

The **PLANCHET**

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Counterstamp

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6 Deniers Tournois
Coins of Dardenne

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It's a Presidential
Thing: Part 3

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**ENS SUMMER
2017 BBQ PICS**



Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 64 · Issue 5



September 2017





The PLANCHET

Volume 64 • Issue 5

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

August – September 2017

First, Edmonton – and then we take Berlin...

Well, it's just about fall again, and the start of another winter season of meeting approaches. Hopefully the summer was good to all of you and your collecting endeavors; I know I picked up a few interesting pieces that will serve as grist for some new articles.

The Fall Show is quickly coming up. We are making preparations and finalizing details on what promises to be another good show. The venue remains the same, so the set up and organization should be the same. I will be passing around the volunteer sheet again; we'd like to get all the details nailed down early this time, as in before the end of the month.

The reason for that is a few of the ENS Executive will be in Berlin on October 14–15 to take in a "Numismata" coin show. Therefore, we'd like to have the details of our show sewn up and ready

because there won't be a lot of time to finish up once we get back. We will be proudly trooping the colours at the show (putting Edmonton "on the map" as it were). The hope is that it won't be misunderstood and we end up getting arrested as political extremists when we show up en masse at the coin show in black shirts with a pick-and-shovel logo on them. Still, all kidding aside, we will be going there and promoting the club, the Planchet and the Edmonton coin scene when we go there. (Ok, who am I kidding, we're there for the coins!)

Later on this fall we will finally tackle the website issue. This has been a long standing beef of mine, the fact is our website has finally hit the point of being next to useless and is getting pretty long in the tooth. It's hard to imagine that the last time it was revamped was back in 1998, and that was 19 years ago! So it's time...but what I would like to hear is some ideas for what should be on our new website. We have decided to get professional help with this and hire a company to write us a new and modern site that we hope will have some interactive features on it as well as a members only section for members to easily access club information and the Planchet. Also, part of this process would be to finally get the Planchet archives "Google-searchable". So if you have any ideas as to what you feel should be on the new website, write it out and let me or a member of the Executive know.

In the meantime, enjoy what's left of the summer, and be sure to take in Pizza Night as the first meeting of the season starts on Sept. 13, 2017. For this upcoming year, we will still meet at the old Royal Alberta Museum building. Hope to see you there! ☒

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@ the Next Meeting

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Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017

Royal Alberta Museum

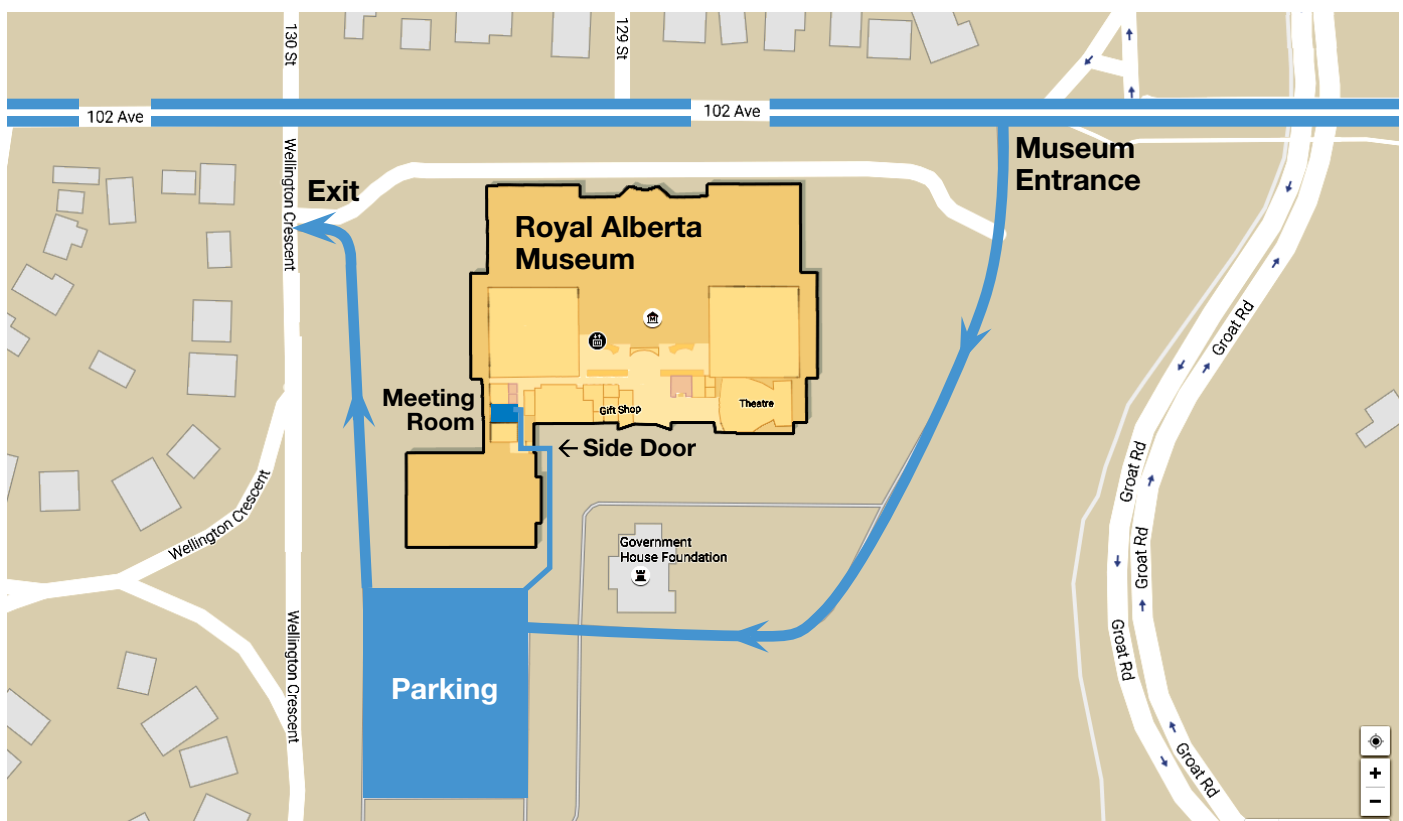
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Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm

- Society Matters
- Show and tell
- Silent auction
- RCNA Show Report
- Presentation topic: 'Baltic to Berlin'
- Break for: coffee, pop and cookies
- Door prize draws

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

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About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

June 14, 2017 ENS Meeting Minutes

David Peter, the ENS Vice-President, opened the meeting at 19:12 hrs for the 39 members in attendance.

Club Matters

Our current meeting room here at the old Royal Alberta Museum is only available for our use until June 2018. We are looking for suggestions on places that we can move to in the future. A suggestion was made to look into places where other clubs meet, such as schools or libraries. There will be more discussions in the months to come.

As confirmed last month, the annual ENS BBQ will be held at Marc's home in Sherwood Park starting at 1500 hrs on June 24, 2017. Everyone is asked to RSVP.

We are expecting to receive our Canada 150 medals in November or December 2017.

Wayne Hansen has volunteered to be the Presentation Coordinator for our monthly meetings.

November 11–12, 2017 Coin Show

- 20 coin cases have been purchased to augment our rental stock for our coin shows.
- Black volunteer shirts will be available at the September meeting for those who have earned one.
- The banners, posters and dealer packages have been prepared.
- ENS volunteers will be asked to assist with the show advertising in September.

Show & Tell


Items circulated during Show & Tell included:

- A 1922 George V 5 cents coin in an old PCGS green holder with a grade of SP-65.
- Also in a green label PCGS holder, a mirror strike 1937 silver dollar with a grade of SP-65.
- A 1937 \$2 Banknote.

Presentation

Wayne Hansen took us on an exciting tour of the Greek coin cities of southern Italy and Sicily.

Conclusion

Tickets were drawn for the door prizes, the silent auction lots were sold, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:40 hrs. 



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Coming Events

Sept 22, 2017: Issue 5 of the 2017 PLANCHET

Oct 11, 2017: ENS Meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum; 7:15 pm start.

Oct 13, 2017: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 6.

Nov 3, 2017: Issue 6 of the 2017 PLANCHET

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

Nov 11 & 12, 2017: ENS Fall Show

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

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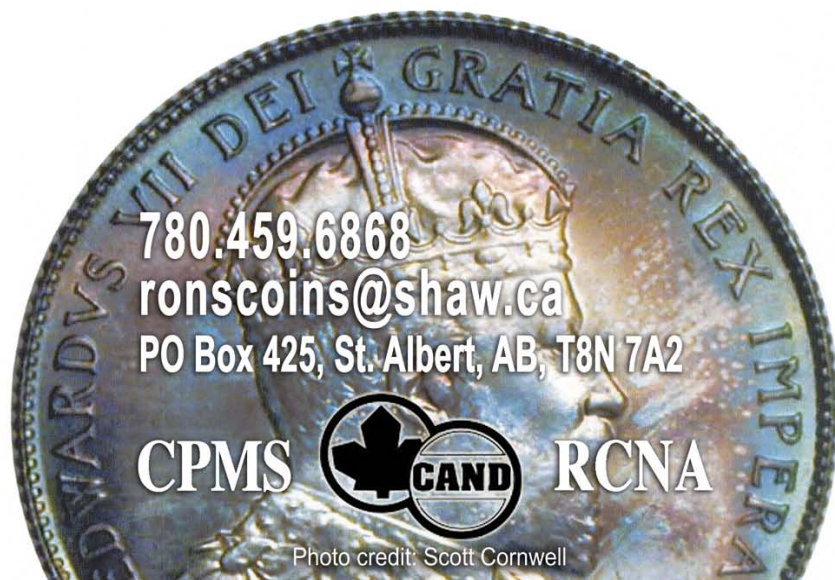
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Photos by Dan Gosling

ENS Barbecue

June 24, 2017



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Fall 2017 Show

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Sat. Nov. 11, 2017 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. Nov. 12, 2017 10:00am – 4:30pm



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Dabbling in Celtic Gold

Simple, Surreal Coinages with a Whimsical Bent

by **Wayne Hansen**



‘Disjointed’ Celtic Horse with Rider

Reverse of Ambiani Gold Stater (58–55 BC)
(courtesy Art Ancient)

Not all ancient ‘Greek’ coin producers would have been invited to the annual ‘Pan-Hellenic Mint Master Coin Swap and BBQ’ (also known as the ‘Die and Anvil Classic’ until an emotionally charged catering dispute caused it to fold in 273 BC). Celtic mint officials would certainly not have been invited. For one thing, Celtic tribes primarily lived far to the north and west of Greek coinage centers, making the trek somewhat arduous. As well, the Celts generally didn’t mint their own distinctive coins until the late 3rd to 1st century BC, some time after the main Greek issues were struck, and migrant Greeks didn’t found any of the Celtic settlements. The only connection with Greece was that many Celtic coin designs were derived from classical images found on Macedonian Greek coinages that had previously circulated widely – especially the staters and tetradrachms of Philip II, first copied by Celts along the Lower Danube. Nonetheless, Celtic coins are often included as ‘Greek’ simply because there is a primal need to group ancient coin types and ancient type coin collectors into two broad categories – Greek and Roman. For this reason, all pre-Roman, European/Middle Eastern coins are called ‘Greek’, whether real Greeks minted them or not.

The few Celtic gold issues discussed in this article were struck in the Celtic west during the 1st century BC – that is, in Gaul and Belgica on the Atlantic edge of Europe and in pre-Roman Britain. Celtic tribes on either side of the English Channel were related culturally, which carried over into similar approaches to coin design. Their sporadic mint issues tended to be crude and eclectic overall, which wasn’t always a good thing. I like the coins however, because of their western European tribal and ancestral associations and because they are visually exciting – an odd notion perhaps, but it seems to be all the rationale one needs to cultivate such an interest.

Historical Perspective


It is not usually advisable for the uninitiated to traverse the mine-field of Celtic history. Of course there are disagreements about Celtic origins and advancement – many people can't even agree if Celtic is pronounced as the Greek 'Keltic' or the English 'Seltic' (I'm at the Keltic end of that particular Lilliputian egg). It has long been assumed that the Celts were a loose association of tribal peoples, with a similar culture and language that were found initially in central Europe then later dispersed into far corners of the continent. They were different from both the more savage and semi-nomadic Germanic tribes, as well as the associated Viking Norsemen. Although some might see them as primitive with regard to their predilection for tattoos and occasional naked warfare, they were in fact rather civilized – creating settlements and art, building chariots for inevitable conflicts and establishing trade relations. Their name is derived from the Greek 'KEATOI' (Keltoi), a specific word initially used by a Greek writer around 500 BC to denote a barbaric tribe north of the Greek colony of Massalia (Marsailles) in southern France – probably because that is what the tribe called itself. Greeks and Romans later used it as a general term for all barbarians, because they saw all northern peoples as barbarians ... obviously because they weren't Greek or Roman. Among the detailed assortment of northern barbarians and primitives, the Vikings were particularly aggressive and violent when seeking plunder and territorial expansion, while the Celts were generally more passive and methodical, moving incrementally and defending themselves when attacked from outside. They were more attuned to agriculture, and,

except for a few tribes on the west coast of Gaul, they did not have a seafaring culture.

According to early modern speculation, Iron Age Celts spoke similar proto-Celtic languages in central Europe around 800 to 450 BC. These Celts lived in what is now known as the Hallstatt Area, covering southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria (see map in Figure 1), which was named after the current town of Hallstatt in Austria where over 1,000 Celtic graves were uncovered in the mid 1800s. These grave finds were possibly related to early Celtic development of iron processing technology in that location. In the following La Tene Period, from 450 BC to the Roman Conquest of Britain, these Hallstatt tribes developed intricate artworks and practical technologies, which then expanded through cultural diffusion or direct migration into France, Belgium, Iberia and the British Isles in western Europe, plus also Poland, Northern Italy, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Minor. This more evolved Celtic culture incorporated good agricultural practices, road building and mining, as well as the manufacture of improved tools and weapons. The Celts also traded for luxury goods with Italy and Greece. However, by the mid-1st millennium AD, their broad European presence was eroded or subsumed by rapid Roman expansion and Germanic/Slavic migrations, such that the only places where Celtic culture existed and Celtic languages were spoken were Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Brittany.

All ancient Celtic groups were linked to a Celtic identity by the use of similar artifacts, language and inscriptions. Actually,

viewing Celts as a group is a modern concept based more on culture rather than any genetic relationship. Since they didn't use written text, the earliest example of a written Celtic language is an inscription from the 6th century BC. Celtic writing had largely consisted of place names and short inscriptions until Irish Celts developed a full scripture for religious purposes in the 8th century AD. It was Roman historians, occupiers and cartographers, including Strabo, Julius Caesar and Diodorus, who comprehensively recorded the detailed names and distribution of Celtic tribes in Europe and Britain for posterity (see Figure 2 for maps). Each tribe maintained fairly well defined, contiguous borders, so the map-maker's task was relatively easy, if not always completely accurate. As an aside, Figures 3A and 3B show a few of the La Tene period Celtic artworks that I found on a visit to the National Museum in Copenhagen.



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Figure 1 – Proto-Celtic Core in Hallstatt and La Tene Expansion



Figure 1A – This map describes the central European area occupied by early Celtic tribes in the Hallstatt Period around 800–450 BC (in yellow) and the gradually expanded area inhabited by the La Tene Period Celts from 450 BC to 43 AD (green and brown shades). Hallstatt is the lakeside town in Austria where elaborate Celtic artifacts were first excavated from graves in the mid 1800s. Names of the larger La Tene tribes are also shown on the map, though dozens of others existed alongside them. Dedicated Celtic territory was much reduced after the end of the 1st century BC, with the advance of the Roman Empire and incursions by Germanic/Slavic populations. (Map courtesy Haywood, wikipedia.org.)



Figure 1B – View of popular tourist town of Hallstatt Austria, which is also known for alpine scenery and tours of an ancient salt mine established over 3,000 years ago. Its shafts were originally dug by hand and now extend many kilometers into the mountainside (photo courtesy traveloompa.com).

Gallic Wars

The Romans obviously had a big impact on the fate of the western Celts. In the expansion of the Roman Empire, they needed to pacify inhabitants and then cooperate as much as possible with occupied populations, integrating those that they didn't initially eliminate. They had particular trouble in Gaul during the main period of discussion in this article, the 1st century BC.

The Gallic Wars were a series of campaigns against various Celtic tribes, from 58 to 51 BC, in what is now primarily modern France. The campaigns were led by the Roman proconsul Gaius Julius Caesar (GAIVS IVLIVS CAESAR in Latin – aka Julius Caesar) whose real name was actually Gaius Julius – Julius being the family name. His nickname 'Caesar' ('hairy one') was tacked on at the end presumably as a term of endearment. Romans mostly saw Gaul as civilized and wealthy and Caesar had been governing three of its provinces. Rome generally enjoyed good relationships and stable alliances with the Gallic tribes, and they conducted a fair amount of mutual trade. At the same time, Rome knew that Celts needed to be respected, based on the previous, atypical Celtic invasion of central Italy when Rome was sacked and its very existence was threatened. In the ensuing Gallic battles, the Celts did not have a regular military, instead fighting in their usual loose groups based on clans and social status. Their reported wild, warlike antics may have been overhyped in Roman accounts.

The Gallic Wars ostensibly started as a fight among Celtic tribes concerning population migrations and territory, which initially resulted in the defeat of the Aedui and their allies, which included Rome. Then in 58 BC, the Helvetii tribe who resided



'Alesia: the final Gaulish assault on the siege lines' by British historical illustrator Peter Dennis.

in current Switzerland, wanted to relocate to new territory on Gaul's west coast. Caesar objected, fearing plunder and disruption to allied Gallic tribes during the migration. To defend Rome's interests, he crossed the Alps with five Roman legions to head off the Helvetii. This didn't work at first – most of the Helvetii escaped, then regrouped and chased Caesar. But Caesar soon prevailed and forced a general surrender, except for 6,000 of the Helvetii who briefly resisted before being caught and executed.

After the Helvetii incident, most tribes supported Caesar and wanted him to eliminate another threat from the encroaching Suebi, a Germanic tribe who wanted more land in Gaul. Caesar challenged the Germans and defeated the seven tribes arranged against him. Then in 57 BC, Caesar attacked the Belgae who had earlier attacked another tribe allied with Rome. He was almost defeated after not having time to organize his forces but prevailed with heavy

fighting and use of superior heavy weapons. In 56–54 BC, Caesar also attacked the Venetii on the Atlantic coast, then he returned to the Rhine to tackle some fringe Germanic tribes and make two punitive excursions into Britain (a full invasion was left to Claudius in the 1st century AD).

Further discontent in Gaul led to uprisings against Rome from 54–53 BC. Fifteen Roman cohorts were wiped out at Atuatica Tungrorum in Belgium, plus there was the guerrilla war with Vercingetorix, chieftain of the Arverni tribe. Skirmishes continued until 51 BC, but the Wars ended at the Battle of Alesia in 52 BC, which confirmed full Roman control of Gaul and subsequently positioned Caesar to become ruler of the Roman Republic. The Gallic Wars were therefore also a political tool for Caesar's advancement. From his experiences, Caesar wrote a famous account of the nature of warfare against Celts and Britons in his treatise 'Commentaries on the Gallic Wars'.

Figure 2 – Maps Showing Location of Celtic Tribes

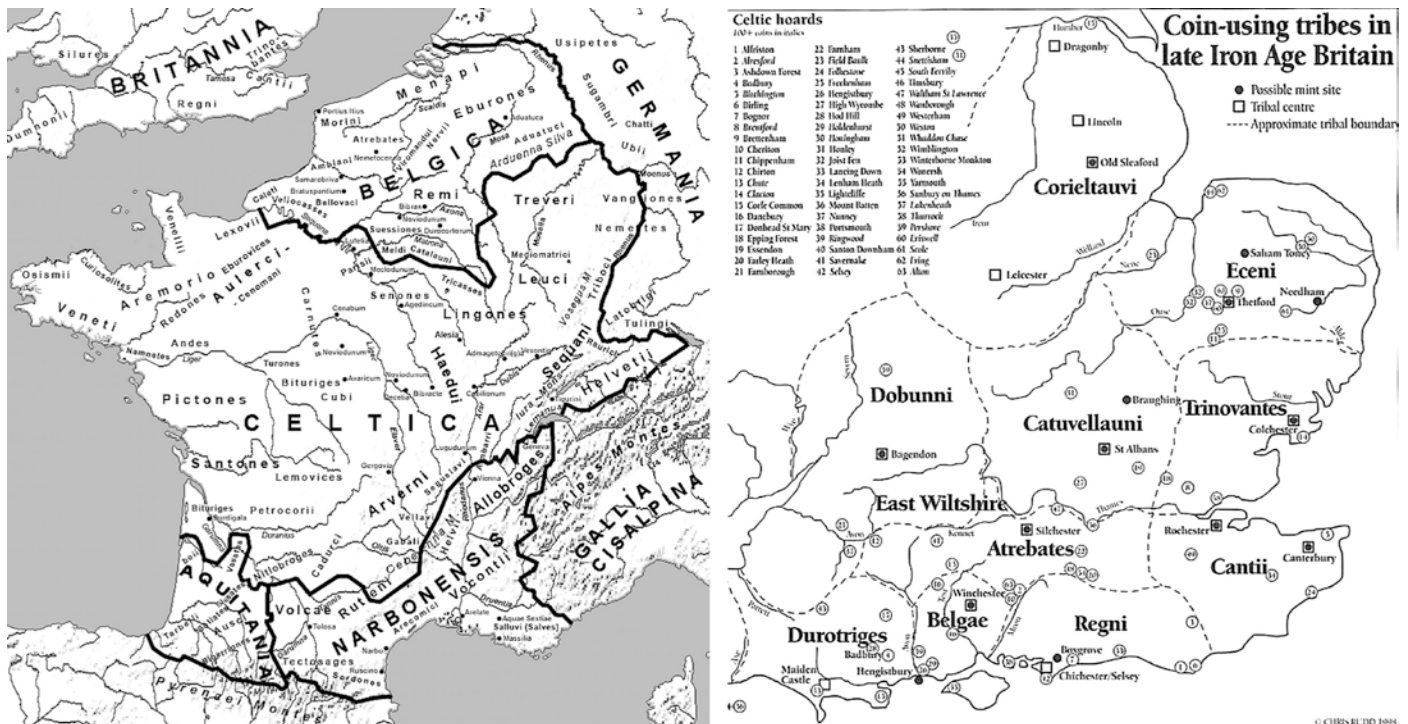


Figure 2 – These two maps are based on work of Roman cartographers and information from archeological finds. They illustrate the distribution of Celtic tribes in western Europe and south east Britain before the Roman conquest. (Maps courtesy Feitscherg, wikipedia.org and coinproject.com.)

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Figure 3 – Celtic Artwork



Figure 3A – Gold artifacts of the Celts at the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen (photos by the author).



Figure 3B – Gundestrup Cauldron at the National Museum, Copenhagen. Dated between 200 BC to 300 AD, it is the largest silver vessel of the La Tene period. Found in a Danish bog, it was likely made elsewhere since it has Gaulish/Thracian artistic influences and Thracian metalwork. Its interior and exterior panels show scenes of intermingled, highly embossed humans and creatures, that appear to be Celtic in origin – meaning it may have been a commissioned offering (photos by the author).



Celtic Coinage

Celtic history is tricky, and Celtic coinage is complicated (...There Be Dragons!). In general terms, and for the usual reasons of wealth, trade and war, the Celts adopted minting practices by the 4th to 2nd centuries BC. In Eastern Europe, including primarily the Carpathians, the Lower Danube to the western shore of the Black Sea and parts of Thrace, Celts began striking their own versions of Macedonian and Greek silver tetradrachms – ranging from the Zeus/rider coins of Philip II, the Herakles/seated Zeus coins of Alexander III and the silver Dionysios coins of Thasos and Maroneia. These eastern issues were virtually all silver, but I have also seen an example of a reduced, 4.5 gram gold stater from the 2nd to 1st century BC which supposedly imitates a Macedonian stater of king Lysimachos. These coinages are usually easily identified as Celtic and often crude, but there are a few grey areas in the late Greek/early Celtic period when Macedonian/Greek mint standards had slipped. On the other hand, by the 3rd to 2nd century BC, most eastern Celts had developed their own style for imitative and original coin types, which in fact promoted many of their issues to a higher artistic plane. They devised distinctive designs using native artistic skills reflecting their own experience and possibly religious homage. The resulting coins are variously often bold, imaginative, geometric, iconic, stylish, sinuously interpreted and indisputably creative.

In western Celtic areas, where coinage production expanded a bit later in the timeline, tribal coinages were distinctively Celtic from the beginning. The western tribes also issued a considerable number of gold coins whose types were largely based on the late gold staters of Philip II/Philip III of Macedon (as opposed to Alexander III's Athena staters) – many of which were likely issued in response to the Roman incursion into Gaul. The same whimsical and often disjointed 1st century BC gold designs from the Gallo-Belgic area then also tended to migrate over the channel to be imitated by related Celtic tribes on the Britannic side.

Early 1st century BC Celtic gold staters tended to be heavier than the later ones and consisted of fairly pure metal, but hardships in the latter half of the century quickly led to a reduction in weight and dilution of the alloy with silver and other metals. For example, the pure silver Durotriges coin in Figure 8 below was first issued with the same types as a gold stater (which can now be found at a higher price). This raises a side question about the source of gold, which was initially and briefly used for western Celtic staters. Since early Celtic gold was high quality, and the designs were based on Macedonian issues, it may be possible that the Celts were re-minting and re-circulating original Philip II/III and Alexander III coins using their own lighter weight standards and their own interpretive

Philip designs. Philip staters were originally issued by Macedonian kings from 340 BC to circa 315–305 BC (under Philip II, Alexander III, Philip III and Kassander), and Alexander staters were minted into the 3rd century BC (under Alexander, Ptolemy, Lysimachos and the Seleukid kings), so a lot of Philip and Alexander gold issues would have circulated in the 4th and early 3rd century BC. It's possible that a large number of these original Macedonian-type staters would have been paid to foreign Celtic mercenaries in the service of the Macedonian military, then brought home. But I digress...

The late development of Celtic coinage coincides with the rise and expansion of the Roman Empire in both eastern and western Europe and in southern Britain. Many of the tribes noted on the maps in Figure 2 produced coins. Although many were silver, some may have been joint issues, and some would have been issued at the behest of later Celtic kings fighting the Romans. The coins would have been struck in far smaller quantities and over a much shorter time span than for the Greeks, Macedonians or Romans, so far fewer have survived, especially among the masses of Roman coins unearthed in British hoards. Most issues would have been struck once or only periodically to satisfy a particular need, even though the overall Celtic coin production period may have lasted 150–200 years from east to west.

Figure 4 – Map of Featured Coin Mint Locations

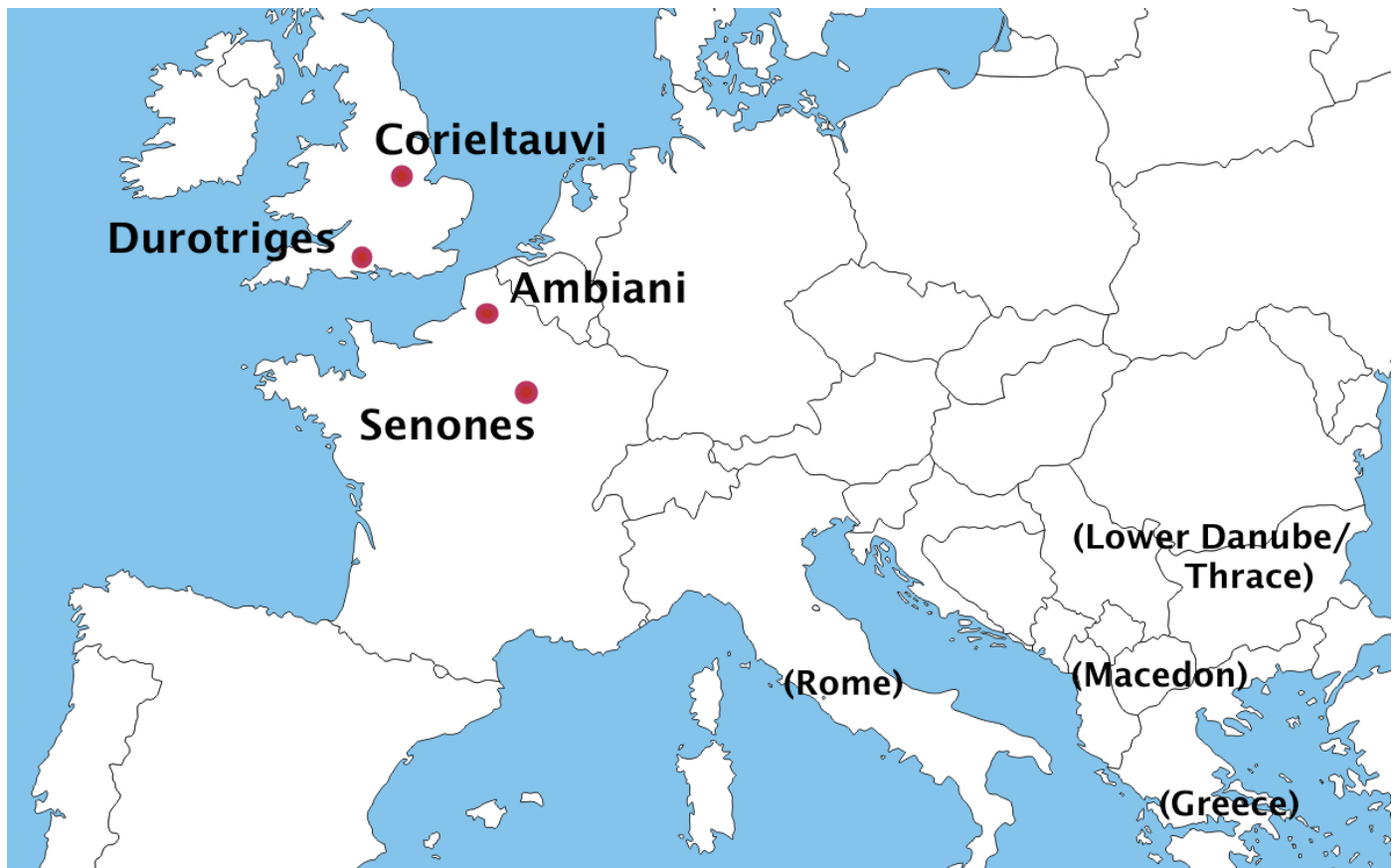


Figure 4 – This summarizing map pinpoints the location of mints where the four, featured coins were struck during the 1st century BC (base map modified by author).



Featured Staters

Following are the four Celtic staters, three gold and one silver, that happen to be in my collection either by design or happenstance – that is, because they were available (the well-trod ‘resistance is futile’ approach to acquisitions). I sought out first two because they were earlier issues, one of which was definitely part of the Gallic Wars, and also because they were a rich gold colour and demonstrated two different coin formats. The other two coins were more accidental but they

were also somewhat different and they were minted by Celts in Britannia rather than Europe. My main prerequisite was that the coins had to be struck before the end of the BC era, when Celtic tribes were wild and free, meaning well before the Roman conquest of Britain beginning in 43 AD. See map in Figure 4 for locations of my four chosen mints. In the end, the featured coins are a small slice of overall Celtic gold coin issues, some others of which are seen in Figure 9. My coins are

of the more standard variety and of the more easily available types – less exciting than the prettier and more artistic ones, but cheaper.

All four of the following coins were struck before, during or immediately after the Gallic Wars. The first coin, from the Senones tribe, is early and quite different from the rest. The Ambiani stater is one of the most iconic and recognized of the group – an easy starting point for a Celtic gold collection.

Figure 5 – Featured Senones Gold Stater



Senones Stater (100–60 BC)

Region: North-Central Gaul

Obv: Cross on plain convex globule with prominent mid-rim.

Rev: Plain convex globule.

Data: (7.15g, 12.5 x 12.0 mm).

Mint: Agendicum (now Sens), Gallo-Belgica border.

Acquired: NB Numismatics (July 2014).

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

Figure 5 – One branch of the Senones tribe joined a migration of Celts across the Alps to northern Italy in 400 BC, but this branch settled in north central Gaul, just south of the border with Belgica and southeast of the island claimed by the Parisii (the island in the center of modern Paris). The capital city of the Senones was Agendicum, where this coinage was likely struck. In 53-51 BC, they joined the Celtic revolt and fought Julius Caesar after rejecting the new king, Cavarinus, whom Caesar had appointed for them. After being subdued by the Romans, the Senones tribe basically disappeared from historical accounts.

This coin appears to be the earliest and most unusual gold example in my little group. The dating implies that it was not directly initiated as a result of the Gallic Wars but may instead have been a precursor trade coinage. It is composed of good quality gold and is heavier than the later coins, at just over 7 grams. It is also different because it is a molded/cast coin rather than a struck coin. This is very unusual since casting was more generally used for tools, weapons, trinkets and some very early Greek bronze coin issues. It was made in a double-sided, spherical mold, likely of pressed and dried clay, featuring a prominent rim around the joined circumference and a simple cross decoration at the center of one hemisphere. This particular example also has an irregular, casting flaw indentation in the opposite hemisphere. I have seen other, fancier examples with a small, raised letter Omega (Ω) on the plain hemisphere side, together with additional lines extending from the points of the 'obverse' cross design. This rather plain coin came from a Belgian dealer.

Figure 6 – Featured Ambiani Gold Stater



Ambiani Stater (58–55 BC)

Region: North-East Gaul

Obv: Blank convex with central bulge.

Rev: Disjointed horse, front legs detached; rudimentary torso; lozenge & pellets.

Data: (6.10g, 19.0 x 16.5 mm); Gallo-Belgic E, Gallic Wars Issue.

Mint: Samarobriua (now Amiens), Belgica, North-East Gaul.

Acquired: NB Numismatics (July 2011).

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

Figure 6 – The Ambiani were a well known Belgic people from the Somme Valley, with their capital at Samarobriua (modern Amiens in France). The name of the capital equates to ‘Somme Bridge’, and Amiens is a direct transliteration of the earlier tribal name. Wikipedia notes that the Ambiani probably worshiped the horned god Ceronunnos based on its coin designs. Coins of the Ambiani were well distributed among the Celts, with some even found in southern Britain as a result of trade or perhaps Ambiani migration. This coinage was struck during the Gallic Wars in support the war effort against Julius Caesar. In 57 BC, the Ambiani reportedly contributed 10,000 soldiers to the series of battles with Rome, which leads one to imagine that this coin could have been present at skirmishes where hordes of Celtic warriors were massed across grassy plains facing hundreds of legionnaire formations commanded by Caesar himself.

My featured Ambiani coin has a regular flat flan, but it is oddly dish shaped and it has a generally blank obverse side. It seems to be a textbook case of not having an opposing die for the strike, given the pronounced bulge in the center of the blank area. However, there are a few vestigial pellet-like markings scattered around the blank convex surface, and there are indeed Ambiani staters that show a full obverse design similar to the Corieltavi coin below, so mine was likely intended as a two-sided coin. I suspect that this war coinage was made quickly and in bulk, including some shortcuts such as the poor obverse die. Another shortcut involved a 1-gram weight reduction compared to the earlier Senones stater above. Regardless, I was primarily attracted to the fantasy horse design of the reverse, a quintessentially Celtic interpretation composed entirely of flowing curves and pellets. Moreover, the metal is extremely fresh, and the gold colour has a nice dark tone. I purchased this coin from the same Belgian dealer who sold me the Senones above.

Figure 7 – Featured Corieltauvi Gold Stater



Corieltauvi Stater (40–20 BC)

Region: East Britannia

Obv: Celticized Apollo head with wreath of brick-like leaves.

Rev: Celtic horse with anchor-shaped rider; eight pointed star.

Data: (5.74g, 21.0 x 18.9 mm); Corieltauvian D, 'South Ferriby' type.

Mint: Uncertain Lincoln/Leicester area, East Midlands, Britannia.

Acquired: Calgary Coin (March 2015). (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Figure 7 – This Corieltauvi stater was struck in the Lincoln/Leicester area of Britain, across the English Channnel from Belgica, just after the Gallic Wars. The tribe's capital was in Ratae Coreiltauvm, current Leicester, but the people were comprised mostly of small, self-governing tribal groups. The tribe is thought to have been reasonably wealthy from farming lowlands and herding livestock. A recent treasure trove found at an important ancient ritual hilltop site called Halliton, contained a large number of silver and gold coins of the Corieltauvi, with many struck in silver and many inscribed by later kings. It doubled the number of known Corieltauvi coins (the gold ones were otherwise rare), and it confirmed a revision to the tribal name.

There are several varieties of Corieltauvi staters based on the placement of different symbols around the undulating horse image on the reverse. The horse is similar in style to the Ambiani horse, suggesting that the Ambiani coins had a great influence in Britain. In this case, however, the horse and rider are facing left, opposite to the direction of those in Ambiani, plus there is a distinctive star symbol below the horse and an anchor shaped rider above. The flan metal is fresh and lustrous, presenting sharp design features in a coppery-rose gold colour. Corieltauvi coins are difficult to find with good centering and in good condition, which is amply demonstrated here, given the smallish, ragged flan. The weight of this type had been reduced to 5.7 grams, and the gold alloy was quite different from its continental cousins. It is possible that these coins were not intended to circulate since they were so hurriedly made and are often thin and misshapen. I liked this one after glancing at its bold obverse leaf pattern and sharply curved hair locks. It elaborates on the Celtic style and provides a variation on the normal golden tone of other coins. I didn't want to buy it outright though, so I traded seven small Greek coins to the local dealer – two from Thasos, plus one each from Chersonnesos, Perrhaiboi, Teos, Phokis and Kamarina.

Figure 8 – Durotriges ‘White Gold’ (Silver) Stater



Durotriges Stater (50–20 BC)

Region: South Britain

Obv: Devolved head of Apollo.

Rev: Celtic horse with rider; cluster of pellets and lozenge.

Data: (5.5g, 19.5 x 18.8 mm). Durotrigan E, abstract.

Mint: Hengisbury Head, Britain. Ex: Isle of Wight Hoard, Oct 2005.

Acquired: Ancient Numismatic Enterprise (Nov 2011)

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

Figure 8 – Here is another related tribal coinage from Britain, struck just after the Gallic Wars. These staters were obviously conceived using the same themes and devices as the gold staters noted above. This one has a full range of crescents, pellets and lozenges, plus the obverse is virtually identical to that of the contemporary Corieltavi stater in Figure 7. A few hundred were found in the Isle of Wight Hoard so they are not uncommon. Internet listings sometimes refer to these as ‘white gold’, though they are pure silver in composition by this point. There are, however, a few known gold examples so it is clear that they were originally struck in gold and then quickly denatured to silver. The presumed mint was at Hengisbury Head, located on the south coast of Britain, a busy port with easy access to the continent. The coins are somewhat boring since they employ repetitive, brick and pellet features on obverse and reverse, but the effect is also schizophrenically attractive.



Figure 9 – Other Celtic Gold Staters



Row 1: Veneti, 3rd century BC, 8.02g; Parisii, 2nd century BC, 7.36g; Vindelici, early 1st century BC, 7.59g.

Row 2: Icenii, 65–1 BC, 5.38g; Trinovantes & Catuvellauni, 40–30 BC, 5.60g; Trinovantes & Catuvellauni, 20–10 BC, 5.51g.

Row 3: Dobunni, 20–43 AD, 5.48g; Trinovantes & Catuvellauni, Cunobelin 10–43 AD, 5.48g; Trinovantes & Catuvellauni, Cunobelin, 10–43 AD, 5.46g.

Figure 9 – These are only a few examples of the finer class of Celtic gold coinages not discussed in this article. I like all of them. They were struck on both sides of the English Channel, using similar Celtic design devices to achieve a remarkably decorative visual effect. Such exceptional Celtic coins are pretty, but because they are relatively scarce they can be quite (wait for it...) expensive. The Parisii coin (middle top) sold in the US \$33,000 territory because of its rarity and its roots in the history of Paris. However, with fewer Celtic collectors than regular Greek collectors, and with a good number of lower quality coins offered for some tribes, there are still choices available for interested individuals.

I have sourced these images courtesy the Classical Numismatic Group sold coins website, including the Vindelici coin from 'central' Europe sold by Nomos. They are arranged roughly in chronological order, starting at the 3rd–2nd century BC in the top left, down to 10–43 AD in the bottom right. Stater production stopped as Rome advanced north and 43 AD is the date of their invasion of Britain.



In Closing...

Celtic coins remind us of a formative period in the development of European civilization. The Celts were major players poised between the rough Germanic peoples to the north and the slick, empire building Romans to the south and east. War and conflict were steady companions of the Celts and other ancients at the time, highlighted by the punitive attacks by Julius Caesar during the Gallic Wars.

At the time that the featured coins were issued in the early to late 1st century BC, the Celts had created substantial settlements and were active traders. Coinage was useful to them for military, commercial and/or votive purposes. Their designs still have a distinctive visual impact - appearing as interpretive, rhythmic and almost modern - reducing core elements into basic devolved forms with a

dose of primitive spirituality. They make an interesting contribution to the tableau of Greek or Roman coinages, pinpointing a time when Rome had already decisively usurped much of the Greco-Macedonian and Celtic power in the 'known' world. The distinctive design iconography of Celtic coins, together with their use various gold alloys, only adds to their attractiveness in this regard. ☒

Addendum 1 – A Celticized Philip II Silver Tetradrachm

Imitative Philip II Silver Tetradrachm (circa 2nd century BC)

Region: Lower Danube/Thrace.

Obv: Beardless head of Zeus/Celtic warrior?

Rev: King riding horse.

Data: (12.51g, 23 mm).

Mint: Tribal Thrace.

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



Tribes north of Greece and Macedon would have been exposed to the 4th century BC coinages of Philip II and Alexander III, both before and after Alexander's Asia conquest. In fact, if the Macedonians had employed any of these same stout-hearted tribal peoples as mercenaries, they would likely have been paid in Macedonian gold and silver. For whatever reason, in the 3rd to 1st century BC, certain tribes in the lower Danube and

Carpathian area reissued these imitative Macedonian tetradrachm coins at the same time as many Macedonian successor kings and independent Greek cities did the same. By and large, the eastern Celts did not issue gold coins. The obverse of the imitative Philip coins, as seen above, featured a Celtic caricature of the Macedonian Zeus, without beard (or possibly a Celtic warrior), with a Celticized horse and rider

on the reverse. Weights of these Philips were generally less than the authentic coins, usually ranging from 10–14 grams, with an even steeper decline in their style and fineness in later issues (some become tragically grotesque). This one is a mid-period imitative, which has had time to develop a proper Celtic style without a reduction in production values. In fact, the artistic quality of this coin commands a premium price.

Addendum 2 – Another Fringe Issue of Late ‘Greek’ Gold

Koson Gold Stater (42 BC)

Region: Dacia/Thrace.

Obv: Roman consul accompanied by two lictors; ‘BR’ monogram; ΚΟΣΩΝ in exergue.

Rev: Eagle standing on scepter and grasping wreath.

Data: (8.39g, 21.0 x 20.0 mm). Mint: Sarmizegetusa, Dacia, near Scythia/Thrace.

Acquired: CNG (April 2003).

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



Koson staters have little in common with the western Celtic issues, except they have the same approximate dating and the fact that they were struck by fringe entities in remote, decentralized territories that had become entangled in Roman expansionary events. They are therefore like a mirror counterpoint to Celtic gold in the west. They were struck in Dacia, part of modern Romania, which was adjacent to ancient Scythia and Thrace. The Dacians were similar to Thracians so they were not Celtic, but they were culturally-influenced by the Scythians and 4th century BC Celtic invaders. As with many of the Celtic gold types, the Kosons are a less expensive way to acquire an ancient gold coin – usually costing a bit under or over US \$1,000, depending on centering and quality of strike.

There is considerable controversy about the origin of these coins, and it is not specifically known why they were even needed. Fairly large numbers have been found in modern day Romania, together with a less common silver twin (the authenticity of the silver version may be uncertain). Their design and occurrence place them outside any normal expectations regarding context. Such valuable coins are not otherwise found in that location, and none have the same monograms or ΚΟΣΩΝ legend. There is no known ruler with that specific name although there is one named KOTISON. In addition, this issue has Roman designs on both faces, modeled precisely on a slightly earlier silver coin of Marcus Brutus

who was a ‘friend’ of Julius Caesar (‘Et tu, Brute?’), but the ΚΟΣΩΝ legend is written in Greek letters rather than Roman. All of these things are somewhat incongruous, but there they are. The gold metal is good quality, and the weight is higher than Celtic staters, and even Julius Caesar aurei, even though they are contemporaneous. It is tempting to think they may also have been struck from the high quality Greco-Macedonian gold staters of Philip II and his successors, but we will likely never know (the weight of these is only 0.2 to 0.4 grams less and the coins have squared, possibly clipped, edges). This coin is a good example of the type, being nicely struck and centered. Most are found in uncirculated condition.



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Note about the decorative icon between sections:

I’ve seen line drawings of coins used for academic articles and, following the sectioning pattern I used for the recent Phaselis article, thought it would be nice to do something similar for this one. Copyright issues on existing drawings made their use complicated, so I created my own based on my Ambiani coin from Figure 6.

Balfour Declaration Counterstamp

by Joe Kennedy

Citadel Coins has recently produced a counterstamp to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

The Balfour Declaration was a commitment by the Imperial British Government made in 1917. It was the underpinning of the process towards the eventual establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Late last year, Citadel Coins in Halifax took it upon themselves to recognize our sesquicentennial numismatically by producing a commemorative 150th anniversary counterstamp on the 1967 Canadian Centennial silver dollar. The 1967 dollar is ideal for a counterstamp, since it has lots of clear field to work with. This was the first counterstamp on a Canadian silver dollar since the groundbreaking "JOP" counterstamped Canadian silver dollars of 1935-1949. They have issued two versions of the sesquicentennial coin, a commemorative counterstamp of the WWI Vimy Ridge battle and soon a counterstamp of the centennial of the Freemasons. (These have sold exceptionally well at auction.)

As a collector and part time dealer, Israel Lachovsky has bought and sold some of the counterstamped coins. Over the course of chatting with Citadel Coins, the idea of a counterstamp celebrating the Balfour Declaration was tossed around. This has resulted in the Balfour counterstamped coin.

Mr Lachovsky provided the design and also crafted an insert in the style of the RCM inserts, with information on the history of this event. An image of the actual Declaration letter is included with each coin. Citadel Coins has accorded exclusive distribution rights to Israel Lachovsky for this issue, whose production is limited to 300 pieces.

Those interested in the Balfour counterstamped dollar coin can contact Israel Lachovsky by email: hombre071@gmail.com, or they can visit his dealer table at the ENS fall show on Sunday, November 12.



Balfour Counterstamp on a 1967 Canadian silver dollar



Sesquicentennial Counterstamp



Vimy Ridge Counterstamp

High in the Mile High City

Or Fear and Loathing of Slabs in Denver

by **Terence Cheesman**



Denver Convention Center

View of entrance and “I See What You Mean” blue bear sculpture by Lawrence Argent

I did not really plan it, but a couple of months ago I needed a bit of a holiday, and I thought a drive to the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Convention in Denver might be perfect. One of the driving forces for this decision was that the store that sold my favorite ice cream here in Edmonton went out of business, and there were a few cities in the U.S. I could get it on my route. Denver looked to be a rather easy drive, one that I have done a number of times, and I know the way rather well. I had been in Denver previously, so I know of a hotel I had stayed at before and liked. One of the main benefits of this particular hotel was that it offered a shuttle service to the convention center. The other was it was just off the main highway, the I-25 which runs right through the city. So I could just park the car, and use the shuttle service to see the show. Perfect. So I started to make plans. The initial plans were easy. I did find the hotel after a bit of a search. It had been bought out by another chain, so I confirmed that the shuttle service was still being offered. It was, so I very quickly booked the hotel.

On Monday, July 31, I left Edmonton. The show was on from Tuesday August 1 to the following Saturday. Most days of the convention, the time of admission for the great unwashed was at 10 A.M, but on Tuesday, the show opened at noon. I thought with some luck, I might be able to actually attend the show for a few hours on the Tuesday. Monday morning I got up nice and early and headed out. The drive was largely uneventful. There was the usual carnage as my car decimated the local insect populations, as well as the many delays created by highway maintenance, it seemed that just every few miles bright orange signs announced that road work was being done ahead, and other signs threatened dire penalties for speeding. But rarely did I see anyone actually there, and even fewer actively working. (Probably this is another plot to boost sales of stress medication.)

I made it to Denver about an hour later than I would have liked and discovered that my room was not ready. I had only 15 minutes from the time I arrived to when the shuttle was leaving for the show. So I had a very short time to freshen up, change my clothes and at least try to make myself presentable. I made the shuttle, and off I went to the show. The convention center is a massive modern building with a statue of a hundred foot blue bear attempting to get in (can't be for the food, which was mediocre and made up for it by being really expensive). Initially, I had trouble orienting myself. The venue was very large, and I thought I had the layout more or less figured out, but it still took some time to find the dealers I wanted to see. Unlike the ANA in Anaheim, all the dealers in ancient coins were more or less bunched together. This made it easier. Once I found one, I could find the rest.

Of course I attempted to satisfy two of my current obsessions. The first was to try to acquire a gold stater of Alexander the Great that was minted during his lifetime. This is actually a lot more difficult than it would seem. Alexander minted only a few issues towards the end of his reign, and trying to distinguish these from the other posthumous issues can be quite a challenge. So, armed with one of my books and a picture gallery of lifetime Alexander staters, I was ready. None were there. My other obsession is trying to complete a representative group of Athenian tetradrachms (owls) minted during the Peloponnesian War (460 to 404 B.C.). Some years ago, I bought a book by Christophe Flament that attempts to clarify the arrangement of this massive coinage. As usual, a little bit of knowledge is often worse than none at all. Using my book, I



Views of the Bouse at the ANA Convention in Denver

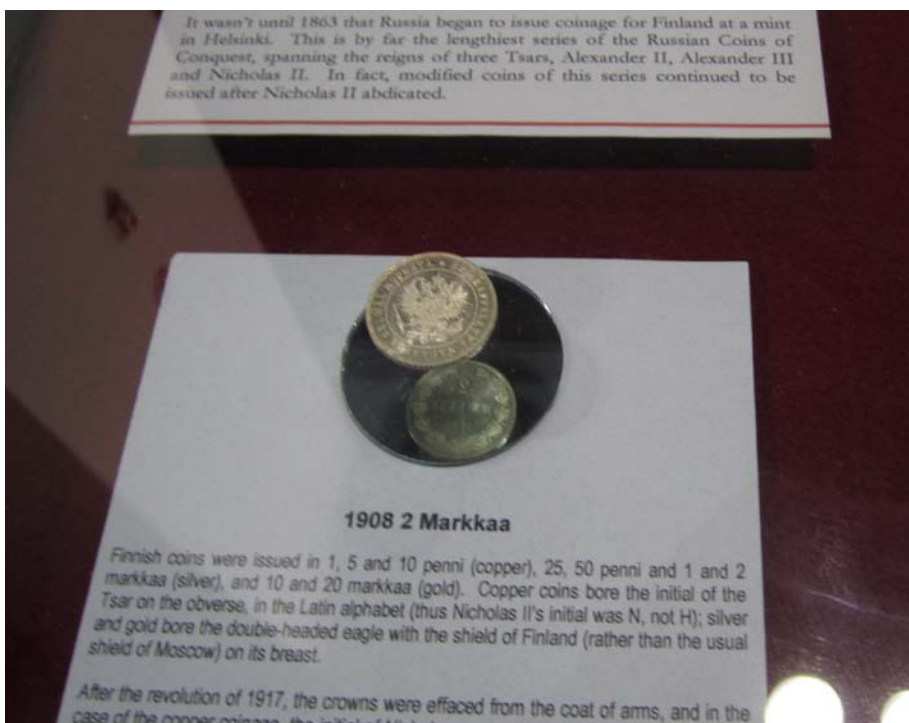
discovered a tetradrachm which was clearly a group II coin, Yesss; problem solved. WRONG. The obverse was an early Group III. Auuuuughhhh. Foiled again, sort of. I still liked the coin. There were a number of other coins I

could look at and I managed to find one that fit the bill. It is a nice coin. It is a Group II 13 with a II b reverse. Now I can finally put that group to bed. Well, sort of. Again, there is one other owl I would really like to have a



a few Canadian coins as well. Almost all the modern coins are smothered in plastic. I looked for a couple of coins that I have always considered attractive and under the right circumstances would buy. The first was a Spanish Colonial "Pillar" dollar. I saw quite a number, and there were a few I might have purchased, but right now I still need to look. The other was the "seated liberty" dollar minted by the U.S. from 1840 to 1873. I did look at some, but most did not have a clear price tag on the coin. This is something I do not like, so again I spent my time looking.

As in Anaheim, the number and quality of displays was remarkable. One of them on Russian coins was technically brilliant. He had managed to set his coins so that they rested within just a few millimeters under the glass. What was fascinating was that there was no obvious sign as to how these coins were supported, and he had mirrors set underneath so that you could see the reverse. There was no distortion which would be evident even had he used a glass plinth or some such. That was very interesting. There were a few displays with ancient coins, and quite a lot of paper money. A number of displays centered on the phenomenon called the short snorter. These were bank notes signed by various individuals, some famous, most not. The concept was, should any of the signees meet the one who did not produce, his short snorter had to buy a round of drinks for anyone else in attendance. There were a number of displays of local currency, bank notes issued very recently by US cities and a number of displays featuring Confederate currency. There was also a display of Russian "beard tax" tokens. In an effort to modernize his country, Peter the Great authorized a



Exhibits at the ANA Convention in Denver

really close look at. But that is another story.

For the ancient collector, the number of dealers and the quality of the coins was better than what I saw at the ANA in

Anaheim just one year before. (Wow, that seems so long ago, I had so much happen to me during that time!) I also saw a massive number of U.S. coins, as well as a lot of Spanish colonial and Mexican coins. There were

tax on beards so that Russians would look more like clean shaven civilized Europeans. This met a great deal of resistance. The range of subjects on display was in itself very impressive.

The ANA also displayed some coins from its own collection. There were no ancient coins on display, but there were a number of American rarities. Among the coins exhibited, there was a 1933 ten dollar gold coin, a 1792 half disme, a striking collection of error bank notes, some Colorado gold coins and a 1804 silver dollar. All were very impressive. The one thing that was not as well organized as the Anaheim show was the lectures. The talks given at the Anaheim show covered a very wide range

of subjects, but this was absent in Denver. Also the lectures were held just off the bourse floor which I do not think really helped much.

On the last day, I had planned to go around and take pictures. I got a few, and naturally the battery in my camera died. This seemed to start a trend, first my camera, then my phone and finally my laptop all gave up the ghost. I was taken right back to the time I did not even own a phone. So rather than taking pictures, I spent my time talking to many of the attendees. I had met some of these at other shows, and it was very nice to see them again and catch up with what they were doing. I did not plan to stay more than two

days at the show. This might have been a good thing, because there was a very big gun show on the weekend with over 700 dealers. Since I was already broke, there was no point tempting fate, so I made plans to drive home. However, with everything charging up really nicely, I decided to get some gas into the car for the trip home. The drive back was good and yes I did manage to score some of my favorite ice cream. Yummmm. Mission accomplished. Overall, I had a very good show. I think this show was better than the one in Anaheim, and I would say the trip was worth the effort. I got some nice coins and was able to talk to many of my friends. It is a show I would do again. ☒

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The 6 Deniers Tournois Coins of Dardenne

by **Mitch Goudreau**

I love to travel! Part of the appeal for me is to visit sites with links to Canadian or world military history, and numismatics of course! My wife Sandra and I were travelling in France in October 2015. We were at Villeneuve-Loubet in the French Riviera, because the American-Canadian Commando unit *1st Special Service Force*, famously known as “The Devil’s Brigade”, had fought there in 1944. I had been planning this trip for months, and it was now time to spring a surprise destination on my unsuspecting wife!



Dardenne Obverse: 1710 Aix Mint

Three pairs of crowned, addorsed L's forming a triangle with fleur de lys, mintmark within, LOVIS. XIII. ROY. DE. FRANCE. ET. DE. NAV.

(The mintmarks are “&” Aix, “N” Montpellier and “H” La Rochelle).



Dardenne Reverse: 1710 Aix Mint

Filigree cross with scrolls forming heart-shaped configurations holding fleur de lys, SIX. DENIERS. DE. FRANCE 1710.

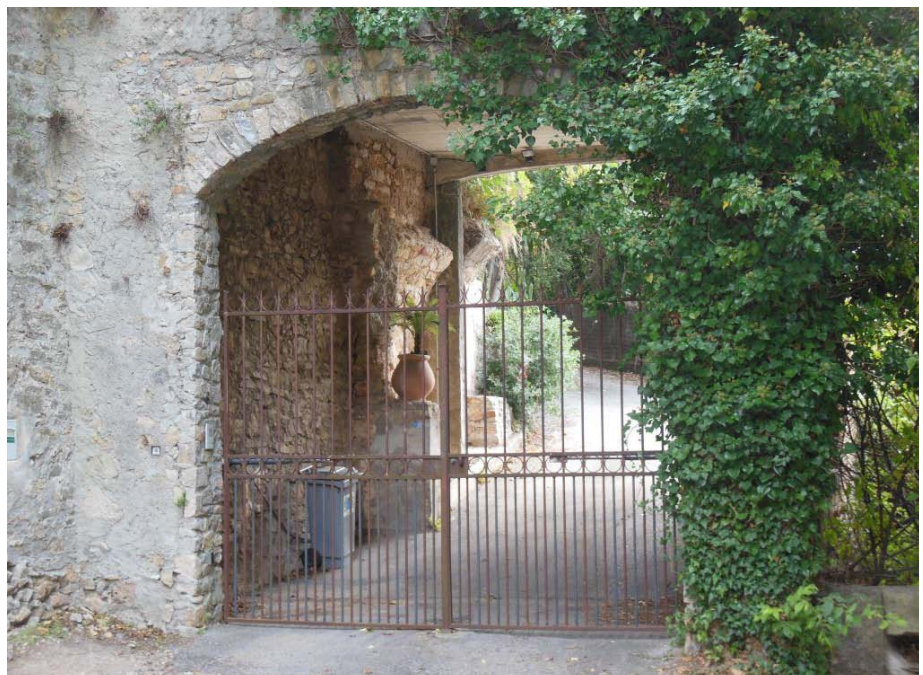
We would be leaving the next day for Avignon with a planned stop in St-Remy-de-Provence. I nonchalantly mentioned that we should first consider going to the hamlet of Dardenne just north of Toulon. I obviously underestimated Sandra's ability to see through my suave plan as she gave me that raised eyebrow look, then asked if this had anything to do with coins, a coin show or a coin shop! The stunned look on my face gave me away, so she rolled her eyes and muttered something that sounded like "fine". I suspected that I would have to pay for my treachery later, despite having previously endured a 2 hour stop at an out of the way macaron bakery/museum, because of a brochure that Sandra found in a hotel lobby.

As those who know me can attest, I have many numismatic interests. One of the fields I love is French North America. Purists rightfully claim that there are few coins that can truly be considered to be French colonial pieces struck specifically for circulation in North America. My standard is less stringent, as I am satisfied with acquiring types known to have circulated in New France, even if they were also used elsewhere in the French realm. This brings us to the 6 deniers bronze piece, nicknamed "Dardennes". These were only struck from 1710–1712 and are well known (in France at least), despite having a fairly low production for a base metal coin.

One of the reasons I love numismatics so much is because I discover interesting things through researching the coins that I acquire or am interested in. As espoused by the old adage, "buy the book before the coin", I agree with the principle that learning about the items is an integral part of the hobby. The dardennes have a "cool story" by my definition, so I added this little French hamlet



A view of the Château d'Ardenne



An entrance to the château

to my list of places to visit. For me the appealing thing about this coin is that it is struck on planchets made out of old naval cannons from Louis XIII's fleet which were located at Toulon and Rochefort.

France was going through a difficult period, having just lost the Battle of Malplaquet

during the costly War of Spanish Succession, which had been ongoing since 1702. The winter of 1709 was harsh, and the crops were spoilt which caused a famine throughout the country. France's debt had grown to over 3 billion livres, while military personnel were deserting, because they were not being paid in a timely fashion.



The gated entrance from the previous picture is located behind the lower building

Low denomination coins were required to help pay sailors, soldiers and labourers.

This article's subject coin is officially called "6 deniers tournois" as ordered in King Louis XIV's October 16, 1709 edict issued from Versailles, authorizing the minting of 80 million of these coins. Further directions issued on October 29, 1709 specified that the raw material for the coins would come from the Navy's arsenal in the form of obsolete cannons and artillery pieces. Sieur Louis Alain, the director of the forges of Lancogne, was tasked with preparing the planchets. The official weight of the coin was 6.118g, but in reality many were above or below the 7.5% official weight tolerance.

It would have been difficult to transport large pieces, such as cannons, on the road from Toulon to the mints. For this reason, it was decided to melt down the metal at Dardenne, near the source of most of the metal in preparation for minting. The planchets in bags could

then be moved with ease to Aix and Montpellier to strike the coins.

It was widely accepted that the planchets for the 6 deniers were made at the Château d'Ardenne. My 2012 edition of *Répertoire général des monnaies de Louis XIII à Louis XVI (1610-1793)* claims it has been established that the planchets were actually made at a forge near the castle (château) but separate from it. This is supported by Armand Lacroix's article "Histoire de la pièce de monnaie la Dardenne" which states the location being 250 metres from the castle. According to a local area website, based on Pierre Trofimoff's 1942-1962 writings, the forge was located on the site of a gunpowder mill that exploded in 1684, which also damaged the Château d'Ardenne.

Norbert Roëttiers, the Chief Engraver of the French Mint, was the engraver of the 6 deniers coins. These were first struck in Aix in April 1710, followed by Montpellier on May 31, 1710 and then at La Rochelle in

September 1710. Planned strikings in Bordeaux and Nantes never materialized, even though these mints were authorized to do so in the Royal edict. It should be noted that planchets for the 6 deniers were also made at Les Gond, which was located near Rochefort. This metal was used for striking the coins made in La Rochelle, which was only 45 km away. It is estimated that only about 620,000 coins in total were struck in La Rochelle, making these rare today.

Planchet production ended on April 30, 1712 for the simple reason that the supply of metal was exhausted. The total mintage did not reach the 80 million authorized. The *Répertoire général des monnaies de Louis XIII à Louis XVI (1610-1793)* lists a total mintage of just under 59 million pieces with almost 40 million of these being struck at Aix. As they were used for small change requirements for decades afterwards, the dardennes lived on for a long time. The majority of the surviving coins are thus generally worn and in poor condition.

Armand Lacroix's article acknowledges that some people maintain that 6 deniers coins were actually struck in Dardenne. Pierre Trofimoff claimed that about 400,000 coins were struck at the forge in Dardenne while the one in Les Gond struck over 600,000 pieces. One theory is that the reverse of Dardenne struck coins have 2 dots in the centre of the cross, rather than just one. The problem with this notion is that very few of these have been found, much fewer than one would expect for the numbers claimed to have been minted. It could be that the 2nd dot is just a die error. Proponents of coins being minted in Dardenne also cite a document that gives details about the transport of minting equipment from Toulon to the mint in Aix by someone named Hermitte. This document, dated



Can you identify the dardennes seen in this coin shop window located on Paris' Rue Vivienne?

This is a great place for numismatists as several coin shops are located on this street and others nearby.

November 6, 1711, leaves unanswered questions. If coins were in fact minted in Dardenne, then why would the equipment be pulled out five months before the end of the planchet production? It's possible that this equipment could have been manufactured in Toulon specifically for the mint in Aix and that it has nothing to do with Dardenne. New documentation or other proof would need to be discovered to validate these additional minting facilities.

Collecting French colonial coins received a boost in popularity in the United States because of Walter Breen's *North American Colonial Coinages Under the*

French Regime (1640–1763), published in the ANS' volume *Studies on Money in Early America* in 1976. The 6 deniers coins did not get their due however, since Breen did not even list them in this essay that became the guide for serious collectors. This omission is the reason that John J. Ford, who built what is arguably the greatest French North American colonial collection ever, did not collect dardennes. This is surprising since the six deniers were later added in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coinage* released in 1988. Breen considered these to be colonial coins, because of discoveries published by

Peter Moogk in 1976 and 1987 regarding Fort Louisbourg.

Copper coins struck by Louis XV were scarce at Louisbourg, so the colonists often had to manage their small change requirements with old coins from Louis XIV's reign. There is no doubt that the dardennes circulated in New France in large numbers. Archaeological finds in Louisbourg have proven that this was a very common coin. 43 dardennes were found, mostly from the Aix mint (mint-mark &) between 1962–1975. Dardennes have also been found by metal detectorists in the Chignecto Isthmus, which is the area between Nova Scotia and

New Brunswick. It is not surprising that these coins would have been used in the area, because the French Forts Béausejour and Gaspereaux were located on the Isthmus.

It is noteworthy that the dardennes value of 6 deniers probably played a key role in the refusal of the inhabitants to accept the 1721-1722 "Colonies Françaises" 9 deniers coins imported to New France by the Company of the Indies trading company. These coins were considered overvalued, because they were basically the same size and weight as the dardennes, yet they were rated as being worth 50% more. Only 8180 of these ended up in circulation. The rest were sent back to France on September 26, 1726. Some were later sent to Louisiana but at a legal tender value of 6 deniers.

It was interesting to visit the hamlet of Dardenne and drive along its narrow streets. As I surmised, the castle was indeed on the road called "Chemin du Château". The castle is privately owned so it was not possible to visit it. In reality it was actually difficult to see the château because of the wall around it. Dardenne was a small place, but my short visit gave me the opportunity to imagine how things were over 300 years ago when cannons were brought up here to be smelted, and how parts of those ended up in Canada. ☹️

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It's a Presidential Thing

Part 3: American presidents from the late 20th century to today

by **Marc Bink**

We last left off as Ike Eisenhower was loading his golf clubs into the trunk of the limo and preparing to head out. The fact is, Ike had checked out long before the election and had left the day-to-day stuff to the man he thought would succeed him, Richard Nixon. Nixon was making a mess of things; he'd had a bad run-in with both Khrushchev of Russia and Castro of Cuba, and his sparkling lack of personality left a lasting impression on those two men. The campaign of 1960 was a dirty one. John Kennedy was coming from behind, but since he was the son of an Irish Catholic, things weren't looking good for the Democratic Party. Kennedy needed to unseat his one-time friend and now rival, Richard Nixon, who was coming in on Eisenhower's shirt-tails.

**Obverse design for the USA
Presidential Dollar Coin series
(2007–2016)**



John F. Kennedy was young, dashing, and a war hero. He had a beautiful and talented wife. He came from "new" money, and was a published author. Too bad it was all a façade.

Kennedy was the second son of Joseph Kennedy, a man who had made his money during Prohibition and in the movies. Joe Kennedy's first-born, also named Joe, was to follow in the Old Man's footsteps and lead the family into respectability and power. He was trained for politics. Then the US got involved in the Second World War and Joe Kennedy Jr. became a bomber pilot. Then, in 1944, his plane mysteriously blew up over the English Channel somewhere. John, otherwise known as Jack, was drafted to step up and fulfil the role of his older brother. As it happens in families, whenever the one being groomed as a successor dies, the one following has large shoes to fill and usually isn't up to the task. Jack was initially this way. He wasn't a great student, he was sickly, not very strong physically, and he had a habit of chasing skirts. His father soon set him to rights, and Jack went and joined the navy. He then got the PT boat under his command rammed in a collision with a Japanese destroyer, and was marooned on a small island with injured members of his crew. He was promoted, given command of another boat, pulled from duty on a medical certificate, and then never held a line position again, ending out the war




John Kennedy
Presidency: 1961–1963

manning a desk. Good thing too, as it allowed his father to once more come to his rescue and turn his command faux-pas into a story of heroics and dedication to duty. His father also secured him a place with one of Hearst's papers, so JFK was at all the major conferences and reporting on all the big things that were going on immediately after the war. Jack was on his way up. He was elected to Congress in 1947 and then to the Senate in 1953, a role he held down until his ascendancy to the presidency. In the meantime, his father's PR machine managed to get a book or two in his name published. He was seen as a competent voice on national and foreign affairs. He won the Democratic nomination and went against Dick Nixon, who for some reason decided that he was going to run a clean campaign for once.

Kennedy knew how to use the press, plus he had a natural charisma and was a good speaker. Nixon on the other hand, was not a gifted speaker, had a shifty look about him, and had been exposed to some degree of scandal. Eisenhower had already set himself apart from Nixon a few years prior when Nixon's Cuban gambling debts started to surface. Kennedy decided not to use this, but had it as an ace-in-the-hole. Instead, his father reportedly bought a couple members of the Electoral College and narrowly squeaked JFK in.

Now in all fairness, Kennedy had nothing to do with the "Bay of Pigs" incident and was only brought in too late and on a bad briefing. So it blew up in his face. It was one of Nixon's operations; he had a personal grudge against Fidel Castro of Cuba and had decided to act on it. Eisenhower had approved the whole thing in between tee-boxes on the golf course and then washed his hands of it. And then Kennedy got it and tried to save face by attempting to scale it down and distance the US from it, only to have it all go horribly wrong. Later, he met up with Khrushchev in Vienna and promptly scared the heck out of him. Khrushchev was worried that this intellectual lightweight would run the world into a nuclear holocaust. Their meetings did not go well; both sides soon looked to Eisenhower to smooth the waters. So now the stage was set for a confrontation;




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the East versus the West, one way of life against the other. Kennedy was forced to grow up and learn fast. To his credit he did just that.

The October Crisis of 1962 defined the Kennedy administration as much as the Civil Rights movement did. Kennedy was seen to shine here. In truth, he was in trouble; his back had flared up and they had to increase the dosage on his drugs. So where he was marginally addled he was now seriously screwed up. A lot has been said about how adroitly he handled the crisis by playing for time and listening to his people. In truth, his brother Bobby was doing a lot of the leg-work behind the scenes. Together they pushed Khrushchev to "blink", but it was also largely because of the actions of a few Russian and American seamen who likely had a good idea of what would happen if they did their jobs, who silently decided to stand down. That's why we are still here today. These acts gave the politicians the breathing room they needed, the situation was defused, Fidel was brought to heel, and the world breathed a collective sigh of relief. And Kennedy was again heralded as a hero when in reality he did a lot less than given credit for in that confrontation.

Khrushchev ended up paying the real price. He was given a few options, the least odious of which was a quiet retirement by Leonid Brezhnev and Alexei

Kosygin, two rather dour but very conservative gentlemen who didn't say much but carried big sticks. But I digress...

Kennedy's good fortune was in the fact that he had a very good PR machine. Arthur Schlesinger built the myth of "Camelot" and perpetuated it. JFK and his gorgeous wife and family were in all the papers, tabloids, and on a new medium called TV, sometimes even in living colour. He was everywhere. To this day he has the highest rating of any US president and is generally the only one that a lot of people know or associate with the office.

Compared to the stodgy dusty old guys that preceded him, Kennedy was like a breath of fresh air. He had some youthful ideas and was seen as a man of action. He signified the New America, young, brash, full of good ideas and trying to do the right thing. They were the new kids on the block and yes, they made mistakes, but they were with honest intentions.

Where initially he couldn't have cared too much about Civil Rights, he at least had the smarts to see what needed to be done and ran with it. He eventually got his foreign policy lined up and managed to continue what Eisenhower had done, but with one crucial exception. He got involved in Vietnam. He and his brother went against the Mob, and that in the end was likely his undoing. JFK was

assassinated in Dallas while campaigning for a second term. Tens of thousands of books have been written on who did it and why it was done. I'm not going to go into those here. The cover-ups and conspiracy theories were all beginning when vice president Lyndon Johnson took the Oath of Office aboard a crowded Air Force One B-707 in front of a bloodstained Jackie Kennedy.

One thing about the Kennedy portrait on the coins; he's depicted facing down almost in sorrow. His official portrait is also like that; I guess it's to signify that he was sad that he never completed all the things he wanted to do. As far as I'm concerned, his portrait on the Half Dollar is a far better likeness and shows Kennedy as what he was, a gregarious, personable and confident man who could get things happening and not a victim.

There isn't much that can be said about Lyndon Johnson. He inherited a lot of Kennedy's policies and ideas, and while he was a rather unpleasant and despicable character on his own, he did some good things. He was responsible for implementing a "Great Society" policy, which finally gave rights to minorities, opened up public broadcasting, and Medicare. He is largely responsible for creating the social net that Americans enjoy today. His "War on Poverty" was aimed to eliminate poverty and racial tensions, he started huge

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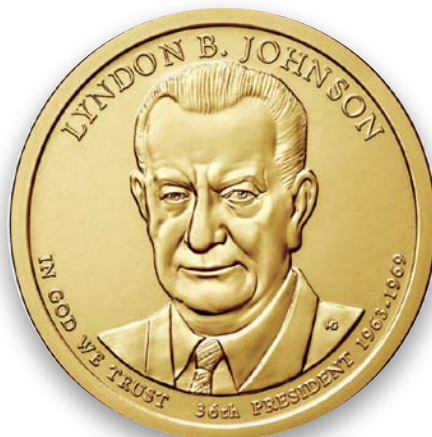
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"projects" where vast buildings would be constructed with modern amenities to try and get the poor out of the ghettos and run down sections they were forced to live in. He handily defeated the Republican candidate in 1964, Barry Goldwater, and then set about putting his own stamp on the office. Even though Johnson was originally from the South, he had worked with Roosevelt and was a "New Dealer". He was progressive, and he marks the point where the Democrats turned progressive and the Republicans went conservative.

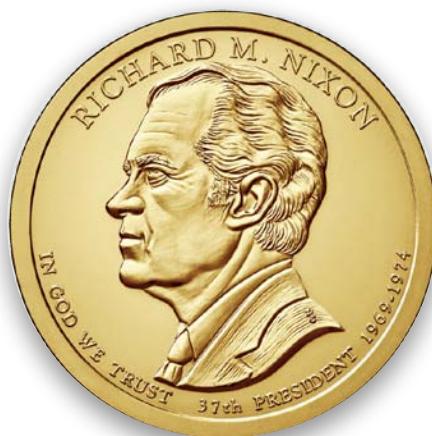
It was in foreign policy that it all fell apart. He got further embroiled in Vietnam, and actually started sending in troops. He sponsored a couple of violent regime changes in Vietnam and continued to meddle in central and southern American politics. He managed to keep the peace with the Soviets, but he never trusted their motives.

All in all, he considered his presidency a bit of a failure, and realized that with the Vietnam War going badly for the US, that he was never going to win the election in 1968. He announced that he wasn't going to run again.

This was the chance Richard Nixon had been waiting for. He wasn't about to make the same mistake he'd made in 1960 and run a clean campaign. This time, he was going to do anything to win. So he skewered the Democratic platform, and campaigned on the idea he was going to end the Vietnam War. Nixon won, and then promptly ramped up the American presence in Vietnam. He then sent troops into Cambodia and Laos illegally, something he promised that he'd never do. He then suppressed some anti-war riots with the National Guard, and did some serious sabre rattling with the Russians over the Prague



Lyndon Johnson
Presidency: 1963–1969



Richard Nixon
Presidency: 1969–1974

Spring of 1968. He was very popular with the working Middle Class, largely because he attempted to continue on where Eisenhower left off as if the last 8 years hadn't happened. He was also probably the most crooked president to ever hold office.

Nixon had a large chip on his shoulder that dated back to his early adulthood. He was awarded a scholarship to Harvard, but couldn't take it because of commitments, which required that he go to work and support his family. He then got a law degree

out of Whittier College, and he felt that this hindered him. This lack of "good" schooling to him meant a life on the fringes looking in. He then settled back in Whittier working for a law firm, and was made a full partner just before the war. During the war, he went on to the Navy and received a commission as a lieutenant commander, working in logistics. He retired from active duty in 1945 and then went home to California to resume his legal practice. Prior to him leaving Washington, he was persuaded to campaign for congressional office, and this set the pattern for the rest of his life. It was a vicious campaign where he destroyed the incumbent's reputation, largely for no reason. So now he had a decent paying job and a chance in the limelight. He wasn't about to waste it. He embarked on a Red-baiting scheme and was only marginally less paranoid than Eugene McCarthy, the infamous Red-baiter. He got himself on Eisenhower's 1952 ticket as the picture of youth to offset Eisenhower's age; all the while the dirty tricks continued. While Eisenhower wiled his days away on the golf course, "Tricky Dick" was hard at work concocting and sponsoring schemes in the Caribbean and South America. He had already developed some pretty unsavory companions in his previous campaigns, and now he set about introducing these people to the CIA who then used them for covert operations to destabilize governments.

By 1968 Nixon finally got the office he craved and he wasn't about to let it go. So he lied, cheated and stole to get what he wanted. He was convinced that the Democratic Party had information linking him with some of the nasty things that went on in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Some of this information might also reflect badly on his proximity to the Kennedy

assassination, it seems a lot of his "friends" were somehow involved. So he authorized a wiretap campaign and ordered a few "Bay of Pigs" veterans to stage a couple of break-ins at the Democratic Party Headquarters in the Watergate building. This is where it all started to unravel; soon his paranoia, crookedness, graft, and ill-begotten loot would come to prominence. He went from being one of the US's better presidents to being a stain on the office inside 6 months. He actually won the 1972 election by a landslide and as such, didn't need to do the break-in.

At first glance it looked like an attempt at petty theft gone wrong. And then people started investigating. The cracks in the veneer started to appear when his VP Spiro Agnew was convicted of fraud. By this point, both the CIA and the White House were getting worried and then tried to reign things in. Nixon looked to deflect the growing scandal, fired a few people, went to China and started pulling American troops out of the Vietnam War. It wasn't enough. The public learned there were tapes, dirty tricks, lies and that this was "business as usual" in political America. One of the people writing about "Tricky Dick's" exploits was a young lawyer on her first job, Hilary Rodham. The public had more than enough; they were clamouring for Nixon's head. So, before he got impeached, he resigned.

There isn't much that can be said about Gerald Ford except that he got a bit of a raw deal. Ford is portrayed in films and history as a bumbling, clumsy ex-jock who wasn't all that bright. The truth of the matter though, was that Ford was actually a really smart guy. He suffered from an identity crisis right from the start though; he was born Leslie King Jr. and then renamed before he was 3.

He took his step-father's name, Gerald Ford, but didn't legally change it until he was 22 years old. He went to school as a lawyer, and never really got a chance to practice much before the war intervened. He served honourably aboard an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific seeing combat all the way through. Upon his return to the US, he decided to get into politics and the rest as they say, is history.

Ford was on the backbenches but considered a rising star within the Republican Party. He served on the infamous Warren Commission, which sought to



Gerald Ford
Presidency: 1969–1974

whitewash the Kennedy assassination. He was responsible for writing Lee Harvey Oswald's biography and "putting" him in places where he might have gone and losing the rest. Ford then became the Republican House Minority Leader, and was a strident critic of Johnson and the US's involvement in Vietnam. He became the vice president only after Nixon's current VP was indicted and convicted of fraud. Ford was just settling into the White House retinue when Watergate broke, so there is very little chance he had any idea of what went on.

After Nixon resigned, Ford sought to heal America. It was an uphill battle; the "energy crisis" had hit, oil and fuel prices skyrocketed as American oil supplies from the Middle East tripled in price. The Middle East states that became OPEC, had figured out that the US and the West were their biggest customers and that they would pay almost anything, so they unified into a cartel and drove the prices up. We're still enjoying the fallout from that strategy today. As a result of this crisis, the US entered what is now known as the "Malaise Era"; the economy was in the toilet, cars were too big, Big Hair was the order of the day, and fashions were outrageous in polyester. It wasn't a great time. To top it off, Vietnam finally had ended, and it ended very badly for thousands of US servicemen who were belittled, denied jobs, and castigated from society when they returned. They were also ignored by their government, who was looking to press on and get working again. Ford's regime was perceived as more of a caretaker administration. But he was the right man for the job at the time, and even though he took a lot of flak for pardoning Nixon, in the end it was the right decision for the time.

The election of 1976 was a nail-biter. Ford, the incumbent, was saddled with Nixon's legacy and not well regarded. The Democratic nominee was a peanut farmer from Georgia, a guy named Jimmy Carter.

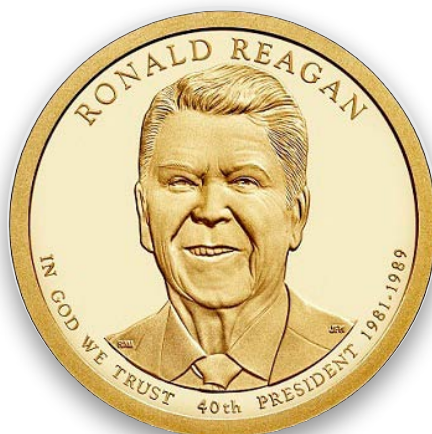
Jimmy Carter was born in Plains Georgia in 1924. He grew up in Georgia, went to high school there, and then aspired to join the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He entered in 1943, served in the submarine group, and went on to start working with the fledgling nuclear submarine program. Family commitments cut his navy career short in 1953 and he embarked on being a

peanut farmer. He became successful and fairly wealthy as a result and then decided on a run into politics. He and his wife Rosalynn were staunch Kennedy supporters, and as a result a lot of Kennedy's ideas became Carter's ideals. Carter became the governor of Georgia in 1966, and again in 1970, and then set his sights on national politics after the Watergate scandal. Carter campaigned on being a good honest person with an idea to change, and he strongly believed that. He was virtually unknown outside of Georgia, and of course, the eastern-based media had a field day with the rube from Georgia and was constantly ridiculing and making fun of him. He obviously resonated with a lot of people, and barely squeaked into office. And then he proceeded to prove the old adage, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions".

Carter tried to do the right thing. He succeeded in ending a long-standing war between Israel and Egypt. He opened the door to China. He tried to placate the oil states by protecting their regimes, and that started his downfall. He backed the wrong horse in Iran and managed to get his embassy staff arrested and held for ransom by the new regime in Iran. The Soviets thought him a push-over and invaded Afghanistan; their response to Carter's threats and boycotts was "so what are you going to do about it?" He wasn't able to do much, and the Americans and most of the West boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980. But it was the economy that proved to be his eventual undoing; he couldn't get it right. It seemed every time he opened his mouth the dollar tumbled. His detractors went around saying that he was both "kind and good: Kind of stupid and good for nothing". While most Americans looked to him as a breath of fresh air when he started, by the time the 1980 election was over



Jimmy Carter
Presidency: 1977–1981



Ronald Reagan
Presidency: 1981–1989

he was about as popular as bad breath on a first date. His public support had hit an all-time low of 24%. He was also partially undone by his own party; Ted Kennedy had considered a run for the presidency and split the vote. Carter, who by nature was very progressive, was seen as the conservative and Kennedy the progressive. He just couldn't win.

Jimmy Carter is not featured in the presidential coins program. The reason is because at this writing, he is still very much alive. He surpassed Hoover as

the longest-lived president past his tenure in office. Carter has had a long and successful post-presidency; he is regarded as an elder statesman and a good negotiator. Just about every president since 1980 has sent Carter on trips to represent American interests, and Carter has always delivered. He goes down in history as a better man than he was president, much like John Quincy Adams was 200 years before.

Carter lost out to Ronald Reagan, or "Ronny Ray-gun" as he was known. The left wing press was terrified that this was the man who'd finally drive the Russians over the edge and start World War III; the funny thing is, he did more to end the probability of it happening than anyone before or after him has.

Reagan is known for two major accomplishments; defusing the Soviet Union and a twisted economic policy, which got America working again and back on track. He ran the Soviets under largely because of a big bluff; the SDI, or "Star Wars" program. This was supposed to be a system of laser-guided satellites that were supposed to be able to shoot down and destroy Soviet satellites and missiles from space. The Soviets spent a ton of money and exhausted all of their resources trying to figure out a counter to this program, not fully knowing that it was a bluff, no such system ever existed. The end result was the Soviet system overheated, ran out of valuable resources, and inevitably started to fail. The people rose up peacefully and the whole Soviet empire dissolved without so much as a whimper. Yes, their premier Gorbachev was a lot to blame with his attempts to right things and stop the rot, but the system just couldn't keep up and no one really knew if the cowboy from California was bluffing. He was a good actor.

Actually he wasn't. He was a mediocre actor at best. The few movies he made were not very memorable. But they served to get his name out there and when he decided to run for office, he was a known entity. Initially a Democrat, he became a Republican as he got older. He started a run into politics as the head of the Screen Actors Guild, and then just went up from there. In 1966 he became the governor of California, and turned that state's finances around. A fiscal conservative, he believed that less government was more, but government had to be effective. Reagan did two terms as president and left office as popular as when he went in. For all of his sabre-rattling and supposed warmongering tendencies, he steered the US into the role of a respectable policeman, and was able to ratchet down the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Ronald Reagan is regarded favourably in the US and ranks as one of the country's best presidents. He is the last president in the presidential coin series; he died in 2004 and therefore qualifies. His portrait is one of the goofiest and creepiest I've ever seen on a coin; he looks like a demented Chuckie.

This is where the presidential series of coins will to end. There are apparently no plans to add to it if anyone else dies, so the program is finished. The US Mint still has a brass dollar coin, but it is a derivative of the Sacagawea series and commemorates First Nations. The coins are made exclusively for collectors as no one still has any use for them in the US, and they are not at all popular.

As far as the remaining presidents go, we're getting into the modern era, that which is still seared into people's memory. Since no further presidents will be immortalized on coinage and recent politics has become

hyper-polarized, I'll just cover a few basics. Most of us remember George Bush Sr. and the first Gulf War, the one he should have ended right then and there. He's also remembered for being the president to oversee the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet empire. Things were looking good, and George Sr. could look forward to a good legacy to cap off a remarkable life. And then it started to fall apart. One thing that George was, was a staunch conservative. He didn't want to mess around with anything. By now "Reaganomics" was running out of gas. The economy had slipped



George Bush Sr.

Presidency: 1989–1993



Bill Clinton

Presidency: 1993–2001

into recession and people were losing jobs. Bush went into the campaign as if nothing was wrong. By now the problems that he failed to solve in the Gulf were starting to manifest themselves again, he should have finished the job while he had a UN mandate. George ran for a second term and never made it. He was beaten by a young upstart, Bill Clinton, who figured out that it was all about the economy and nothing else.

Clinton is a bit of an enigma. He had charisma, he had some good ideas, he didn't do too much, and he regularly got into trouble. He was a bit of a rogue. What's amazing about him is that he left office a very popular man; in fact his approval rating was the highest out of any post-war US president. Even after a scandal that almost led to his impeachment.

There's a lot of speculation as of late that the power behind the power during Clinton's administration was his wife. That's entirely plausible. She had the brains, and he had the looks and the gift of gab. As stated before, Hilary wrote the Democratic Party's playbook on dirty tricks; she was hired to investigate and report on Nixon's activities. Bill's meteoric rise coincided with him getting married to her; he became the governor of Arkansas and eventually won the Democratic nomination in 1992.

Bill Clinton was primarily successful because he knew how to stay current and use the media. He was always that soft-spoken father like figure who wasn't afraid to flex some muscle when needed. The economy turned around enough to keep people concentrating on other things; Clinton presided over one of the longest prosperous periods in recent history. Foreign policy wise, he didn't do too much, he kept the peace,

negotiated some trade deals, and kept people from shooting each other. But the “darkling shadows” were there. These would manifest themselves with George W. Bush.

George W. Bush wanted to be like his successful father or at least be worthy in his father’s eye. Growing up he was a bit of a ne’er-do-well; he got into trouble and barely passed university. He did a quick stint in the National Guard, and that was about it. He had a love-affair with the bottle until he smartened up. Then he started following in his father’s footsteps; he became part of the Republican machine and became governor of Texas. Then forever after, he affected a kind of a phony southern drawl, even though he was from good Yankee stock.

Bush had the misfortune of being in office when his father’s incomplete war came home to roost. “9-11” happened and set the country on a totally different course than anyone had intended. History may not be very kind to “Dubya”; he was heralded as a bit of a simpleton and considered to be way out of his league. He navigated through what was given to him, but a fractured and partisan house that was starting to polarize wasn’t doing him any favors. Then there’s the fact that he never really ended anything he started. As a result of what he started in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US has been embroiled in war that it can’t ever win. It’s also the longest period of time that US forces have been engaged in combatant role. The economy fell apart on Bush at the same time as huge war debts mounted, which in a sense is funny considering that the Republicans tried to run the country like it was a business. They found out, to their chagrin, that politics is the art of the deal as opposed to rule by executive fiat, as it is in the business world.



George W. Bush
Presidency: 2001–2009



Barack Obama
Presidency: 2009–2017



Donald Trump
Presidency: 2017–present

Barack Obama took office and the country was filled with hope for change; “yes we can” was the slogan. Well they didn’t. The jury is still out on Obama’s legacy; I don’t think it will be very kind to him. His health care plan was a great idea; why they all want to take it apart is still beyond me. It would have been a good legacy to build on, much like Johnson’s “Great Society” and the start of Medicaid and all of that. But one thing that is becoming painfully apparent in the US is the fact that the US version of the modern welfare state is untenable. It is running out of money and is on life support. A whole generation of young people are underemployed if they’re lucky to find employment at all. I could go on; the writing is clearly on the wall.


So this leaves us finally with the current occupant of the White House, Donald Trump. It’s too early to tell how this will all play out, but first indications suggest it won’t be well. Trump is the oldest person to ascend to this office, and the first observations of his mental state suggest that age may have caught up to him. He was never an intellectual heavyweight. This is a guy who gets his information from “executive summaries”. His lack of literacy and competence is evident in how he handles any type of media. Anyone who uses Twitter as a public address system can’t be all that bright. Most of his tweets assume a sort of “I told you so” tone. One of the biggest problems of our age is determining what to believe and what not to believe. And now more than ever, people believe everything they read and see on the internet and accept it as gospel fact without checking any “facts”. With modern technology it’s incredibly easy to manipulate any image, digital or otherwise, or any sound-byte to whatever it is the target audience is expected to believe.

Trump just flits around on whatever topic comes up, there's no rhyme or reason to his thinking. His past history is one of never being able to commit to anything. In fact, he's made a business to get others to commit to his shortfalls and bad debts. This is a guy who has been bankrupt at least 3 times in the past 20 years. He's used and benefitted from the very system he rails on about and has committed himself to destroy. The horrible thing is that with every passing week yet another potential scandal rears its head; this guy is going to outdo Warren Harding for scandals related to the presidency. Any attempts to control or steer this

man will come to naught. He shoots from the hip and doesn't give it any thought. He takes out allies and throws confidants under the bus. He figures he can bamboozle Official Washington and claims he knows the "art of the deal" but I think he's in for an education from an intractable institution. Both Carter and Obama for example learned that things only happen to those who can negotiate patiently. It's all about give and take and what one is prepared to live with, concepts that are completely foreign to Mr. Trump. Trump has an incredible ego, and is very thin-skinned to match. In my estimation Trump will probably end up as being the second

craziest person to have ever occupied the Oval Office, Andrew Jackson still takes the cake as the number one nut-case of all time.

On the positive side, Trump has promised to get the US on sound economic footing again and restore jobs and prosperity. No one is sure just how that will be accomplished though. But if he does pull that one off, he could conceivably go down as one of the best presidents the US ever had.

...Somehow I don't think that's going to happen. 

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

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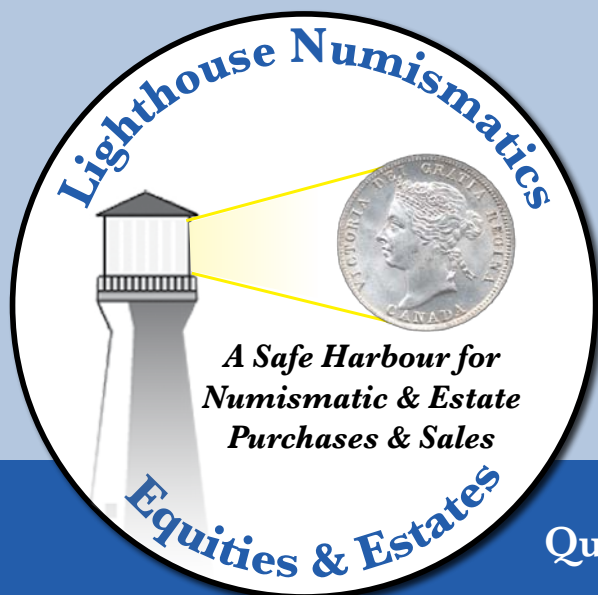
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