a dealer (blue background in 2C above and Figure 3), but I discovered in my search that it had originally been sold by CNG in 2006. With only 39 documented examples thus far, these hektes are considered to be relatively rare. Since they are another of the late hoard discoveries, the main museum collections and the standard references do not have any. Only the new book by Linzalone shows an example.

The assembled photos are not to scale, but they provide an overview of the general strike and wear condition for the type. Condition of the coins varies considerably – many are struck off-center, worn from use and/or struck from worn dies. For such a small group, it is interesting that there are at least three or four obverse design variations, while 70 percent (28 out of 39) are struck from the same, presumably original, decorated reverse die. Most coins are struck on the left side of the two-headed, carved obverse, but several include the central joined section of the die design, confirming that the two heads were intended to be seen back-to-back on a larger size flan. This parallels the format of the early Alyattes trites in Sardis, which were also struck using only half of a larger size, back-to-back obverse die.



## Featured Coin

The coin in Figure 3 is about as good as these get. Both its condition and appearance are remarkable. It is nicely centered on both sides, and it is well struck in darker colored electrum, preserving many sharp details. Its flattened obverse with linear head design contrasts strikingly with its extremely unusual, organically-contoured reverse. The compartmentalized reverse punch is deeply set into the rounded flan, producing a mass of curves – from the curved flan surface, to the rounded punch

outline, to the wavy punch divider line and the curved design elements within each punch compartment.

The hektemete's features are even more unusual, given the very early, globular nature of the flan. This issue must have been struck about the same time and likely in, or near, the same place as the geometric trites of my previous article, which are considered to be the first coins with an obverse and a reverse die (the reverses of the trites were

basically decorated punches). Both the trites and these hektemetes are from Ionia, they both have geometric elements and they both have a decorated punch reverse. As such, they would have been struck circa 600 BC, soon after the earliest, type-less globules of electrum were produced.

There is no clear explanation of the unusual designs on either the hektemete's obverse or reverse (discussed further in the section following).

**Figure 3 – Featured Hektemete of Ionia**



**Electrum Hektemete of Unknown Ionian Mint – Head of Lion or Ketos / Curved Double Incuse Punch, Each Side Containing Plant-Like Organic Forms.**

Issued: 600–580 BC (2.24g, 10.2 x 9.5mm). Mint: Unknown Ionia, Asia Minor.  
(Collection of the author and photo by the author).

**Figure 3 –** With good relief and clear details, plus great colour and finish, this coin is very pleasing to the eye. The fabric tells us quite a bit about its origin, although very little else is apparent. The flan tells us that it is a very

early coin, which hadn't come very far from its globular roots. Both obverse and reverse dies are highly unusual – the flat, linear obverse contrasts markedly with the rounded, organic forms of the reverse.



## A Riddle, Wrapped in a Mystery, Inside an Enigma

Churchill's old quote about Russia seems apt for this coinage. This unattributed, figural coinage presents a tangle of clues about its mysterious origin and meaning. The enigma involves its puzzling appearance among the variety of early electrum coinages – strangely similar to some, but also quite different concerning certain features. As noted, the coins were likely struck in Ionia. However, without knowing its specific mint location, it is difficult to relate the coin's types to other local issues or to any particular local traditions. Were lions venerated in other issues appearing nearby, or from the same city? Did the city have an especially close relationship to the sea, prompting an unusual maritime theme (most of the Greek colonies were located on the coast)? If the obverse depicts a lion, what do we make of the unprecedented reverse type?

Without evidence to the contrary, sellers always label these hektes as having lion head obverses. That would seem to be the easiest interpretation since lions are frequently seen on Greek coinage, especially on the electrum of Sardis, Mytilene and Miletos. However, the lions of those cities are carved in a more typical, fleshy style, though many were struck at a later date. The heads on this group of coins are geometric rather than fleshy, which is closely aligned with the design sensibilities of early geometric trites. The reverse is also a strange vision – a single decorated punch with organic forms, divided by a curving partition suggesting a double punch. The reverse bears no obvious

relationship to the obverse, whether in theme or in style.

Instead of identifying these coins as a lion paired with an unintelligible reverse type, I wonder if these coins might represent creatures from the sea – the Ketos, or sea dragon, on the obverse and plant or animal sea forms on the reverse? The obverse certainly has a dragon-like presence, much as the hornless head of a classic Norse sea serpent seen on the prow of the Viking ships – indeed, fearsome sea monsters are a continuing mythological staple. There is some evidence for the Ketos explanation since the scarce but well-known small, silver coins of Kindya, also located in Asia Minor, have a similar geometric type of Ketos head (see Figure 4). Sea monsters are found on other coins, but mostly in the form of a Hippocamp, with the head of a horse, or the Skylla which has a female forepart. The reverse seems to present images based on living shapes that could represent the fleshy forms of sea creatures, like an anemone (see Figure 5). The curving divider within the reverse punch could as well allude to moving water. I like this explanation.

The notion of the Ketos as sea monster stems from Greek mythology, but it has been interpreted in other ways, including in biblical terms as a 'great fish'. Trouble brewed in the Greek firmament when goddess Cassiopeia was boasting that her daughter, Andromeda, was more beautiful than the Nereids. The Nereids were 50 goddess-nymphs and spirits of the sea who were patrons of seafarers

and responsible for the sea's rich bounty. The insult angered Poseidon, so he sent forth a flood and the sea monster Ketos to attack Aethiopia, a land encompassing current Ethiopia, ruled by Queen Cassiopeia and King Cepheus who were also parents of Andromeda. The King and Queen then consulted an oracle, and they were told to sacrifice Andromeda to the Ketos by chaining her to a rock near the ocean (a la King Kong). Perseus heard of her plight and went to her aid, slaying the Ketos as it emerged from the ocean to devour her. Riveting stuff.

Again, the head on the featured hekte does look like the Ketos based on the image used on Kindya's drachm coin. One difference is that Kindya showed the Ketos with a pointed snout, whereas the uncertain electrum coin has a more blunted snout. In my search for images of the Ketos from archaic and classical times, I found several with a blunted snout in various media (see Figure 4). A Corinthian jug actually illustrates the dramatic scene on the edge of the ocean when the Ketos appears – the Ketos, Perseus and Andromeda are all labeled appropriately in Greek. Also, a very rare, perhaps unique, silver stater that I've never seen before shows the Ketos as a sea serpent much like the later Norse legends (its reverse is the same as the obverse but in incuse). So, combining the rigid geometric vocabulary of the Kindya coin and the squared-nosed image of the Ketos from these other media could result in the style of head on the Uncertain Ionian hekte discussed here.

**Figure 4 – Images of the Ketos (Sea Monster)**



**Terracotta Figure (Magna Graecia 600 BC)**



**Silver Drachm (Kindya 500 BC)**



**Corinthian Jug with Perseus Rescuing Andromeda**



**Silver Stater (Uncertain Lycia, 450 BC)**

**Figure 4** – Here are four images of the Ketos from the period 600 to 450 BC, when the primitive power of mythology was running rampant. The scarce silver coin of Kindya (top right) has been the most familiar of these images, however, the other rare examples are equally valid in their depiction of the sea monster. While the Kindya coin emphasizes a narrow, pointed snout (along with the typical round eye, thin tongue, teeth and spiny mane), the

other three depictions show the Ketos with a squared snout and a prominent nose. The squared snout, bulbous nose, thin tongue, round eye and spiny mane are definitely reminiscent of the featured hekte in Figure 3.

*(Base images courtesy of Metropolitan Mus of Art, CNG, BishkekRocks in Wikipedia and the 'History Re-Stored' Zhuyuetang Collection publication (enlarged insert of stater added by the author).*



## Possible Related Denominations

There are many uncertain electrum issues of Ionia, and it appears that references are, or must be, content to leave it at that. However, I have noticed a couple of recent sale offerings that might be related to the featured hekte, even if we don't know precisely where any of these were minted. Conveniently, the two coins noted in Figure 6 would be the next lowest denominations in the series – a 1/12th stater (hemi-hekte) and a 1/24th stater. The 1/12th stater is definitely related since its obverse/reverse types are very similar to the featured hekte. The 1/24th stater has a different obverse (purportedly the head of a deer, serpent or lion with large eye), though the reverse has a similar curved, divided punch with an organic character.

As expected, both of the smaller denominational types have the same globular shape and archaic style.

Figure 5 – Image of Sea Forms



**Figure 5 –** To support my suggestion that the unusual Figure 3 reverse design may represent sea forms, I am providing these two photos – one of a large jellyfish and one of a group of white sea anemones. Both indicate that similar curvy shapes can originate in the ocean. This is in addition to possible land based forms, such as young ferns and mushrooms, or fantasy images implanted during obtained from alien encounters. (*Jellyfish photo by the author and anemone photo courtesy Tumblr.*)

Figure 6 – Possible Denominations



**Electrum 1/12th Stater of Unknown Ionian Mint**  
Head of Lion or Ketos / Curved Incuse Punch with Plant-Like Organic Form.  
1.05 g, 7.0 m (*Image courtesy CNG*)

**Electrum 1/24th Stater of Unknown Ionian Mint**  
Head of Deer, Serpent or Ketos / Curved Divided Incuse Punch with Linear Markings. 0.57 g, 6.0 m (*Image courtesy Civitas Galleries*)

**Figure 6 –** These coins seem to be sub-denominations of the Figure 3 hekte based on their types and the nature of the punches. It is extremely unusual to see such deco-style curved forms in the early archaic era. The 1/12th stater has almost identical types to the hekte. The divided reverse punch of the smaller 1/24th stater is uncannily reminiscent of the hekte's punch, even though the coin is four times lighter. The seller of this coin attributed it to the city of Ephesos based on its possible deer head obverse design, but the image is considerably eroded (a more recent CNG example shows an obverse more closely aligned with the featured hekte – squared snout, large eye and straight, sharp background lines angled above the snout).


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## In Closing...

The unknown can be a challenge in any situation. Here we have the challenge of not knowing where the featured little hekte originated, or what design it is trying to promote, but we can deduce a few things. It is a scarce type. It is made from a good quality electrum, and it is almost certainly from a coastal part of Ionia. It was also created by an early archaic society that plainly valued novelty and innovation. The unprecedented curvy forms of the hekte's reverse punch contrast spectacularly with the geometric lines of the obverse. The obverse could be the rare depiction of the Ketos sea monster.

Beyond the factual, we can certainly appreciate the entertaining little hekte purely for its glittery visual appeal and ancient aura. That's probably our most lasting impression – it's a little figured nugget that has emerged from the mists of time, still desirable and improving with age. ☺

## Quotes About the Unknown:

*The known is finite, the unknown infinite; intellectually we stand on an islet in the midst of an illimitable ocean of inexplicability. Our business in every generation is to reclaim a little more land, to add something to the extent and the solidity of our possessions.*

– Thomas Huxley

*Apart from the known and the unknown, what else is there?*

– Harold Pinter

*There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.*

– Donald Rumsfeld

*The challenge of the unknown future is so much more exciting than the stories of the accomplished past.*

– Simon Sinek



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# Philetairos

## A Eunuch who Started a Dynasty

by **Terence Cheesman**

What would you give up to get and keep your job? Most people are willing to give up their time, social life, perhaps even put their health into jeopardy. But how about giving up your ability to engage in sex? The catch is that the loss is irreversible. For much of recorded human history, male castration was, in fact, a job requirement. Castrated males, or eunuchs as they were called, provided many useful services within the state. One of their principal duties was to guard royal women, their physical deformity guaranteeing a pure royal blood line. However, because of their deformity, they could become ministers, generals and diplomats. They were deemed to be safe, for even though they could amass great power and wealth, they could not have heirs, and in a male dominated world, their lack of genitalia made them the object of ridicule and scorn.

Thus we come to Philetairos. He was born in the small city of Tiemon, a city on the south coast of the Black Sea, about 250 kilometers east from the modern city of Istanbul Turkey. How he became an eunuch was that as an infant, his testicles were crushed, when he got caught in a large crowd. In 281 B.C., he became a commander of the fortress city of Pergamon and the loyal servant to Lysimachos, King of Thrace. Unfortunately, Philetairos found himself on the losing side of a palace intrigue and fearing for his life, betrayed Lysimachos in favor of Seleukos I. This was a huge blow to Lysimachos who lost not only Pergamon, but the 9000 talents worth of treasure stored there as well. A talent was worth 6000 drachmae. Hardly did Philetairos have the time to get used to his new sovereign, Seleukos I was assassinated in 281 B.C.



**Figure 1: Lysimachos tetradrachm**

The Seleukid kingdom extended from modern day Turkey to Pakistan and was a large, unwieldy state. So it is not too surprising that Philetairos might think that becoming an independent monarch might not be a bad idea. After all he had control of a very prosperous region, not to mention the aforementioned 9000 talents. But he was too clever to cause an immediate rupture with his new sovereign, Antiochos I. Instead he began a program of slowly, steadily, creating the framework for an independent kingdom. At the end of the day, when he did finally become an independent monarch, it was all but a fore-gone conclusion.



Perhaps the best way to track this progress is to look at the coins minted under the aegis of Philetairos. Though there is still some debate on the precise dating of these coins, the overall pattern of development is clear. Starting in 287 B.C. and ending in 282 B.C., the mint of Pergamon struck the standard types of Lysimachos during the latter part of his reign (Figure 1). These were tetradrachms featuring the image of Alexander the Great on the obverse and a seated Athena left, her right arm resting on a shield and holding a winged Nike in her outstretched left hand. The Nike is seen crowning the name of Lysimachos who is also given the title King. This coinage started circa 297 B.C., and most of the mints employed by Lysimachos used this type, so that the issue from the mint of Pergamon was by no means special, though some of the dies used were of extremely high quality. Approximately 17 obverse dies are known. One thing we do not know is whether or not this represents a relatively



**Figure 2: Horsehead tetradrachm**

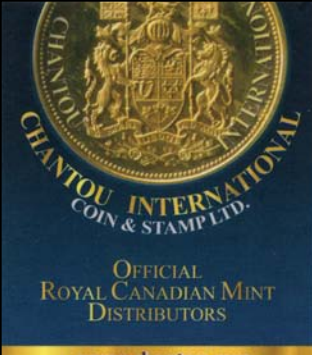
small annual issue or a very intense production, perhaps only a few months duration, sometime during this period.

The chronology of the next two issues is less clear. The first coin (figure 2) is quite an interesting and rare tetradrachm with the image of a horned horse head on the obverse. This is, most likely, the image of Bucephalus, the famous warhorse that Alexander the Great rode in all his battles, until the horse died at the

battle of the Hydaspes River in 326 B.C. The name Bucephalus means ox head, and the horns on this image appear to be that of a bull or an ox. An elephant advancing right is found on the reverse, along with the legend which roughly translates as "of king Seleukos" as well as an anchor below which is the personal symbol of Seleukos. These coins are thought to have been minted in the period between 282–281 B.C. while Seleukos was still alive. The reference to

elephants is quite clear. Seleukos had gained control of an elephant corps of over 500 of the beasts and used them with great effect in 301 B.C. at the battle of Ipsus. This issue, represented by ten surviving coins, using four dies is difficult to interpret. Seleukos does use the image of a horned horse head on a number of his other issues of coins, and if this image is Bucephalus, it stands to reason that he must have had some connection with this horse.


The second, more numerous issue of coins (figure 3) is far more conservative. One of the main features of Hellenistic Greek coinages is the number of, and size of, coins essentially copying those issued by Alexander the Great, though in this case the legend would read "of Seleukos" adding the title of "King". Philetairos is no different, minting an issue of tetradrachms which has some 78 surviving specimens divided by ten obverse dies. Again this issue is likely to have been minted during the period between 282 B.C. and 281 B.C. Generally speaking, most of the posthumous issues of Alexander are minted during times of war and this issue is no exception. The coins of Alexander the Great are known and trusted, and



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**Figure 3: Alexander type tetradrachm**

these coins would have found a ready acceptance among the soldiers in the army of Seleukos, in the fight against his enemy Lysimachos.

The next group of coins (figure 4) is perhaps the most remarkable. The obverse features a very powerful portrait of Seleukos. The image is that of a vigorous older man. His hair is arranged in a series of large locks easily contained by a diadem. The cheek is full but drawn with two vertical creases which, combined with the vertical plane created by the jaw and the brow, creates a series of vertical lines which adds power to the image. The force of the image is also enhanced by the decision to dramatically reduce the size of the eye, compared to that employed by other celators when creating the images of Alexander Ptolemy and Antiochos I. It is set high in the orbital ridge and almost seems to glare out from under a lowered brow. The mouth is firmly set with a slight frown, giving the portrait an intensity that shocks. Despite this, the image never loses sight that Seleukos is both human and mortal. The brilliant suggestion of sagging flesh, especially on the jaw line and below the orbital ridge, shows that despite all his accomplishments and power, old age is beginning to take its toll. This image is also revolutionary, for unlike the images commissioned by his contemporaries, who have garnered upon themselves some trapping of divine power, be it horns, aegis or the skins of animals, this portrait has none of that, except for the diadem which is the symbol of Hellenic royal power. The reverse is something of a variation of that employed on the coins of Lysimachos. In this case, Athena is depicted seated left holding a shield in front of her. One of the more remarkable features of the reverse is that Philetairos places his own name on the coinage. He does not take the title of king.



**Figure 4: Portrait of Seleukos I**



**Figure 5: Lifetime Portrait of Philetairos**



The overall message of this coin is ambiguous. On the one hand, one can see the magnificent portrait of Seleukos. On the other hand, one does not find the name of Seleukos, nor does one find the name of the nominal overlord of Philetairos, King Antiochos I. In fact, even the depiction of Athena suggests that she is expecting a fight. This coinage is known from eight dies and at least 36 specimens. This coinage may have been minted from 280 B.C. to 271 B.C. Some of the symbols used in the previous Alexander style coinage were employed on some of the dies of this coinage suggesting that some of the same magistrates were employed in the production of both coinages. This does beg the question whether or not the Alexander style coinage was continued after the death of Seleukos. However, there are some features that do suggest this issue was terminated fairly quickly.

The final coin (figure 5) is an issue which started in 270 B.C. and ended with the death of Philetairos in 263 B.C. It would appear that the same hand that engraved the portraits of Seleukos continued on with this powerful image of Philetairos. The difference between the image of Seleukos and that of Philetairos could not be more different. Both images are extremely intense but, whereas Seleukos is depicted as a hard bitten older man, the image of Philetairos is rendered with a brutality that shocks the eye. The image is dominated by a massive fleshy cheek and an overly large neck. In both cases, the contours are rendered with subtlety, essentially creating a more or less featureless plane divided by softly engraved jaw line. The line created by the lower jaw and chin intersects at a right angle with the line formed by the cheek. This gives the image a great deal of force.



**Figure 6: Posthumous Portrait of Philetairos**



**Figure 7: Later Posthumous Portrait of Philetairos**

The essentially empty plane of the cheek, forehead and neck are contrasted with an abundant head of hair, tightly curled, in bunches of curls all shaped like the letter C. Even this hair seems to crackle with intensity. A diadem is tightly placed within this mass of curls. The eye is extremely small and narrow, giving the impression that Philetairos is glaring out at someone. The strong horizontal line created by the orbital ridge, above the eye is reinforced by parallel lines created by the mouth and bottom of the nose. The overall impression is that Philetairos is a powerful, somewhat overweight man, who should not be trifled with.

The reverse has little changed from the issue that preceded it. Athena is seated left on a throne holding on to a shield with her outstretched right hand. In her left, she is cradling a spear. There are three separate magistrates' marks: an ivy leaf behind the shield, a bow behind Athena and the letter A on the throne. The legend reads ΦΙΛΕΤΑΙΡΟΥ. Roughly translated, this would mean "of Philetairos". At this point, it can safely be said that Philetairos had shaken off any allegiance to Antiochos and now is an independent king, though interestingly, he does not claim that title. As before, Athena seems to be anticipating a fight.



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Antiochos does eventually respond and was defeated by Eumenes, the nephew of Philetairos, who became king after he died. The Kingdom of Pergamon became a major power in Asia Minor and sided with the rising power of Rome against both the Seleukid Kingdom as well as that of Macedon. However, after a brilliant series of portraits, the coinage of the Pergamene kings became fossilized with the image of Philetairos being rendered with less and less skill (figure 6 and 7). The image of Philetairos however loses his diadem which is replaced by a wreath of laurel leaves symbolic of victory. The reverse is modified as well. The figure of Athena has put aside her shield and is crowning the name of Philetairos. Eventually, the Attic weight tetradrachms were given up all together, and what has to be one of the ugliest Greek coins, the Cistophorus, replaced it. In 133 B.C., the kingdom was actually handed over to the Romans without a shot being fired. ☒

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# Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda, but didn't...

by **Marc Bink**

*My house in Budapest  
My, my hidden treasure chest  
Golden grand piano  
My beautiful Castillo*

*You  
Ooh, you  
Ooh, I'd leave it all*

– George Ezra, "Budapest", 2015

They do have some age behind them and they're made from the same thin paper that most American Obsolete banknotes were made from. It's actually amazing that something that is so inherently fragile has survived in unused mint state this long. After the events of 1848–49 one would have thought this stuff would have all been either burned or crumpled up and tossed away, but here they are.

So what happened here? Why did these notes appear, and who was Lajos Kossuth? Why were they never issued? What went on in 1848 and what caused it?

The problem with history is that things are never really clear cut. There's always something that causes an event that usually stretches far back in a collective conscience or some event that spurs a reaction of the ruling class that in turn sparks a revolution. So in order to get an idea of what happened in 1848 we have to first go back to 1789 and the French Revolution.

I'm looking at a couple of old banknotes that I picked up in my travels recently; they're made in the USA in the mid-nineteenth century with very American-style vignettes on them, yet they're in a language I can't understand. They have one thing in common though, and this is something that is pretty rare for this period; they have a machine-signed signature on them, that of Lajos Kossuth. The other thing that is odd about these notes is that they are in mint state, and they are both unsigned and not circulated. They're hand cut, and it looks like they were fresh cut yesterday.

The French Revolution which started in 1789 and more or less fizzled out by 1815 sent shockwaves throughout the European establishment. This was the first European experiment with a popular "democracy" that was ostensibly patterned off the US model of 1775, but in its execution ended up being totally different. And that's the key word; execution. There were a lot of them starting from 1792 until the bloody frenzy was stopped in 1794 with the demise of its architect, Maximilien Robespierre. Thanks to old Max, besides taking out the villainous "Premier Estate" and all the nobility, the Revolution had also just about exhausted its supply of Public Safety Commission members. It was to the point where this august body finally decided it'll be "us or him"; they took a vote and he lost out and went to the guillotine the next day. That was the end of "phase one" of that revolution which had also cost the life of the king of France, Louis XVI and his family. The next phase was just about as onerous for

the old European establishment, that of Napoleon. Clearly something had to be done about that Corsican upstart, because he was galvanizing a disorganized French army and whipping it into an effective fighting force. And while doing so, he was taking out the Old Order wherever he encountered it. The Old Order wouldn't let him play ball, so he took his ball and rammed it down their throats. He had the audacity to set up puppet governments and transplant French ideals in various states, and he dismantled the old Holy Roman Empire and was effectively modernizing things like public education, justice and the bureaucracy in a very French fashion. He would have been successful if he hadn't have miscalculated on the vast distances and the sheer cold of the Russian winter which effectively turned the tables for the Allies. Napoleon had dictated terms to the Austrians and the Prussians, liberated a good many of their vassal states and opened up trade. He was held in check by

the British navy and the Russian Army; the later only because they could always retreat and when they did, they burned everything behind them, forcing Napoleon to commit more and more resources through increasingly fragile supply lines. As with anything stretched to the breaking point, once it snaps, the rebound is hard and the implosion is quick and merciless. The Allies tried to be nice to the once French Emperor, they sent him to Elba. Why he didn't like it there, who knows, it could have been the bad wine. The fact is, he came back and for 100 or so days assumed power again and again threatened the Old Order. This time, once Napoleon had met his Waterloo at Waterloo, he was exiled to a remote island in the middle of absolutely nowhere called St. Helena. He stayed there until he expired in 1821.

In the meantime, the Old Order re-established itself. Austria was sort of returned to former glory, although it had lost a large portion of its previous holdings as the Holy Roman Empire was taken apart. The Holy Roman Empire was not going to come back together. Russia had emerged as a world power, and Prussia had just barely survived. Previous allies of Napoleon were lucky they didn't end up on the

guillotine or have their states taken apart. The Prussians certainly wanted to do that with the Saxons, but were talked out of it by both the Austrians and the English. The English were one of the only states that emerged from the Napoleonic wars reasonably intact. Sure, they had expended a great deal of wealth and manpower in order to subdue the French, but England itself was never invaded or destroyed. So their economic plant had remained intact. As such, the English were prepared to play a leading role in the re-establishment of order on the European continent, which they did as long as it was convenient. After which it was turned over to the Austrians and in particular the Austrian Foreign minister who eventually became the Prime Minister, Klemens von Metternich.\*

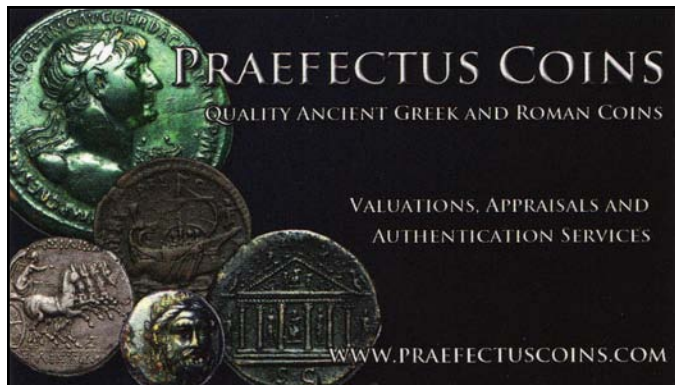
Metternich was a staunch conservative. Apparently he only took liberties with other people's wives in the bedroom. Other than that, he was as backward as it came, and more than a little paranoid. He saw a conspiracy everywhere he looked. He managed in the period from 1815 to 1848 to turn Austria into a police state. He pioneered the idea of a secret police just at the time when the whole idea of policing was in its infancy. As a

result, his political secret police were oppressive, omnipotent and usually wrong. They created more trouble than they ever solved. Of course this kind of Austrian hegemony was placed on the French state. The French Bourbon monarchy was allowed to re-establish itself, and of course, it carried on as if nothing had changed in the ensuing 20 years.

Of course it had though. The French population wasn't having anything to do with the old system, and they sure didn't want to go back to the bankruptcy and abject poverty. They wanted more of a system like the English had, which while it wasn't a democracy yet, was well on its way to eventually becoming one. The English parliament did have some power over the Crown, and it was to some extent popularly elected. The French were tired of the wars, they were tired of the armies, and they were tired of a government that didn't care about them. So in 1830, they revolted again. And, unlike the last time, the king couldn't get out of Paris fast enough and soon found himself in England. His replacement, Louis-Philippe, started off popular but lost it all in fairly short order.

Louis-Philippe was from the Orleans side of the family, and was a little more popular than

\* Prinz Klemens Wenzel Nepmuk Lothar von Metternich-Winneberg Beilstein, 1773-1859, was a German born noble who got his start in diplomacy in the service of the Holy Roman Empire. He more or less became the de facto ruler of the European world, he was a very gifted diplomat. Incredibly well informed, he went on to influence policy everywhere in Europe. He became the Austrian Prime Minister, but was forced out in 1848 due to his paranoia and inflexibility."



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the mainline Bourbon branch. He came to power with the idea that he would reform the constitution, but in the end, he didn't. His popularity eroded as the 1830's dragged on, to the point where the barricades on the streets of Paris were starting to go up almost fortnightly and the police began to tire of the constant revolutions. Most of course came to nothing, but the odd one would give the establishment a scare. Of course Metternich in Austria was having conniptions, seeing a revolutionary behind every lamppost with every new report. The truth of it all is the establishment created its own problems by blowing the whole idea of revolution way out of proportion. Like most self-fulfilling prophesies, they eventually do come true, and for Metternich and the Austrians, this happened alarmingly fast in 1848.

It was into this kind of a world that Lajos Kossuth was born in 1802. He was the son of an



**Lajos (Louis) Kossuth, 1802-1894**

impoverished Hungarian noble. Kossuth didn't really distinguish himself early on, and in fact was looked upon as a bit of a failure at first. He managed to get himself arrested and thrown in jail for sedition in 1837. So he wrote, learned, and studied English while in jail. He managed to learn English by reading the Bible and Shakespeare. There

are some things to be said about having a lot of time at one's disposal to set about a task.

Once Kossuth got out, he was more intractable than ever before. He refused to work with the government, he wanted to overthrow it. Metternich offered him a role in the state apparatus, but he refused it. He started his own newspaper, and managed to skirt the line for a while, running very close to treason but staying in the clear.

Finally in about 1847, he was given the finance portfolio in a pro-independent government that was covertly moving towards full independence. It was here that he began to shine; he reorganized the Hungarian state's capital and proceeded to try and raise money for arms. With his knowledge of English, he managed to get some international stuff happening. It was about this time that the whole ball of wax started to spiral out

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of the Austrian's control, it started innocently enough in Paris, but spread rapidly.

Close to 2000 years earlier, one Julius Caesar, seemingly invincible and at the height of his powers, was told "Beware the Ides of March" and was eventually murdered by an ally... it seems someone should have told Louis-Philippe the same thing. The Ides of March in 1848 would be his undoing too.

As was the usual case, in Paris the peasants were revolting. To the nobility, they were revolting in all facets and usually ignored. For a time the barricades went up almost nightly, and then as fast as things went up a show of force would soon disperse things. The secret police were learning fast; in their first decade bumbling about, but by 1848 they had learned enough to almost be effective. They had broken up a few cells, sent a few people off to the guillotine, but for the most part any opposition to the government came in carefully crafted articles and stories from the intelligentsia of the day. However, this time a simple misunderstanding at

the ramparts managed to get a few shot and killed, one of which was a young woman who had the misfortune of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. This was enough to start the ball rolling, and within days the last French king, Louis-Philippe, was scurrying towards the coast and exile to avoid a potentially gruesome end much like that which befell his ancestor, Louis XVI. A republic was declared, but the revolutionary fervor never really went away.

In the Austrian side of Europe, things went from calm to flat out ugly in a hurry. At first there were was Milan; innocently protesting a tobacco tax by refusing to smoke. Some dim-witted Austrian soldier got it in his head to goad people on by making a big display about smoking a cigar. Needless to say, he got it smashed into his face, and soon the troops were called out. Then some other nit-wit discharged his weapon at the crowd, and that was it. Soon the whole Italian boot was aflame. The Austrians were forced to retreat as one after the other state or city declared its independence from Austrian rule.

The Italians could have possibly succeeded in making their own state, were it not for a rivalry between monarchists and republicans. They needed a Kossuth; they got Garibaldi instead. Garibaldi tried, but just couldn't get it together. He was not the right man at the right time. Where he learned from the mistakes made in 1848 and finally succeeded in achieving independence from Austria in 1868, Kossuth never got that far.

Where it got ferocious was of course in Germany. Most of the little city-states and the smaller duchies and states capitulated to the reformers quite quickly. In Germany the movement had been both nationalist and republican; they started to argue as to whether or not there should be some form of monarchy, some preferred a constitutional monarchy, others wanted a complete and clean break. The only thing they really agreed on was they didn't want to be under Austrian or Prussian rule. So when the first congress convened under a black, red and gold banner, it was almost immediately mired down in semantics and rhetoric. Two interesting personalities

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were there, each figuring prominently in other countries after they were exiled; Carl Schurz and Karl Marx. At first they all got along. But then, the conference gave into petty personalities and soon lost its way. Schurz fled and went on to help found the American Republican Party, and Marx went on to found Communism. Two polar opposites which were for a moment of a few short weeks enough of a threat to the Old Order in Germany to inspire thousands more to join them and pick up their philosophies. The Socialist parties had their start here, in particular the SPD in Germany. They can trace their lineage right back to Frankfurt in 1848.

In Berlin, it got really ugly. The army was of course called in, and thousands ended up dead. They engaged in street warfare with the locals, whole swaths of town were destroyed. The Prussian king fled to Sans-Soussi, the palace in Potsdam, under heavy guard. There he licked his wounds in the presence of a bunch of hard-liners and contemplated his next move.

It was in Vienna where things really got going, and it was there that the beginning of the end occurred. The Hungarians were emboldened by the moves in Paris, Kossuth came up with a speech which demanded freedom and equality for Hungarians within the Austrian empire. What he initially wanted was to be on equal footing to the

Austrian crown. This speech was soon making its way all over the Austrian empire, where in Prague the Czech majority was trying to make itself heard over the German masters. They too, wanted to be considered as equals within the Empire, they wanted self-rule or home rule under the Austrian emperor, but there was to be a constitution and a parliament or diet. After Kossuth's speech made it to them, they modified their demands significantly, they wanted all the German-speakers out. In Hungary, they also wanted the German-speakers out and they also wanted independent home rule. Kossuth and company went to Vienna to demand it. When they arrived there, they found the local population up in arms; Metternich had been dismissed and was nowhere to be found, and the emperor was seriously considering throwing in the towel. Seeing as how he was rather feeble and easily influenced, it fell to a couple of hardliners to try and rescue the empire.

By now the Austrian empire was reeling. In Italy, they were almost wiped out. In Hungary, they were tossed out, as in Bohemia and the other Czech lands. All the Hapsburgs had left was Austria, and a few little bits in Germany. And if the Germans had their way, that would have ended too.

But all of these revolutions had a fatal flaw; they were run by philosophers and intellectuals with

little or no understanding of how to seize the moment. While all of these intellectuals obfuscated and pondered philosophical platforms or differences, the Old Order was regrouping. As the revolutionaries started to fracture, that's when the Old Order did seize the moment and strike back. And they were very effective; but it was at an impressive cost. The Austrians sent General Joseph Radetzky into Italy where he started to claw back. The rebels gave as good as they received, but eventually the Austrian army was too much. One tactic the Austrians loved using was sending troops from another ethnic group; in this case, Croats and Serbs from the Balkans. In Hungary they sent in Alfred Windischgrätz, who eventually triumphed. There wasn't much the Hungarians could do; they had tried to negotiate with Austria, hoping to get a better deal within the empire. As it happened, the leadership in Hungary started to fragment, and the troops hastily mustered up started to falter. There was no substitute for hard military training, and most Hungarian troops were rank amateurs at best.

Within a year it was all over. The Old Order had reasserted itself. In Austria, they were mopping up. It was taking longer than anticipated, and it was bleeding the Austrian state white. The emperor had gone back on his word to permit a constitution. The Czechs were cowed,



5000 forint featuring Kossuth



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and the Italians were just about subdued and the Pope was put back in his place with a stern warning. It was only in Hungary that things were difficult. There, Kossuth was attempting to find a middle ground between the monarchists and the republicans. He was not getting much cooperation. He issued a new currency and tried to get a new independent Hungary recognized by the rest of the world. In the meantime, he was trying to keep the Austrians at bay by negotiating. As Windischgrätz was slowly encircling them, Kossuth fled and moved the capital out to Pressburg. Now they had lost most of their industry and armaments, it was only a matter of time. Kossuth managed to get out and flee, never to return to Hungary again. His compatriots weren't so lucky, a good many of them ended up on the gallows for their involvement. The Austrians didn't forgive or forget and were brutal when they reasserted their hegemony.

Hungary was eventually allowed a degree of autonomy under the Austrian crown. Austria was forced to relinquish total control largely because of economics. The survivors of 1848 managed by 1868 to get a deal they could live with, and the Austrian empire then became Austro-Hungary. It didn't stop the rot or the decline though, by 1914 the once powerful Austro-Hungarian Empire was more an empire on paper than it was in reality.

And what happened to our friend Lajo (Louis) Kossuth?

Well, he could see the writing on the wall when it appeared. He stuck around as long as he could, and then at the last moment fled to fight again. First, he went through the Ottoman Turkish Empire, where he found temporary refuge which was in actuality more of an imprisonment. The Ottomans weren't



**"End of the Line"**

**A Hungarian Patriot getting shot by the Austrians, Oct. 16, 1849**

sure what to do with him, and they decided to hang on to him and see if he was worth anything to Austrians.

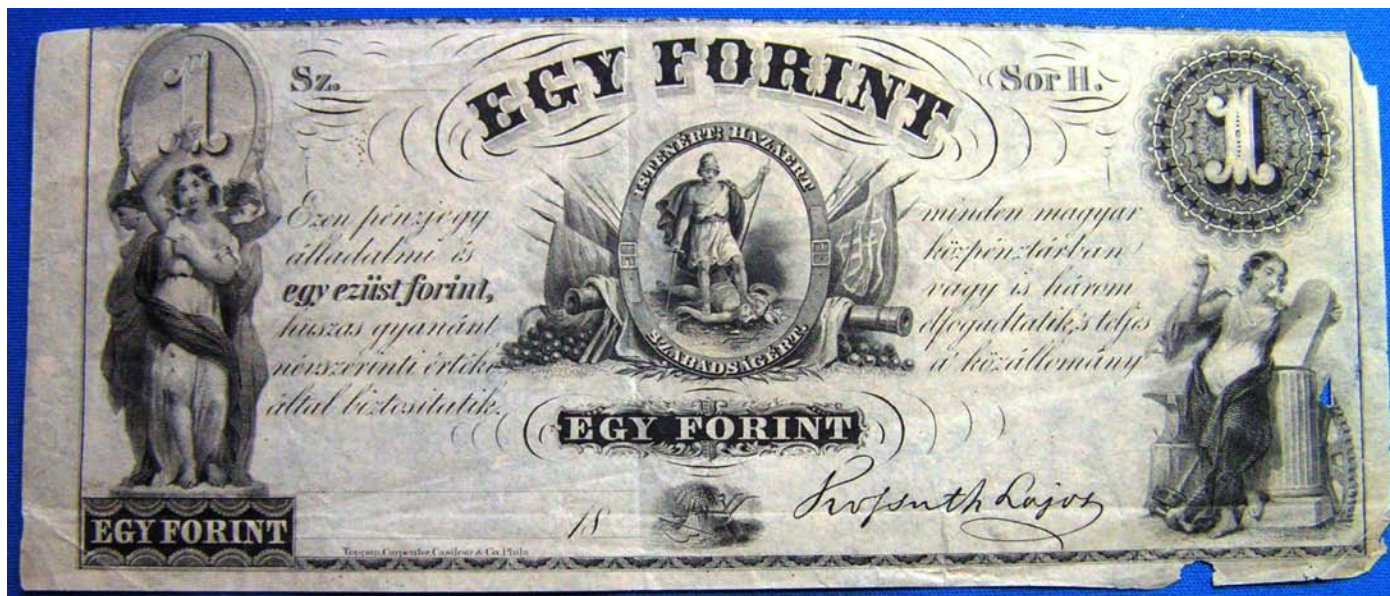
The Austrian repression in Hungary was brutal. All of the surviving members of the independent government ended up being propelled up against a post and shot. Their declaring unilateral independence when the Austrians were down guaranteed their deaths. Kossuth was disturbed by this, and vowed to avenge them if he could. But he couldn't do it from a Turkish prison. The Turks, on the other hand, got the answer to the question as to whether Kossuth was worth anything by the fact that the others were all executed. They let him go, and soon Kossuth found himself in England.

In England, he was the darling of the social circuit, but only to a point. The English government was not too comfortable with him around preaching republicanism against another major European Power. The Austrians were putting pressure on, and although this was politely ignored, Kossuth soon got the message that perhaps he should shove off for other shores. Kossuth then went west to North America.

Once in the US, he was again feted by High Society. Fellow "48ers" like Carl Schurz made the rounds with him, gaining publicity and to some degree notoriety by dining and dashing from one affair to the next. The whole business of being a revolutionary in exile was getting expensive, and Kossuth had just about exhausted his 15 minutes. The free ride was coming to an end, and he realized he was running a bit short of funds. The "rubber chicken" circuit of the day didn't pay all that well, and he was bouncing around from one dumpy hotel to the next. He wanted to put down some roots and actively plan for the upcoming Hungarian revolution. He was going to need money.

One thing about revolutionaries, is that they have the "gift of gab" and can sell both themselves and a concept. Kossuth was no exception. His speeches were legendary and he managed to influence a generation of American politicians and even rubbed shoulders with people like Abraham Lincoln. He had counties named after him, and he is one of the few foreign people in the US to have statues erected of him. So his reputation and penchant for the high life preceded him. It was expensive.





1 Forint



2 Forint

So what did he end up doing? He eventually perpetrated a huge scam. He did the 19th century equivalent of a "crowd-funding". He went to the firm Troppan, Carpenter & Casilear and had them print up some official looking banknotes in Hungarian. Google translate wasn't much of help except to provide a general theme as to what the notes potentially have written on them. It seems that the bearer of the note was to be repaid the purchase price of the note in Hungarian Silver

Forints once the revolution was successful and Hungary had her independence. Needless to say, this wasn't about to happen any time soon; and Kossuth probably knew that. There apparently was one run of a 1, 2, and 5 Forint note made in 1852, and there were some stock-certificate like things made by the same outfit afterwards. The 5 Forint and the 2 Forint notes are fairly common it seems, but the 1 Forint is rare. My notes are all in EF condition, as they should be, considering they probably

spent 100 years moldering in a safety deposit box somewhere or lined someone's sock drawer. They are printed on that incredibly thin cheap looking paper that most notes were printed on in those days, and only printed on one side. They are the "regulation" size for any Obsolete American banknote of the day. They are also hand cut, one has to wonder if the Great Man did it himself. And, to top it all off, they still aren't worth a hill of beans.





**"Lamartine Rejecting the Red Flag", 1848 Paris.**

Kossuth generated a substantial amount of money from gullible Americans, and then left for Italy once the Americans also indicated that his welcome was a bit worn. So, armed with money he knew he could never repay, he ended out his life in Turin. The Italians, once they achieved national unity and independence from Austria, (1868) were more than happy to accommodate him. But Kossuth never dealt with the Austrians and never went back to Hungary, even after the Magyars achieved semi-autonomy within the Austrian Empire as part of a dual monarchy. This in essence was what he had fought for in 1840 to 1848, only becoming more radicalized when the opportunity demanded it. This still wasn't good enough for him, and he felt that the current rulers of Hungary had sold out the provisional government and lead them to the firing squad. So he elected to remain in Turin, and he died there a very old man at the age of 92 in 1894. His funeral was a Society Event; everyone who was anyone was there. Conspicuously absent were the Austrians though ... and the Hungarians.

1848 was a pyrrhic victory for the Old Order. At the time they all had no idea that the re-establishment of the Old Order

would actually be the beginning of the end for a number of empires. As was discussed above, the Austrians were the first to suffer. 1848 cleaned out the national treasury which had not been rebuilt from the Napoleonic Wars. They were soon forced to give up Italy, and Hungary eventually got its autonomy. Austria became the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and proceeded to rot further. By 1918 it was all over and Hungary had full independence and Austria was reduced to a rump Germanic state with a marginal economy. The Russians were not really affected by the events of 1848 because the Czar insulated the country by quelling all opposition and closing the borders. The Russian monarchy would eventually pay for that in 1918. By 1870, the German Empire was founded. This upset the balance of power in Europe. The "new kid" on the block immediately wanted a place in the sun, and embarked on some misguided strategies that would eventually culminate in its destruction by 1945.

It would take with it the old empires of France and Britain.

It then took another 100 years before some of what the delegates who went to Frankfurt had hoped for to happen. In 1948 The German Federal Republic

was founded and it chose to use the 1848 tricolour as the new national flag.

In Hungary, independence has come with a price. The inter-war period of 1918 to 1945 there was a Regency in place; in actuality the country was a quasi-Fascist style dictatorship. First the Communists almost took over, they were routed and murdered, and then the military consolidated and ran the place. The Hungarians under Admiral Horthy made a deal with Hitler and went down to destruction in 1945. After 1945, the Russians installed a Communist puppet government which ruled until 1989. Now Hungary is considered "democratic"; they've shed their Communist baggage and are now in the EU as a modern "properly" functioning state.

So I wonder if they'll redeem my Kossuth notes now?

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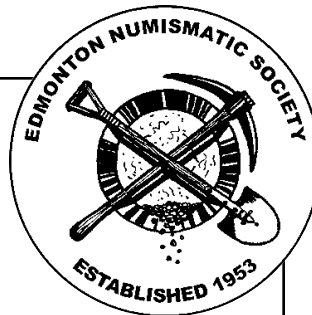
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Answer to the Puzzle Page  
from March 2016:

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CSOGRUOPRCFDEBITZ  
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GWCEBONUSSRSZARKS  
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WGTFXSAVAJWWINAL  
OAWVTLECMNMNB OEHU

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

beads	denomination	exergue	lettered edge	reeding
border	denticles	fields	lustre	relief
bust	devices	incuse	maple leaf	reverse
centre	diadem	initials	mint mark	rim
character	diameter	inlay	monarch	ring
core	digit	inscription	motif	serif
country	dot	jewels	obverse	sides
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