

THE PLANCHET

EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

April 2012
Volume 59 Issue 3

Ready, Aim,

— FIRE!! —

The Death of the Cent



5 Lire

Chinese Counterfeit



2010 - 1st Place
RCNA Best Local
Newsletter



2010 - 2nd Place
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Club Publication Award

April 2012 Volume 59. Issue 3



THE PLANCHET

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ON THE COVER:

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<http://www.eveandersson.com/>

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Message from the President

David Peter 2010-13



So it's finally official!!!

In the 2012 federal budget, the government announced the end of the Canadian penny; a friend or a foe depending on how you see it.

Even with it currently costing 1.6 cents for each penny to be minted, there was a lot of protest to getting rid of this popular numismatic icon. Many collectors started their decimal collection with the penny, giving it significant sentimental value. But in this time of fiscal restraint, the government has rumored for several years that this day would come, using the fact that other Commonwealth countries such as New Zealand and Australia have done away with their penny years ago.

Is this the first step to going towards a coinless society? I predict that this will be the topic of debate of many numismatic forums in the coming months. To kick things off, Marc Bink has provided an editorial on this topic; I encourage you to submit your comments and thoughts in coming issues.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

David

@ The Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2012



Royal Alberta Museum, 12845 - 102 Avenue
Meeting Start Time 7:15pm

- club matters
- ENS show update
- silent auction
- show and tell
- door prize draws
- ENS Annual BBQ
- **presentation: "Counterfeits, replicas, copies and outright fakes - a primer on what to look for when buying coins."**

by Roger Grove

For more information regarding these 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

March 14, 2012 ENS Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Marc Bink, Vice-President, at 7:17pm. He gave an update on the recent show. It was one of our most successful shows ever, with approximately 1,200 visitors. The appraisal table was very busy. The club received a donation of approximately 30,000 Pesos of Japanese wartime occupation paper money. Marc gave a heartfelt thanks to all volunteers.

Roger Grove mentioned the passing of Bud Collins and his memorial service. Members remembered Bud by telling some of their fondest memories of him.

Pierre Driessen discussed the contracts for the upcoming shows in 2012 and 2013 are signed and locked in. He is currently working on securing the same venue for 2014. He commented on how the club is pleased to be partnering with this facility as they have been very cooperative to work with. All facilities of the hotel were used by guests of the show.

Howard Gilbey gave an update on the silent auction. There were a total of 61 lots with 53 of them selling. Those that did not sell will be up for bidding at the meeting. It was the best silent auction yet, many items had multiple bids.

Ron Darbyshire thanked the ENS for the great show and for providing him with a table for the Kids on Coins. He secured a few new kids into his kids club.

Marc submitted the motion for the by-law resolution vote to change them as printed in the February issue of *The Planchet*. Howard supported and Chris seconded. The floor was opened to a discussion. The motion was

unanimously approved. This resolution leaves a vacancy in the Secretary position since Roger Grove will be focusing on the Editor-In-Chief role. Mitch Goudreau was motioned to be a presidential appointment into the Secretary position. He accepted the appointment. Mitch's appointment opened up a Director position. Larry Priestnall had the next most votes at the AGM for Directors and was offered the open position, Larry accepted.

Ermin Chow discussed the ANA Summer Seminar he attended in Colorado Springs in 2011. There are several courses offered throughout the week for anyone who attends. There are scholarships available to young numismatists.

Roger reminded members that 2012 due are past due if anyone has not yet paid. As per the club by-laws any member not paid in full by March 31 will be removed from *The Planchet* distribution list.

Marc discussed the topic of the clubs 60th anniversary next year. He encouraged members to come up with ideas. He also discussed the idea of a special theme for the show in November, since it will be held on Remembrance Day. We could coordinate *The Planchet* articles with displays, etc.

Pierre Driessen gave a talk, "A Few French Medals of the early 19th Century".

Door prizes were drawn.

Silent auction was concluded.

The meeting was adjourned 9:15pm.



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Not Worth the Effort

By Marc Bink



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." No, this isn't a tale of two cities, but it is a tale of one which managed to bypass most of the horrors that were afflicted to another city not far away from it. It is a tale that takes place in a land far away in a time long ago...

All right - enough of the bad clichés and sappy lines. Here's what this article is really about.

At the last Edmonton Coin Show and Sale this past March I managed to acquire a lovely Thaler from the city of Erfurt which is in the middle of Germany. It is called a "Purim Thaler", and it dates back to 1632. The most striking feature of the coin is the image of a sun burst with Hebraic lettering inside. This caught my attention, and I knew I just had to buy that coin. It ended up costing me more than my budget allowed (I still managed to get a great deal on it though), but it was worth it in so many ways. I knew it was going to be fun to try to figure out the story behind why this coin was issued and by whom. What I didn't appreciate was just how big and how complex the subject was going to get. The following is the briefest of descriptions of what was called the "30 Years' War" and how this coin fits in it.

The 30 Years' War from 1618 to 1648 ranks as one of the most destructive and murderous wars ever to take place on the European continent. Its savagery and destruction was only recently surpassed by the Second World War. The 30 Years' War took place in what is now Germany but started in what is now the Czech Republic, which was then called Bohemia. During the late Middle Ages and into the Renaissance Bohemia was at the forefront of a religious upheaval in a very Catholic run Holy Roman Empire. Trouble had

been brewing there for 100 years or more. The followers of Jan Hus¹, a Protestant radical who had been burned at the stake for his views on religion, had an uneasy truce with the Imperial government which oversaw Bohemia as part of the Holy Roman Empire. The Protestants were guaranteed their religious freedoms by what was called a "Letter of Majesty" whereby they were allowed by the Imperial government to practice and appoint their own rulers and clerics without any Imperial interference. Once the new Holy Roman

Emperor Ferdinand II² was slated to be elected in 1617, the Bohemians feared that he would ignore the Letter of Majesty and attempt to undermine the Protestant majority by appointing Catholics to positions of power in Bohemia. The first effect of these moves was that construction of some Protestant chapels ceased, because the ownership of the property was placed in question. The Protestants figured that the cessation was Catholic driven to circumvent the Letters of Majesty, while the Imperial position was one of just trying to figure out whether the land was owned by the Catholic Church or the Imperial



1 Jan Hus, 1369-1415. Hus was a Bohemian cleric and educator who eventually attracted a lot of followers with his beliefs about the Church. He was charged, convicted of heresy and burned at the stake.

2 Ferdinand II of Hapsburg, 1578-1637. He was legally elected Holy Roman Emperor and successor to Matthias. A devout Catholic, Ferdinand was an autocrat and did eventually revoke the Letter of Majesty. He wanted to extend Hapsburg domination throughout Europe and just about succeeded.

government. It all came to a head on the third floor of the Prague Castle on May 23, 1618.

For some reason Czechs enjoy throwing people out of windows. Prague has the dubious distinction of being home to 3 defenestrations that have caused immeasurable suffering and misery for the inhabitants in Prague and the surrounding areas for a long time afterward. The first "Defenestration of Prague" was when the Hussites tossed 7 members of the Imperial council out and killed them in 1419. The subsequent religious war lasted until 1436, when the Hussites were recognized as a religious entity, and the first Letters of Majesty were granted. The "Second Defenestration of Prague" started the 30 Years' War. On that day in May 1618 four Catholic Lord Regents met with the predominantly Protestant Bohemian council to discuss the Letter of Majesty. The Regents were looking for a way to circumvent the Letter or at least water it down, and the Protestants were having none of it. It soon dawned on the Protestants that if these Regents were allowed to remain alive, their freedoms would soon be severely curtailed or revoked. The Protestants then took matters in their own hands and threw the Regents out of the 3rd floor window with the hopes that these gentlemen would be killed. In all their haste, though, they had forgotten that there was a huge manure pile under the window. The gentlemen and their secretary all survived the 70 foot fall but probably would have needed a good bath afterward.³ Subsequently the election of Ferdinand was confirmed, and the Bohemians revolted. The Catholic Ferdinand was deposed and replaced by Protestant-leaning Frederick V, Elector Palatine⁴, and the war was on.

The first phases of the war continued until 1621, when the Bohemian Revolt was finally crushed. The next phase involved the west. This is sometimes called the Palatine phase, because it revolves more around the Dutch areas and western Germany. Frederick had been deposed and his lands and titles stripped from him. There was a Spanish Succession issue also going on which only added to the confusion. In this phase the Holy Roman Empire (Catholic) took on the Protestants who were trying to get Frederick's lands back for him. They failed, but in the process all of western Germany and eastern Holland were laid to waste. The Catholics under the command of the Count

of Tilly⁵ had triumphed. It looked like the war was finally over.

But it was not to be. The Huguenots in France were revolting. This now brought the French into the fray, albeit locally at first. The French crown was worried that its own Protestant minority, the Huguenots, would support the Protestant revolution in Germany and go to war with the crown. The uneasy truce between the French crown and the Huguenots was shattered by the French Catholic majority, and the Huguenots were eventually expelled. A lot of them wound up in Germany and Holland, where they were welcomed and eventually flourished. Not only did this Huguenot migration create problems for the belligerents in Germany, it also meant the money-tree had dried up for one of the sides, perpetuating the misery and the war.

And then, not to be outdone or left in the cold, the Danes got involved. Christian IV⁶ of Denmark was a Lutheran as well as the Duke of Holstein, which was conveniently situated in the Holy Roman Empire. So he figured he'd get involved on behalf of the Protestants. The war was evolving from a religious conflict into a pan-European political conflict. Unfortunately for the German population it was also decided that their home turf would remain the battlefield. Now this is where things get a little funny. Christian got his money from the French, who were Catholic. The French agenda was to covertly destabilize the Holy Roman Empire and thereby nullify a security threat on its eastern borders. Of course the English had a beef or two with the Catholics by this time, so they also added some money to Christian's pot. With all of this money and support one would figure that Christian couldn't lose. But he managed to just do that. When he started losing battles and going back to his supporters for more money, he found that England had its own problems and couldn't pay, and the French were leery of doling out more, because they were in the midst of a civil war. The Swedes were busy in Poland, so they too were out. Christian took it on the chin once more and then decided to toss in the towel. A treaty was concluded at Luebeck in 1629, whereby Christian was allowed to keep Denmark, but he was to abandon his German holdings and support for the Protestants. Rather than go on the 17th century form of unemployment (exile or death) he acquiesced and went home. The war was over again.

³ The secretary, a gentleman named Philip Fabricius, was later ennobled by the Emperor and given the title *Baron von Hohenfall*, which in English translates to "Baron of High-fall"
⁴ Frederick V, Elector of Palatine, 1596-1632. Frederick gambled and lost everything when he acceded to Bohemian requests to replace the legally elected Ferdinand II. His properties were eventually restored to his descendants in 1648, and it is through his line that the current British royal house is descended.

⁵ Johann Tserclaes, Count of Tilly, 1559-1632. Tilly was born in what is now Belgium and went to work for the Holy Roman Empire. His most controversial deed was probably orchestrating the Sack of Magdeburg in 1631.

⁶ Christian IV of Denmark, 1577-1648. Crowned in 1588, he was a long-lived and progressive king. Christian nevertheless had a pretty bad go of it militarily, eventually losing to the Holy Roman Empire and the Swedes.



The 3 Catholic Lord Regents were thrown out of the third floor window of this tower at the Prague Castle. They would have landed where the photographer was standing when he took the picture.

But it wasn't. The Catholics had decided to start re-acquiring properties that had been taken away from them in their newly acquired northern provinces. This was too much for the Protestants. By now Gustav II Adolf⁷ of Sweden (Gustavus Adolphus) had finished with his Polish campaign and was looking to get a piece of German pie. He entered the war ostensibly to help protect Lutheran interests, but to this day no one is really sure what his real motives actually were. Like the Danes before him he was subsidized on the sly by Cardinal Richelieu⁸ of the French. The Swedes entered Germany through Pomerania (now

western Poland) and started to lay waste to the surrounding countryside. They got held up in the northern area of Brandenburg and were not able to prevent the Imperial forces from running amok and sacking Magdeburg. Tilly's army managed to murder a major portion of the population in the process. The Swedes were not much better. In total the Swedes ruined something like 2000 castles, 18,000 villages and about 1/3 of all the German towns (numbering approximately 1,500) while they were on tour. Needless to say they were a fearsome force to be reckoned with, and to be spared the horrors of a sacking or being burned down was something to be thankful for. This is why my "Purim Thaler" was struck, to give thanks that Gustavus Adolphus didn't have to burn the town down, and that by the time this coin was issued Erfurt had enjoyed a year of peace under Swedish occupation.

The coin also commemorates the Swedish victory over the Imperial troops near Leipzig at Breitenfeld. That battle took place on September

⁷ Gustavus II Adolphus of Sweden, 1594-1632. After a rocky start with Denmark and Poland, Gustavus really began to shine as a military strategist in Germany between 1629 and 1632. He probably would have beaten and contained Ferdinand of Hapsburg had he not died at Luetzen in 1632.

⁸ Armand Jean du Plessis Cardinal-Duc de Richelieu et de Fronsac, 1585-1642. Richelieu was the first person ever to be called "prime minister" and was the de facto head of the French government. Although he represented and did everything for "King and Country", he was not above using Machiavellian methods to obtain his own goals.

17, 1631 (September 7th, old Julian calendar) on a field some 5 miles outside of Leipzig. Gustavus Adolphus had allied himself with Saxony and handed Tilly and the Imperial League its worst defeat to date. The end result of this battle over the long term was it insured that Germany would not become Catholic or Hapsburg dominated. The subsequent treaties that were signed and enacted protected the northern German Protestants from Catholic hegemony and gave them more independence from Vienna. The northern princes still nominally pled allegiance to the Emperor, but in actuality the Emperor and empire became more of a figurehead. The foundations were laid down for what would eventually become modern Germany by thwarting Hapsburg plans for European domination. From this point onward the real power of the Hapsburg controlled Holy Roman Empire would stay localized in the southern part of the country which would later become Austria, while the Protestant north would eventually unite under the Prussian flag and become the Second German Empire. In the meantime, however, the Holy Roman Empire would continue to totter on with the Protestants paying lip-service to the Empire and the Catholics, until Napoleon kicked the whole rotten edifice down in 1806. This Battle of Breitenfeld was the turning point, although at the time it was perceived as just another slaughter, one in which the Protestants finally won something.

The Swedish occupation of Germany lasted until 1635. Unfortunately for the Swedes Gustavus Adolphus was killed at the Battle of Lutzen in 1632. He did beat the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and his military chief Count von Wallenstein⁹ once more before he died though. The Swedes were effectively left rudderless by Gustavus' death. Although they didn't really want to admit it, Gustavus Adolphus was the driving force and the key strategist behind his army. From that point on until they left in 1635 the Swedes essentially fought a rear-guarded retreat, laying waste to towns all the way out. The Imperial forces had their own problems too. Ferdinand could not guarantee that his commander Wallenstein would stick around. He was to be arrested but was killed when he was caught trying to contact the Swedes. In what seems to have been a simple misunderstanding the Empire had lost a good commander, one who could have taken it to victory.

⁹ Albrecht Wenzel Eusebius von Wallenstein, 1583-1634. Wallenstein was actually a Bohemian Czech who sympathized with Ferdinand II of Hapsburg. On the job from 1628 he orchestrated some of the Protestants' worst defeats until removed in 1630. Recalled again after Tilly's death in 1632, he was assassinated by mercenaries who may or may not have been hired by Ferdinand himself. The primary reason for Wallenstein's fall from grace was that Ferdinand couldn't trust him and thought he was negotiating with the Protestants, which he was.

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KELLY P. FINNEGAN, PROPRIETOR

Now there was another flurry of treaties, and it honestly appeared that the war would finally be over.

But it was not. Now the French decided to really get involved. Richelieu came to the conclusion that the Hapsburgs were a bigger threat to him than the Protestants were. So he entered the war on the Protestant side. He had been financing the Swedes and the Danes before them for years, and now he wanted a piece of the action. His main desire was to build a buffer between the Hapsburg controlled Holy Roman Empire and France. To do this meant that he would have to dominate most of the empire and contain the Hapsburgs in their own southern dominions. Over the course of the next 12 years the French succeeded in doing just that. The last battle of the 30 Years' War ended where it all began, in Prague, in 1648. By this time the Bavarians and quite a few of the other Catholic German states had signed the Treaty of Ulm and taken themselves out of the war, leaving only Hapsburg dominated Austria to continue on against the Swedes and the French. Swedish General von Koenigsmarck¹⁰ marched into Prague at the head of

¹⁰ Hans Christoff von Koenigsmarck, 1600-1663, Swedish general. Von Koenigsmarck earned his commission in the service of Gustavus Adolphus during the Swedish campaign of 1629-32. Late rising to lead the Swedish army, he eventually took Prague in the last battle of the 30 Years' War.

a polyglot army and took the castle where it had all began 30 years previously. There's no record of the manure pile's still being there, but it probably was. Now all of the belligerents had finally had enough, and the war ended. Negotiations had been ongoing for 4 years by the time the "Peace of Westphalia" was concluded in 1648. The fact that there was a wad of sub-treaties and peace agreements all rolled into this larger "Peace of Westphalia" insured that the German states would not be in a position to unify any time soon thereby protecting French, Swedish, Danish and Hapsburg (Austrian) interests.

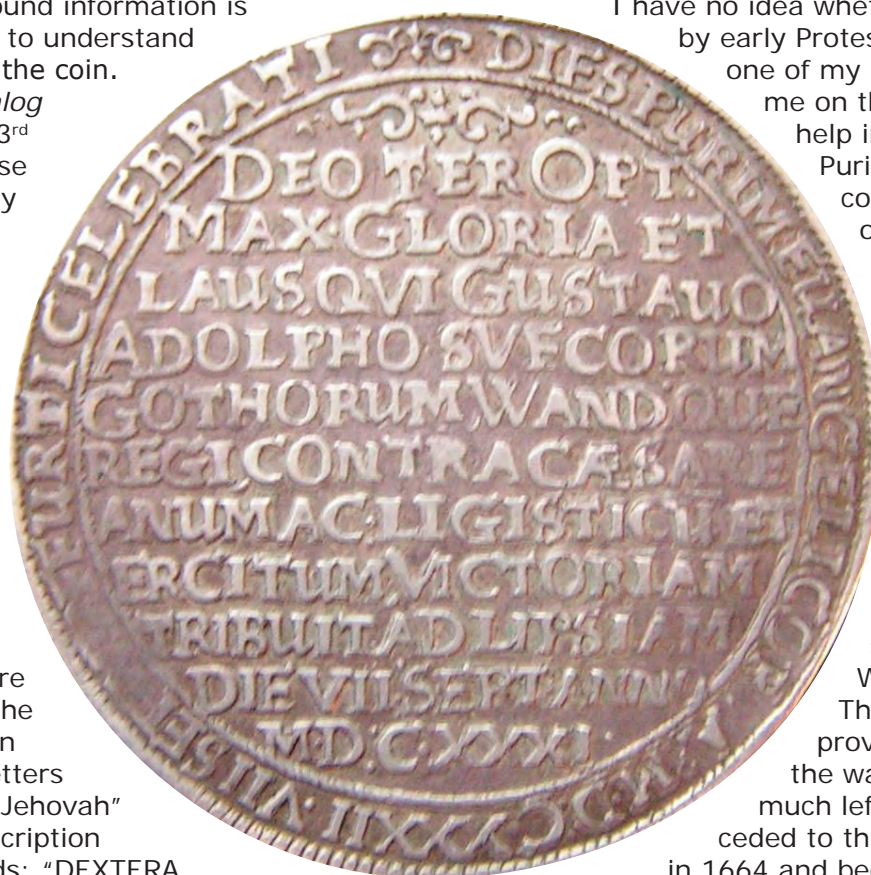
So that in a nutshell was the 30 Years War. Needless to say the conflict was a lot larger and far more complex than what I've just presented. But, as is the case with most of my articles, a little bit of background information is necessary in order to understand the significance of the coin.

The Standard Catalog of German Coins (3rd Edition) from Krause lists and depicts my coin as KM #59 in the Erfurt city section, and Davenport lists this Thaler as # 4546 in his books.

The coin is a pretty "busy" one, meaning there are a lot of things to read on it. The predominant feature on the obverse is the depiction of the sun with the Hebraic letters spelling the word "Jehovah" on it. The Latin inscription under the sun reads; "DEXTERA TUA DOMINE PERCUSSIT INIMICUM" which loosely translated means "With your right hand, oh Lord, smite the enemy". The legend around the border reads: "GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS A DOMINO MISSUS VIVAT", which reads "Gustav Adolf, sent by God, long life". The reverse is a bit more challenging, and I wasn't able to get the full Latin text for all the abbreviations that were used. However, I was able to get a German translation of the Latin into English. It is loosely translated "By the grace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, did King Gustav Adolf of Sweden defeat the combined armies of the Emperor and the Imperial

League near Leipzig on 7 September, 1631". The legend around the border on the reverse reads (translated from German) "The Evangelical event of Purim was enthusiastically celebrated on 7 September 1632 in Erfurt". Now what I have not been able to find out is whether the Jewish holiday of Purim was celebrated by Protestants in those days, or if the Protestants considered the Swedish occupation a form of their own Purim or if this anniversary was supposed to be celebrated thereafter as a religious holiday. As far as I have been able to research the Jewish custom of Purim, it seems Purim always falls in the spring and is calculated much like Easter is, so no two dates are the same. I have no idea where the date for Purim actually fell in 1632. The other problem here is my complete ignorance of the Bible. I read that the story of Purim made it into the Christian Bible, but

I have no idea whether it was observed by early Protestants or not. Maybe one of my readers can enlighten me on this topic. It would help in explaining why Purim is noted on this coin and not on the other issue featuring the same sun-burst motif. But one thing that is certain is that the inhabitants of Erfurt were probably very thankful to God that they didn't end up like those in Magdeburg.



Erfurt seems to have survived the 30 Years' War reasonably well.

The city reverted to a provincial backwater after the war and was pretty much left alone. It was then ceded to the Electorate of Mainz in 1664 and became part of Prussia in 1802. Erfurt was the site of a major capitulation to Napoleon in 1806 and was returned to Prussian control in 1815. Erfurt remained a part of the Prussian province of Saxony until 1944. Erfurt is the modern capital of the Federal German Province of Thuringia. A company based in Erfurt achieved certain notoriety after World War II for being the origin of the Auschwitz crematoria. The city survived the Second World War with minimal damage and was not subjected to the same bombing raids that took out Leipzig or Dresden. Even though the city suffered a bit of neglect under the Communists in the DDR period (1949-89),



This is the Market Square in Erfurt today. The 2 churches, Mariendom (left) and the Severikirche (right) would have appeared much the same to Gustavus Adolphus' troops as they do here today.

there still is a lot of old architecture to look at that has survived the ages.

As for the rest of the country the effects of the 30 Years War were drastic and long lasting. In many cases it took over 100 years for many areas to recover to the point they were at before the war started. This war is considered to be the cause of the death of German humanism and the rise of German nationalism and xenophobia. But perhaps what is the most startling thing about that period is just how little regard there was for life and property in those days. One of my sources of information is a book called *A Little Description of the Great World*, written by an Englishman, Peter Heylyn, in 1633. This book is unique because it is written in English and not Latin. It is a primer for the merchant or politician who would eventually have to travel. Actually it's a fascinating contemporary voyage through the known world at the time. I've read the sections on Germany, Sweden, and

Denmark. They're historically accurate, and they contain a lot of thoughts and ideas that were prevalent at the time. One thing that strikes me first off is how little Englishmen of that period regarded people) of other nations. Mr. Heylyn doesn't have very much nice to say about anyone, but he manages to get his views across politely with that usual English gift for understatement. But one thing he glosses over is the war that was raging in Europe at that time. He makes scant mention of it, leaving one with the assumption that this sort of thing is just "business as usual". Gustavus Adolphus is mentioned as a great king, his incomes are spelled out in detail, but little is said about his forays into Germany or the treaty he concluded with Poland. It could be that Heylyn just didn't know at the time. There's a good chance that he never left his house and based his entire accounts on what he heard or was told. (He claims in his introduction to be well traveled.) But this volume is the 6th edition, and in the introduction to

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it he claims he has made "innumerable corrections" to his earlier work, so that he no longer recognizes it.

But upon reading this book one is left with a distinct impression that the 17th century was a dangerous place to try to get around in and in a state of constant warfare. War was the sport of kings in those days. No self-respecting monarch could sit on his throne without having fought at least one major campaign in his life. If the monarch had no field experience, he'd ally himself to someone who did and get it. Some even went out into the battlefield and personally lead troops. For the common man things were much different. It was often downright dangerous to travel anywhere then without the backing of an army. One has to remember that there were no Holiday Inns or tourist offices around then, and people generally lived and died in the towns they were born in. Because of this, people tended to be distrustful and apprehensive of anything "foreign" to them. So having a bunch of marauding Swedes go through your town and spare it must have been regarded by the inhabitants as divine intervention.

So was it all worth it? Of course it wasn't, when one considers the human costs. However this didn't matter to most reigning monarchs in the 17th century. All they were after was prestige and money, and it all came down to that in the end. Like most wars the 30 Years' War started with the highest ideological concepts in mind and degenerated into a political, economical grudge match. Of course the fledgling merchant class and the poor paid the highest price. Both were just about eradicated, as some areas in Germany lost between 1/3 and 2/3 of their total pre-war populations to war and disease. It's said the male population in Germany was reduced by half. Magdeburg, which prior to the war was a city as large and important as Hamburg with around 10,000 inhabitants, only registered a total of 450 in 1648. It never fully recovered and had for the most part ceased to exist. The only thing this war accomplished was to shift the balance of power in Europe and allow nation-states to form and consolidate their gains at the expense of the Germans. The Germans, being in the very centre of Europe and as such at an economic crossroads,

were to be kept decentralized in order to preserve these new nation-states. This new "order" established by the "Peace of Westphalia" more or less kept the peace and set the stage for the inevitable conflict, once the Germans did unify and exceeded everyone's worst economic nightmares. This vacuum in the balance of power which started in 1871 was not rectified until 1989.

I made mention earlier of 3 defenestrations in Prague but didn't clarify what happened in the last one. That is believed to have occurred in 1948, when the Czech Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk¹¹ was found dead under his bathroom window at the foreign ministry. His untimely demise removed the last stumbling block the Communists faced in their seizure of power in Czechoslovakia after the Second World War. Of course Communist officials described it as a suicide, but those who knew Masaryk claim he was tossed out by the KGB or their Czech counterparts. As was the case with the previous defenestrations, 50 years of bad luck was visited on the poor Bohemian citizens in the form of an oppressive Communist regime.

Thanks to modern air-conditioning there is no longer a need to have windows that open up to the outside in Prague anymore.

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¹¹ Jan Masaryk, 1886-1948. Masaryk was the son of Czechoslovakia's first president. In his early life Jan was a steel worker in the US. He returned to Czechoslovakia and joined the Czech Foreign Service, eventually becoming foreign minister in exile in 1940. In 1945 he joined the Communist lead government of Klement Gottwald in the hope of containing the Communists. By 1948 he was the last non-communist politician left and was planning to leave the country. The day before he was scheduled to leave he was found dead in the courtyard of the foreign ministry. He was still dressed in his pajamas and had appeared to have fallen out of his bathroom window. The Communist government eventually ruled the death as a suicide, even though there was strong evidence of a struggle's having taken place in the apartment on the night that Masaryk died. At this time it still isn't known whether Masaryk committed suicide or was pushed; all of the records have disappeared, and people who would have known anything were either murdered or disappeared themselves.



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Sale of K-Days hoard to include production dies

By Ron Foss
A hoard dealer Ron Thompson has been selected to sell off a hoard of Klondike Days trade dollars, including production dies.

"There are 28 pieces," Thompson said, "but not 14 sets of dies."

"I will also be selling the hoard of silver, nickel, brass and gold-plated Klondike dollars," Thompson added.

Although the name was changed from Klondike Days to Capital Ho in some years ago, it was an iconic event in Edmonton for decades.

Originally started in 1979 as an agricultural fair, the 30-day event became known as Klondike Days, or K-Days for short, in 1982.

The first Klondike Days dollars were issued in 1986. The next year, the first mint marked dollars were added, with the marked dollars being redeemable for prizes, in some years, as many as six valuable prize products.

Thompson said he recently sold an open house Klondike dollar for \$300.

"It was made of nickel and you had to be at the mint's open house to get one," he said.

There are some rare types of Klondike dollars... so it is a fascinating collectible.

—dealer Ron Thompson

"There are some rare types of Klondike dollars, both in silver and other metals, so it is a fascinating collectible," Thompson added.

The municipal trade dollars, which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the RCMP, the X was added after production to discourage unauthorized use.

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A Coin From Metapontum

By Terence Cheesman

When we think of Italy, we usually think of the great history of the Italian peoples and their role in shaping the past. However it must be said that a good part of the early history of this region was shaped by the migrations of Greek peoples to it. Much the same way that Europeans colonized the New World, the Greek city states began a process of colonization of southern Italy and Sicily, and their interaction with each other and the natives of the region dominated the politics culture and economy of the time. One of the inventions brought to the region was coinage. Starting circa 530 B.C. the Greek cities of southern Italy minted coins, the principle denomination being the didrachm or stater of roughly 8.6 grams, though later the weight standard was dropped to roughly 7.6 grams. Lately this coin denomination has been called the *nomos*, a term which may mean "currency that is just."



Like many of the Greek cities in this region Metapontum seems to have started minting coins around 530 B.C. The main image chosen was an ear of wheat. Usually this is described as an ear of corn, something which would cause confusion to people from North America. Corn as we know it is a product of the New World, and it was unknown in Europe until after the European colonization of the Americas. What we call wheat was known as corn in both ancient Greece and Rome. The coin I am writing about was minted sometime between 290 and 280 B.C. The obverse features the head of Demeter crowned with a wreath made up stalks

of corn. Behind her head is the Greek letter Π which is P. This letter has been thought to be an artist's signature which is plausible. While this image of Demeter is not one of the great works of numismatic art, it does not mean that somebody would not be proud of it. Some however theorize that it is a signature of a magistrate and while not impossible, it seems to be less likely, as signatures by magistrates on the obverses of Greek coins was a much later phenomenon.

Demeter was the goddess of the harvest. She presided over the grains, the fertility of the earth

and the seasons. She was probably one of the earliest goddesses to be identified and worshipped in Greek agricultural societies. Many of the cities from this region honoured agricultural deities, perhaps to advertise their abundance of grain. Like today food was a valuable commodity and an important export product. Metapontum doubles the message, as the reverse features a stalk of corn. To the right is the inscription META which is the short form for "Metapontum." On the left is a small ram's head and the inscription Γ A. This is a puzzle. The Γ appears to be a very early Greek form of the letter H. It seems to have retained this form in Italy long after the more familiar form H had gained acceptance elsewhere. In fact on the coins of the neighbouring city of Heraclea minted roughly at the same time both forms are used and in some cases right beside each other. The ram's head symbol is otherwise unknown. This kind of pictorial device is seen on quite a number of Greek coins and could represent another magistrate.

The history of Metapontum, like that of many of its Greek neighbours, is a history of conflict with

each other and the local peoples. The Group D coinage in which this coin belongs seems to have been minted in response to a new threat posed by the rising power of Rome. In response the Greek cities invited the Epirot king Pyrrhus to help them fight the Romans. Metapontum seems to have been at least initially a part of this alliance, but for whatever reason the coinage from this city abruptly ended soon after the war stated. We know this because soon after the war stated the *nomos* coinage was reduced to a standard of roughly 6.6 grams, and there are no such coins of this new standard minted at Metapontum. The sources are completely silent on the role played by Metapontum during this war, and the reason may be simply economic. Perhaps the city simply did not have the bullion reserves to maintain the coinage for any length of time. The group D coin issues tend to be very small, possibly indicating a shortage of available silver, and a contemporary issue of gold coins might indicate that the city was coining its final reserves of bullion. Pyrrhus failed, and the Romans became the masters of Italy.



Prototype Year One Shekel, One of Two Known Specimens Sells for \$1,105,375.00

Heritage Auctions recently sold a Jewish War (66 - 70 AD). AR shekel (24mm, 13.34 gm, 10h). Year 1. LARSy LkS (shekel of Israel); A ([year] 1) above ritual chalice with smooth, wide rim, pellet on either side, the base has pearled ends, circle of dots all around chalice and also outer legend / USĕk M>Săry (Jerusalem [the] holy); staff with three pomegranate buds, round base, circle of dots all around pomegranates and also around outer legend. Hendin 1352. TJC 183 (this coin). AJC II 259,1 (this coin). Samuels 79 (this coin). Good Extremely Fine. Ex. Superior Galleries 12-5-1991 (Bromberg I), 56.

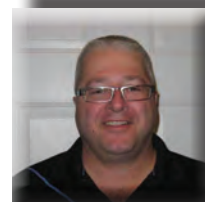
This is one of two known examples of a prototype design for the first shekel struck by the Jews in the Jewish War. The other known specimen is in the collection of the The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. The type was unknown until the two specimens were discovered in the late 1970s, both struck from the same set of dies. The extreme rarity suggests the issue was very small, perhaps limited to a few trial strikes in the manner of a modern pattern. Both the Shoshana and Israel Museum specimens display similar centering, with the reverse slightly off-center to left, suggesting the moneyers in Jerusalem had not yet perfected their techniques for striking such large silver pieces. While the major elements of the design were retained in the second generation issues, subsequent shekels were greatly simplified, with the inner dotted border removed and the Paleo Hebrew lettering rendered in a much less elaborate style. Estimate: \$950,000.





How Secure is Your Collection?

By Mitch Goudreau



Numismatics is a wonderful hobby, and for some of us it has become a passion. While we pay a lot of attention to it and devote countless hours in acquiring items to build up our collections, do we pay enough attention to the collection itself? By this I mean the security of its contents which encompasses not only coins, currency, medals & tokens but also books, accessories and data.

I recently had something happen to me that I found unsettling, even though at face value it appeared to be quite innocuous. At home I received a call from someone asking to speak to me using my nickname. I acknowledged who I was and asked who was calling. He gave me a name and asked if I worked at a certain major company in the area. When I replied that I did not, he apologized, saying there must be two of us with the same name, and ended the call. My curiosity was raised, and I immediately "Googled" that company to see if I could find someone there with the same name as I, which I did not. I know that this isn't definite proof of such a person not being employed there, but it would have made me feel a lot better to have found him.

It's been said that coin collectors can be quite paranoid, and I admit to paying much more attention to what's happening around me than before I started collecting over five years ago. I have no idea if there are a lot of coin thefts in the Edmonton area, but I do know of a couple incidents in the last few years. My first reaction after hanging up was wondering if this person was trying to match me as "a collector" with the first initial, last name and address he was using out of the telephone book. He could have extracted my name off the ENS website or *The Planchet* (for example). My family has been in Alberta since 1894 but is not large, with basically three lines descending from my grandfather and his two brothers. I'm not aware of anyone else with either my first name or my nickname. There is of course the possibility that someone with the same name has moved to Alberta from elsewhere.

As collectors go I'm certainly small fry compared to those of the great collections of the world, or of Edmonton for that matter, but like most hobbyists I do have some valuable coins. My definition of valuable doesn't necessarily require a coin to be worth large amounts of money, as it also applies to coins with a special attachment to me, such as gifts from family and friends, places I've visited etc.

While I have no reason to believe that the person who called had any designs on helping himself to my collection from my home, it certainly gave me the wake-up call I needed, as I know I was getting lackadaisical. I've been storing my valuable items in a safety deposit box at a bank for a few years, but I had not gone there in about five months. Needless to say I went there the next day to add my newest acquisitions to its contents.

Theft is only one of the hazards facing your collection. Have any of you ever considered what would happen if you had a fire or flooding in your home? Would the loss of your collection destroy your love of the hobby? In addition to the monetary loss, I would hazard to guess that for many of you it would be emotionally devastating. Poof, all those years of hard work & pride could go up in smoke in a flash.

I had been pondering getting insurance for my collection for a few years, but I never did anything about it. That has now changed, as I finally took the plunge and was quite surprised at how comprehensive the coverage can be. In addition to protecting the numismatic contents in my home, it also covers the contents in my safety deposit box as well as displays I may set-up at coin shows. My collection is also insured whilst accompanied by myself in transit. I found my insurer in the *CNJ* and discovered the rates to be reasonable, as I selected just the coverage I required. The numismatic collection coverage offered by my insurer comprises coins, collectible banknotes, numismatic literature, articles of numismatic interest and associated accessories.

The purpose of all this is to make yourselves think of how you store your collection and what might be done to give your collection the protection it deserves. I'm no expert on security, but there are many options to choose from. You should consider a combination of different types of protective measures, so that you don't put all your eggs in one basket, so to speak. A home alarm system may be a good first line of defence. A look at

watertight, burglar resistant safes with a high fire rating could also be sensible. I don't think any safe is foolproof, so I really recommend having a safety deposit box at a financial institution, so that you do not have everything stored in one place. A safety

deposit box is also a great place to save electronic back-ups of your coin photos, collection database, research etc. Insurance is the last line of defence and one I hope you never need to use. Happy collecting!



Regina Coin Show Features

Yap Stone

By George Manz

The Regina Coin Club's spring show & sale on April 21-22 will include a number of rare Canadian and foreign coins in its Rare Coin Showcase.

Among the rarities is a 40-pound piece of Yap Stone Money that was used as money before the Second World War.

"The Yap Stone on display is only the second one in Canada," said George Manz, president of the Regina Coin Club. "The other one is in the National Currency Museum at the Bank of Canada in Ottawa. For most people in western Canada, this is a once in a life-time opportunity to see Yap Stone Money."

All Yap Stones are made of a type of calcite called aragonite. The Island of Yap, in the Pacific Ocean near Guam, does not have any aragonite native to the island. Since the closest aragonite is located in the Palau Islands, about 300 miles from Yap, young Yapese males must paddle their dugout canoes across open ocean to Palau.

Once the Yapese reach Palau, they must perform menial duties such as building roads, gathering firewood, and carrying water. After the Yapese do this hard labor for months on end, they are allowed to carve out a roughly circular shape with a small hole in the middle from aragonite quarries found on Palau. Then the Yapese youths haul the stones to their outrigger canoes and paddle back to Yap. Those that survive the open ocean trek are considered men.

Since 1965, it is illegal to export stone money from Yap without written permission of the chief and state governor. The Yap Stone at the Regina show includes a 1986 letter from the Historic Preservation Office to remove four Yap Stones to Hawaii. From there, this stone made its way to Florida until it was sold last year to a collector in Regina.

The Rare Money Showcase will not be the only thing that collectors can expect to see at the show. The RCMP Regina Commercial Crime Unit will have

a display of counterfeit notes on display and it is hoped that the Bank of Canada will also have a display of the new \$50 polymer notes that are being introduced in Canada.

Coin and stamp dealers from across western Canada will have hundreds of thousands of coins and millions of stamps for sale at the show that takes place at the Wilfred Orr Business & Convention Centre, 4400-4th Avenue, near the corner of Lewvan Drive. The action takes place in the gymnasium with the doors opening at 10:00 am on both April 21 and 22.

There will be lots of things for children to do at the show, including a meeting of the CoinHawks Club, the coin club for kids on Saturday at 1:00. So bring along your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to the show. Children aged 12 and under get in free if accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact George Manz at (306) 352-2337.

Email: george@georgemanzcoins.com

Web site: <http://www.reginacoinclub.com>





Fun Time at the ANA (Mini) Mint

By Ermin Chow



As some of you may know, I had the opportunity to go to Colorado Springs last summer for a week-long Summer Seminar course organized by the American Numismatic Association (ANA). The course was phenomenal, as I have mentioned in a previous article "A Week at Summer Seminar". One of the course's main highlights was the opportunity to visit the ANA Mini-Mint in the basement of the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum at ANA headquarters. For a nominal \$1 donation to cover supplies, we were free to mint coins for our own pleasure. There, one of the instructors taught us the complete minting process using its screw press. I had a blast cranking out errors and varieties myself and took a few examples home as souvenirs. Although we were limited to only one pair of dies and one type of planchet, we received examples of coins struck at the Mini-Mint on other planchets with other designs.

Minting with a Screw Press

The screw press is one of the earliest modern minting methods. It was used in the United States Philadelphia Mint even before the steam press, which began operations on March 22, 1836. There are several steps to minting on a screw press. The first is the rolling mill, used to thin out strips of metal to the desired thickness. Next, the metal is fed into the blanking press to punch out blanks, or round pieces of metal that the coin will eventually be struck on. The third machine is the casting machine or edging mill, used to squeeze the blank so the metal around the rim rises. The other

function of the machine is to transfer the edge design onto the blank. After the edging mill, the blank is considered a planchet. Finally, the obverse and reverse designs are struck onto the planchet by the screw press. This can vary greatly in size. For example, there were gigantic screw presses that used oxen for power. However, the one at the Mini-Mint is quite compact and only uses a light bar to swing, resulting in a user-friendly experience.

Minting Errors Created

Although I had the time of my life creating a wide array of errors, I felt smugly satisfied with the coolest examples, three of which I took home. Fortunately, I was given permission to keep a normal strike example as well as a replica of an ancient coin struck on an American penny. The first error I created was the off centered strike. Simply, this means the planchet was not inserted properly into the machine, so the design was transferred onto part of the coin. Consequently, the other



Picture of the various machines at the ANA Mini-Mint (Photo credit: ANA Money Museum)



Clipped planchet



Off-centered strike



"Butterfly clip" error. Note that the common edges fit together nicely.



Example of an error-free coin that I struck

section was left blank. At first, I thought it would be a long, confusing process, but surprisingly it was simple. I just put half the planchet in the die and struck the coin, so that the design appeared on only a portion of the planchet.

The final two errors are quite similar in nature, due to the fact that they were both struck on clipped planchets. A clipped planchet is created in the blanking machine by punching out a planchet from a section of the metal which partially overlaps a punched out area. After the blanking machine, if desired, the design is struck on the clipped planchet, producing a clipped planchet error coin. The butterfly clip is similar in nature but includes specifically two blanks that are clipped on both sides. After that, both are placed on the screw press with the convex side of each blank facing. Then they are struck. The result is a butterfly clip, meaning the parts of the design are struck on two different blanks, and the convex edges they share fit together nicely. The butterfly clip is my favourite error, because it looks very beautiful, yet different from most errors.

Excellent Learning Experience

Although I should only speak for myself, I believe that this was an exceedingly memorable experience for all that attended. Though it was quite neat to see the different parts of the minting process, being able to take part resulted in an experience like no other. Despite the screw press being not the most efficient method of minting, it was a great way to learn firsthand the minting process. The instruction on creating errors was first-class. In addition, the ability to strike errors and keep them was

what made the ANA Mini-Mint such a memorable learning experience. For anyone with an interest in any branch of numismatics, taking a Summer Seminar course and visiting the library or museum at the ANA headquarters is a no-brainer. For more information about the Mini-Mint and the ANA, visit their website www.money.org.

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Obverse and reverse of the replica "ancient" coin



Two Staters of Archelaos and the Emerging Macedonian Kingdom

By Wayne Hansen



OK, seriously, who isn't already interested in King Archelaos of Macedon and his coinage? The only oddball reason that comes to mind is that maybe some people haven't heard of him. This may be possible because so much attention is paid to one of his successors, Alexander III (the Great), who happened to conquer most of the known world. Aside from that, Alexander had great publicity, and you know what they say – there is no such thing as bad publicity. They are still naming babies after Alexander over two thousand years later, and naming them in a fist-full of different languages too. And it is not just babies – when you get an Iskander kabob in Istanbul, guess what? Iskander means Alexander! So let me ask the question again about your interest in Archelaos at the end of the article, and let's see if we can agree.



This all came up because I saw a relatively rare coin in a recent auction. It was a silver stater of King Archelaos 413-399 BC, one of two staters he minted many decades before his Macedonian Kingdom became a contender on the world stage – that is, before King Philip II and then his son Alexander the Great amassed resources, exerted influence and perfected the Kingdom's military machine. My interest was piqued not only because I like Archelaos, and I favor early Greek coins, but also because I already happen to have nice examples of his two primary coin issues. First, though, let's review some background information about the rise of the Macedonian Kingdom.

Emergence of the Macedonian Kingdom

The ancient Kingdom of Macedon arose in the province called 'Central Macedonia' in modern Greece (parts also extend into other Greek provinces and the adjacent modern country of Macedonia). Ancient Macedon was composed of various independent tribal peoples living in largely mountainous territory, surrounded by Epiros and Illyria to the west, Paeonia to the north, Thrace to the east and Thessaly to the south (see map in Figure 1). However, the Greek settlements in the Chalkidian Peninsula to the southeast of Macedon, initially allied with Athens, remained separate from Macedon until the 4th Century. The name Macedon is related to the Greek word for 'highlander'. According to one legend, Macedon was originally home of the fabled King Midas, but he was forced to move to Anatolia by Greeks looking for a new homeland.

The history of early Macedon is not well documented. It seems that Thracians occupied the future territory of Macedonia in the 3rd millennium BC, but there were also incursions by Dorian Greeks from the south and Illyrians from the west. Some of the Dorian Greek settlers were later expelled by the Illyrians in the 13th-11th Century, so they decided to return to southern areas of Greece, including Boeotia and the Peloponnese (see my previous article "*A Drachm of Olympia*", *The Planchet*, March 2012 where I say that the arrival of Dorians in the Peloponnese affected development of the Olympic Games). The remaining Greeks in Macedonia formed small



Figure 1 - Map: General Location of Ancient Macedon

The dark blue area on the map, showing Macedon in 431 BC, highlights the fertile, lowland tribal home where the Macedonian Kingdom arose and where the first capitol of Aigai was located. At that point, the Kingdom (currently part of northern Greece) had already expanded into some of the lands occupied by adjacent tribes – roughly the amount of territory ruled by Archelaos when he became king in 413. The other light blue and yellow areas on the map show the extent of the Kingdom's direct influence on the 'Greek' peninsula at the start of the later reign of Alexander the Great in 336 BC (of course Alexander went on to also conquer the entire Persian Empire to the east, allowing him to become the King of Asia as well as the King of Macedon). Athens is located in the region labeled 'Attica'.

settlements and independent chiefdoms, enduring constant threats from the Illyrians. A consolidated Macedonian state began to arise by the 8th to early 7th Centuries BC under the Argead Dynasty, incorporating many local allied tribes and other non-allied tribes that had to be subdued. The new dynastic kings were called Argead, since, by legend, they had originally migrated from the city of Argos in the Peloponnese. Kingship succession was mostly hereditary, but there was some elective element, especially since several of the early kings were murdered. The king controlled the state administration and Macedonian religion, commanded the army, conducted diplomacy and minted coins.

The Macedonian Kingdom's initial base was in a fertile lowland region north of Mount Olympos, adjacent to the rivers Haliacmon and Axios (see Figure 2). The capitol, Aigai (modern Vergina), was built around the time of King Perdikkas I in the mid-7th Century BC (in Greek Aigai means 'place of goats'). At this point Macedon was a minor entity, on the outer edge of Greek affairs. Its political situation changed over 100 years later, about 514 BC, when Darius I (the Great) of Persia expanded his Empire into Thrace, Macedon and Scythia, in part to gain access to their gold and silver mines. Neither the Macedonian Kingdom nor the remaining independent tribes in Thrace and Macedon (the Thracian-Macedonian tribes) offered much resistance to the Persians. Darius then started the Greco-Persian War, embarking on a major invasion of

the Greek mainland in 492 BC to punish Athens for supporting a revolt of Greek cities in Asia Minor starting in 499 BC. Although Persia did not succeed in that invasion, and it was also ultimately defeated when Darius's son Xerxes attacked Athens in 480, the populations of Macedon and Thrace remained subservient clients of Persia until the War ended in 479. As a consequence of the occupation, Persia demanded that the Thaco-Macedonian tribes and other captured territories (including Macedon) pay precious metal tribute to the Persian treasury. This was a major impetus for increased production of the region's unusual and substantial coinage (see 'Early Tribal and Macedonian Coinages' below).

King Alexander I (498-454 BC) was the stable and dynamic ruler of the recently emerged Macedonian Kingdom during the Greco-Persian War and Persian occupation. After both Persian invasions failed and Macedon was released from its grip, Alexander began expanding his Kingdom's territory even farther into surrounding, independent Thracio-Macedonian tribal lands (not including Chalkidia). The new boundaries of the Kingdom conformed roughly to the outline shown in Figure 2 - incorporating additional precious metal mines, which in turn allowed Macedon to become an increasingly dominant power. Macedon had much in common with the Greek regions

of Thessaly and Epiros to the south and west, however, the separate, non-Greek territories in Illyria, Paeonia and Thrace remained a source of continuing conflict. Following the death of Alexander I, Macedon entered an uncertain period under Perdikkas II, before King Archelaos took the throne in 413 BC. During that unsettled period, the Peloponnesian War was underway in southern Greece, and Macedon switched allegiances between Athens and Sparta more than once. Also during that War, in 432 BC, the nearby Chalkidians gained freedom from Athens (Athens was distracted in the Peloponnesian War) and they formed a federation of city-states called the Chalkidian League. The League minted its own prestigious coinage before, during and after the reign of Archelaos, becoming the most important coinage in the region for 70 years. Chalkidian coinage stopped when powerful King Philip II (359-336 BC) added Chalkidia to his list of new Macedonian conquests in 348 BC (coincidentally, the same year that the term 'global ambitions' was invented).

Macedonian Connection to Greece

As indicated above, many Macedonian tribes had originally migrated from southern Greece. It is reported that Macedonians spoke an archaic Greek dialect (maybe not always understood by southern Greeks) and used Greek forms of names for kings and places. Greeks generally saw Macedonians as unrefined, like their dialect (one source noted that they were Greek, but they were "rude and backward"). The cultured Athenians probably considered them to be barbarians whatever their origin.

Macedonian culture was different from that of the Greeks, and their society was constructed on a different model. They had an autocratic, hereditary king with a "palace culture", similar to the earlier Mycenaeans, and a basically feudal social structure. The Macedonian kings also followed the archaic custom of marrying multiple wives. In contrast, the Greeks based their government on a city-state, or 'polis', model with an aristocratic or a democratic leadership.

With all this baggage, the Macedonians sometimes needed to prove their Greekness. Alexander I had to have his claim to Peloponnesian ancestral roots validated by Olympic authorities around 500 BC, before he was allowed to participate in the Olympic Games (a precedent used by later kings such as Philip II). Otherwise, the Macedonian kings strongly emulated Greek culture and the arts in particular. Greek scholars and performers permeated the Macedonian court: Alexander the Great famously had a Greek tutor. As well,

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Macedon provided advice and material (such as timber) to Greek city-states even in difficult times, such as before and during the Persian invasions, when they were subservient to Persia (514-479 BC).

Note about modern sensibilities: It is bad enough that the territorial epicenter of ancient Macedon (the area surrounding ancient Aigai) is currently part of modern Greece instead of Macedonia, but many modern Macedonians are also infuriated if you give any indication that the heroic Macedonian Kings Philip and Alexander the Great were in any way Greek. I encountered this first hand in Australia, of all places, early last year. We were stopped at a lookout on the coast, and I struck up a conversation with a young family who were touring from Macedon (I didn't recognize their accent). After mentioning that I was interested

in ancient Macedonian coins, they exclaimed that Philip and Alexander were Macedonian not Greek. They grew a bit hostile when I said that both of the famous kings loved Greek culture and wanted to be seen as Greek. You have to be careful not to raise this topic in any secluded spots – scenic or not.

Early Tribal and Macedonian Coinages

Kraay reports that the start of coinage in the ancient Macedonian/Thracian territories is “obscure”, with the possibility that Greek settlers moving from Teos to Abdera in northern Greece may have brought coinage experience with them from Asia Minor, where coinage was invented. He believed that resident Thraco-Macedonian tribes were “shadowy entities” and that minting would not have started in that area until after 550 BC.



Figure 2 – Map: Expansion of Macedon into Tribal Territories After Persian Defeat (465-430 BC)

The Macedonian Kingdom arose from allied tribal chiefdoms in the central green area of the map, where rich, alluvial soil was concentrated (note the more desolate, mountainous lands all around). Independent tribal and Macedonian mints produced substantial coinages for Persian tribute from 514 to 479 BC, and then continued the remarkable issues until 465. Some time after the defeat of the Persians and the cessation of these large-scale coin issues, Macedon expanded its boundary to the dotted red perimeter on the map, incorporating more of the independent Thaco-Macedonian tribes in Thrace and Thessaly, together with their mints and rich silver mines. This expansion improved the political and economic position of the Macedonian state, while production from new silver mines allowed both King Alexander I and King Archelaos to issue interesting regal coinages. Gold from the same area was also exploited a few decades later for the innovative imperial staters of Philip II.

As noted, the impetus to start minting, or to increase production, was spurred by the invading Persians between 514-479 BC – they demanded regular tribute in the form of silver that was abundant in the area. Multiple local tribes and local mines encouraged multiple local mints. Both the Macedonian Kingdom and the independent tribes produced coinage for the occupying Persians. This conclusion is supported by the fact that some of the surviving independent tribal coinages have been found in the lands of the former Persian Empire. It does not appear that the very large denominations produced in these mints were required for local trade purposes (although it may have been convenient to convert the mined silver into coinage for whatever purpose). During the Persian occupation, the Macedonian Kingdom also issued its own early tribute coinage in the same pattern as the independent tribes. At the same time, several other minting cities around the Chalkidian Peninsula (Mende, Chalkis and Akanthos) produced a variety of silver coin denominations while actively exporting large quantities of wine and timber. After the Persian defeat in 479, many of the remaining Thracio-Macedonian mints were brought under Macedonian rule, so tribal coin production stopped in favor of ongoing Macedonian regal issues.

The extraordinary series of tribal and regal coinages produced in the Macedonian region in the late 6th and early 5th Centuries were similar to each other in fabric and iconography, indicating cooperation if not possible alliances. The primary issues were gigantic in size compared to any other Greek coinage, including both octadrachms (eight drachms) of 28 to 29 grams and dodecadrachms (12 drachms) of 38 to 39 grams. Other Greek settlements almost never issued anything larger than the usual staters and tetradrachms of 10-15 grams, since silver was scarce and precious. These large coins were minted inside and outside the Kingdom until approximately 465 BC, fifteen years after the Persian occupation, with no indication as to why these issues continued that long (perhaps they were a convenient storage medium or propaganda device). The Thracio-Macedonian tribes producing the coins chose archaic, yet dramatic images for the coin obverses, along with simpler reverse formats consisting of four-sided punches, punches with a legend or other simple designs such as a triskeles or wheel. The obverse designs of various tribes included: Orrescii, Edoni, Derrones and Tyntenoi – god Hermes standing behind two oxen (octadrachm); Bisalti – huntsman standing behind a horse (octadrachm); Derrones – oxen pulling cart and rider (dodecadrachm).



3.1



3.2



3.3



3.4



3.5



3.6



3.7



3.8



3.9



3.10



3.11



3.12



Detail of 3.4 – Ichnai Octadrachm



Detail of 3.11 – Bisalti Octadrachm

Figure 3 - Thraco-Macedonian Tribal Coinages (500-465 BC)

3.1 Siris - Stater (525-480 BC, 9.97g); 3.2 Botteaei – Stater (500-480 BC, 9.91g); 3.3 Mygdones or Krestones – Stater (480-470 BC, 9.96g); 3.4 Ichnai – Octadrachm (485-470 BC, 28.97g); 3.5 Orreskoi - Stater (500-480 BC, 9.88g); 3.6 Orreskoi – Octadrachm (479-460 BC, 28.82g); 3.7 Edones – Octadrachm (480-465 BC, 28.94g); 3.8 Edones – Octadrachm (480-465 BC, 28.60g); 3.9 Derrones – Dodecadrachm (480-465 BC, 35.70g); 3.10 Derrones – Dodecadrachm (475-465 BC, 39.63g); 3.11 Bisalti – Octadrachm (475-465 BC, 28.43g); 3.12 Bisalti – Octadrachm (475-465 BC, 27.68g).

See Figure 3 for examples of these independent tribal coinages from commerce. Examples of the contemporary Macedonian regal issues are described in the next section.

The spectacular tribal and regal Macedonian coinages are of course rare and, as usual, beyond the reach of the great unfortunate mass of collectors. Though rather wonderfully static and primitive in style, they have a powerful visual impact. It would have taken considerable technical skill, let alone striking force, to make such impressive coins.

First Macedonian Regal Coinages (498-413 BC)

The early regal issues of Macedon, which were produced concurrently with the tribal coinages described in Figure 3, begin with the issues of King Alexander I early in the 5th Century BC (the coins of King Archelaos, the main subject of this article,

were issued late in the 5th Century). Starting about 490 BC, King Alexander I (498-454 BC) produced both octadrachms and tetradrachms with a huntsman standing beside a horse on the obverse and a four-sided reverse punch. Again, this may have been related to tribute payments, but his smaller tetradrachm coins may have been used locally. The first such issues did not have his regal legend, but in the 475-455 period (according to Kraay), Alexander issued similar octadrachms with a regal legend in the reverse punch. During his prolific reign, he also issued another series of tetradrachms with a mounted horseman on the obverse and various helmet or goat head reverses (the goat head represented the capitol city Aigai), plus heavy and light tetraobols. This latter series of Alexander I tetradrachms is important, since it is these coins that Archelaos would later emulate with his staters (see Archelaos section below).

After Alexander's death, Perdikkas II (454-413 BC) became king and was able to hold the



4.1



4.2



4.3



4.4



Detail of 4.1 - Alexander I Octadrachm

Figure 4 - First Coinage of Macedonian Kingdom (490-413 BC)

4.1 Alexander I - Octadrachm (498-454 BC, 28.31); 4.2 Alexander I - Tetradrachm (460-454 BC, 13.29g); 4.3 Perdikkas II - Heavy Tetraobol (454-413 BC, 2.36g); 4.4 Perdikkas II - Light Tetraobol (451-447 BC, 1.91g).

Macedonian throne until the accession of Archelaos forty years later. With the disruptions of the Peloponnesian War and presumably a lot of coinage circulating from Alexander's reign, Perdikkas only issued his own versions of Alexander's heavy and light tetraobols. Examples of both Alexander I and Perdikkas II coinage can be seen in Figure 4.

Archelaos Becomes King (413-399 BC)

In Greek, Archelaos means "master of the people" - from *αρχος* 'archos' (master) and *λαος* 'laos' (people). The name should be pronounced AR-KEE-LAY-OS. In Latin it is written 'Archelaus', so you may see that version in references. (I noticed in checking an online guide to baby names, that Archelaos is mentioned, but sadly the name doesn't show up at all on the graph of current usage.)

Ancient Macedon was a rough place by some measures, and Archelaos I came to the throne through violence. In fact, the Greek philosopher Plato specifically referred to him as a "barbarian", following his usurpation of the throne (perhaps based on his conduct and perceived uncouth culture, and not his ethnicity). Otherwise he was a very capable ruler, making Macedon much stronger through changes to administration, the military and commerce.

Let's get through the nasty bits first. According to Plato, Archelaos was the illegitimate son of King Perdikkas II (454-413 BC) and a slave woman Simiche owned by his father's brother Alcetas. By Greek law, Archelaos should then have been Alcetas' slave. Alcetas likely had the best claim to the throne after Perdikkas, but Archelaos invited both Alcetas and his

son Alexander to his house and murdered them. The Greeks thought this was abominable and immoral, citing both the murder of a master by a slave and the murder of guests by a host. To clear the way, Archelaos apparently at some point also murdered his seven-year old half-brother, the legitimate son of Perdikkas. He may have also had a varied sexual appetite. ('Aside from that, Mrs Lincoln, can we count on your support for Mr Archelaos at next week's coronation??'...).

Yes, aside from that ... Archelaos was one of the best Macedonian kings. He instituted reforms, reorganized the military (particularly the cavalry and hoplites), built fortresses and roads (straight roads good for the army), crushed a revolt at Pydna and minted a good coinage. One major advance in the first year of his reign was to reverse Macedon's poor relationship with Athens. Athens had been defeated at Syracuse in Sicily in 413, losing most of its ships, and it was desperate to build more. Archelaos was able to supply all the timber the city-state needed, at an

advantageous price, later receiving glowing accolades and commendations from the Athenians.

As part of his national reorganization, Archelaos moved the Macedonian capitol a short distance from Aigai to Pella in about 400 BC (Pella later became the base used by Kings Philip and Alexander to conquer Persia). Archelaos was an able diplomat and innovative military leader, but notably, he was also an enthusiastic patron of the arts and athletics. He maintained an active liaison with Greece and invited all manner of artists, writers, performers and philosophers to visit his palace. Archelaos also supported the athletic ideal. Not only did he compete in the Panhellenic Games in Olympia and Delphi (winning the tethrippon or four-horse chariot), but, in pursuit of Greek ideals, he developed his own Olympic Games at Dion in honor of Zeus of Olympus and the Muses (Dion was in southern Macedon at the foot of Mount Olympus, and Archelaos had given the town a Zeus Sanctuary). His festival lasted nine days and included athletics

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Figure 5 - Stater of Archelaos – Group I – Reflecting on the Past: 413-399 BC; 24.0 mm 10.81g 10h; Mint of Aigai. Obv: Rider wearing petasos and chlamys, carrying two spears, on a rearing horse. Rev: AP-ΞΕ-ΛΑΟ; Forepart of goat with head reverted. First coinage of King Archelaos. Westernmark Group I (O10/R10); SNG ANS 64. Ex: CNG Review, Summer 2001. Purchased from CNG in Dec 2002. (Collection of the author).

This stater (even rarer than Group II staters) continues the same obverse/reverse types used by the first Macedonian kings, Alexander I and Perdikkas II. The figures on both sides of the coin are coincidentally even looking to the left, essentially into the past. The obverse image could depict a hunter, given the figure's peaceful demeanor, or perhaps a cavalryman. A petasos is a wide-brimmed, wool or leather hat characteristic of ancient travellers and rural people, although a metal version was worn by some cavalry. The chlamys is a cape, while the goat emblem on the reverse is an emblem of the capital city of Aigai.

and dramatic competitions. (In this regard, it is somewhat unexpected that Archelaos did not use Zeus as a deity on his coinage, choosing instead a young Apollo for his stater and a Herakles for an obol and hemiobol).

Archelaos fathered several daughters and sons, including Orestes of Macedon (399-396 BC), who shared the throne soon after his father's death, and Archelaos II of Macedon (396-393 BC) who ruled after Orestes.

The end of Archelaos' kingship was as unceremonious as the beginning and similarly violent. He was assassinated during a hunt by one of the royal pages, Crateuas, along with two accomplices (one was a protege of Archelaos who felt wronged). Crateuas may have been sexually involved with the king, or the king may not have given him one of his daughters as promised (the record is not clear). Regardless, it seems Crateuas became king for all of four days before Orestes took control, beginning a lengthy period of 'dynastic strife'.

The Staters of Archelaos – a Bridge from Past to Future

Coinage production after the important reign of Alexander I declined precipitously in the uncertain times. When Archelaos took over from Perdikkas II, he instigated a strong coin issue consisting of small denominations (diobol, obol and hemi-obol) and two amazing staters (also called didrachms). The changes he made to the Macedonian coinage set a pattern that lasted until 359 BC, when Philip II adopted an imperial attic standard.

Alexander I's early tetradrachms had weighed 12.5 to 13.5 grams in the Phoenician standard, but Archelaos set the weight of his staters at 10-11 grams. All of Archelaos' issues bore his name as king. His two staters were significantly different from each other visually, and there is no way to know precisely when they were minted, except that the one with earlier coin types is accepted as the first issue. The mint location is traditionally placed at the old Macedonian capitol of Aigai, since Archelaos likely moved his administrative center to Pella toward the end of his rule.



Figure 6 - Stater of Archelaos – Group II – Looking to the Future: 413-399 BC; 24.5 x 23.0 mm 10.63g 9h; Mint of Aigai. Obv: Head of young man (Apollo?), hair bound with tainia. Rev: APXE-Λ-AO ; Horse walking trailing rein. Westermarck Group II, Series 2 (O-/R-); SNG ANS 67. Purchased from CNG in Sept 2001. (Collection of the author).

The young male head on the obverse is most likely a simple style of Apollo, similar to the new issues of the adjacent Chalkidian League (Apollo is usually wreathed with olive leaves). The reverse horse relates to types used on earlier Macedonian and tribal coinages, but the Apollo head was carved in a particularly sensitive classical style for this early period – six decades before Philip II began using the head of Apollo on his gold staters. Given the forward-looking nature of this stater, it is appropriate that both figures are looking to the right, essentially into the future. (Note that I purchased this coin in September 2001, just after the attack on the World Trade Center).

Archelaos' only two staters are unusual, first because they were staters produced during a fairly short reign, when few other denominations were produced. Secondly, they were minted at the new weight, equivalent to a double-siglos or 'Persic standard'. However, the most interesting part is the imagery used on these staters (see Figures 5 and 6 for examples from my collection). Archelaos' staters are separated broadly into Group I and Group II, based on different obverse/reverse types. Both issues are scarce, but Group I is even less common (14 of 25 examples cited in Westermarck originated in the Ptolemais Hoard). This Group closely replicates the older octodrachm and tetradrachm coin types of King Alexander I, showing a horseman with two spears on the obverse and a goat forepart on the reverse, but in a smaller stater format. The horseman could be a hunter or a warrior (hunting on horseback was a normal pastime in ancient Macedon), but the goat is definitely the symbol of the Macedonian capitol city of Aigai. By replicating the design, Archelaos may have wanted to reinforce his hold on the state by recalling the power and stability of King Alexander.

The second Group of Archelaos staters is far different. King Archelaos moved a version of the traditional horse motif (without rider) to the reverse of the coin and devised a new, youthful male head image for the obverse. The portrait could be the god Apollo, an early founder or simply the head of a rider. While this type of portrait image is unprecedented in Macedonian coinage, nearby Olynthos, as part of the Chalkidian League, had begun issuing important tetraobols and tetradrachms with a head of Apollo about the same time (complete with olive wreath to denote the god). I believe, as do most others, that this type is a simpler, Macedonian version of the Apollo head, given its prominence and classically idealistic style. My coin is a Series 2 version of Group 2. There is a Series 1 of the obverse-head coins that may have been issued first, but the style of the male head in Series 1 is noticeably less artistic.

I have realized while doing this article that these remarkable staters are also special, because in the brief reign of King Archelaos, they mark the cusp of a new age, between the foundation of the Macedonian state and the grand conquests which

came soon after under Philip II and Alexander III. In essence, these are two silver staters with two different motifs - one looking to the past in the style of Alexander I and one looking to the future in the types of the extraordinary King Philip. Even the figures on both sides of each coin play their part - the Group I stater has figures looking left, into the past, while the figures on the Group II coin look right, into the future. After Archelaos, another King, Amyntas III, employed the head of Herakles on his staters, but it was the dashing and ambitious Philip II who reconfigured the entire Macedonian coinage and drew upon a similar, youthful Apollo for the obverse of his radical, new Macedonian gold stater, the highest of his imperial denominations. This is a fascinating concept of duality, especially since the reign of Archelaos occurred between two periods of insecure and uncertain rule.

In Closing...

I don't often pay attention to individual items in my collection, usually only taking them out for occasional photographs or displays. These two staters of Archelaos are not more special in this regard, but I really like them for their rarity, their classic style and their connection to that less-travelled part of the historical record. Even the name Archelaos reverberates - it sounds old and it evokes the mystery of an ancient time and place.

Getting back to my preamble, I must ask again: with this perspective on the founding of Macedonia and the exploits of Archelaos in particular, who wouldn't now be interested in King Archelaos and his coinage?

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Penniless ...

By Marc Bink



So the lowly penny has finally met its end. As of March 29, 2012 the penny's days as a unit of Canadian currency are numbered. Finance Minister Flaherty has claimed that the elimination of the penny would save his government around \$11 million per year in material and minting costs. Even though the coin is made from a steel and/or zinc planchet plated with bronze, it still costs close to 2 cents per coin to make. And considering that most people prefer to keep them in piggy-banks or ashtrays, or just throw them away, it just makes economic sense to finally eliminate what most people consider a nuisance. The minister proposes to start de-monetizing the penny this Fall when the Royal Canadian Mint stops minting them.

Canada has a long history of hating the penny. The Province of Canada started minting the old large cents in 1858. The next year, the Province of Canada couldn't give away the 1859 mintage, and it wasn't until 1876, when the earlier supply was finally exhausted, that more had to be minted. Out here in western Canada a penny never bought much because of the costs associated with bringing goods out from the east. The penny was the first coin reduced in size in 1920, and the basic overall design hasn't changed since 1937. The penny had pretty much ceased to have any real value by the late 50s, and it has been relegated to piggy banks and Oxfam boxes ever since. Nowadays, the only place one sees pennies anymore is in charity boxes or in "need a penny" trays. I'm sure every club member is sitting on at least 10 pounds of pennies in various jars, bottles or ashtrays. As collectors we may hoard them, but that doesn't necessarily mean we love them.

However, the penny will remain legal tender until the supply of them is depleted. It was previously supposed that the public would have a certain window of time to dispose of the coins, but now it seems that even the government doesn't want to be saddled with the task of melting or disposing of the tons of pennies that exist in jars and ashtrays across the country. So they will be quietly phased-out of existence and prices will be rounded to the next nearest 5 cents. I would think that the public can be assured that most prices will be rounded up to the next 5 cents, and never down. This way, businesses and the government will be able to literally scoop even more money out of your pocket, unless you use a debit or credit card.) Just

remember the last time you bought gas: no matter how you try to get the total to stop at a nice round number, it always seems to go a penny over. Now the oil companies will have an excuse to be taking 3 or 4 cents per transaction for free instead of one.

The Minister stated in his budget speech to the House of Commons a few days ago that the penny is essentially worthless and is more of a nuisance than actual money. It is a "currency without currency". He should be ashamed of himself. Most financial empires are built one penny at a time. We were all taught as children to save our pennies and that even a lowly cent could mean something and add up to a fortune. We can rest assured that fees, taxes, and service charges will always end up being based on a percentage, meaning there will always be a need to base calculations on a factor of 1. Think of the last time you were at a bank making any kind of cash payment, do you honestly think they'll do you a favor and round it down so that you can pay it if you're a penny short? The assumption here is that a financial institution will be humane or resourceful, but they are neither, they certainly know that their money is made one cent at a time and they will expect the balance due right to the penny, regardless of whether the penny exists or not.

The more sinister thing about the Finance Minister's statements is that he is in a sense endorsing inflation by acknowledging that inflation has ruined the value of our lowest denomination coin. This will only serve to increase inflationary pressures on our economy as everybody raises their prices to capitalize on the rounding up rule;

plus the cost of living will rise because people will be spending more. Sure, its just pennies, but they do eventually add up, and with 30 million consumers in this country, they can add up in a hurry.

One way around this penny pinching is to use credit or debit for transactions. The government has decided that any non-cash transactions will still be calculated to the penny once the coin is phased out. On the one hand, it sounds prudent. Pay everything with a debit card or a credit card, big deal. But it can be a big deal if you respect your privacy. Government, banks, and businesses would love it if most people did all their transactions with debit or credit because they then have a way to track what the consumer buys and how much he buys. Not to mention that the interest on a balance owing would still be calculated to the penny. To them, cash is uncontrollable and it cannot be documented, tracked or taxed.

This process of inflation, or devaluing any intrinsic value out of the coinage or currency, has been going on since the Roman Empire. It would seem that modern society has not learned from these past errors. Instead, it is condemned to repeat them, as has happened before countless times. We are in the unfortunate position of having a fiat currency that is essentially valueless since about 1968 when silver was removed from our coinage. These latest changes don't really change anything with regard to what the public perception of our money is worth - it still looks the same even though it buys less and less every year. In the year 2000, it happened that the numbers worked out almost perfectly so that the 2000 dollar was worth exactly 10% of the 1968 dollar. Imagine that for a second; the dollar is the new dime. Now the dollar is worth even less than in 2000. Another indication of how bad the dollar has slipped since 1968 is the price of an ounce of gold. An ounce of gold will still buy exactly what it did in 1968; that much hasn't changed. However, it now takes 1650 dollars to buy that ounce of gold. The slow creep of inflation is how government deficits are paid down and this transfer of wealth away from the individual through inflation is how wealth is slowly and quietly stolen from the population. That's what the government isn't telling you. The penny is just the start of it.

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"Pennies do not come from heaven. They have to be earned here on earth."
Margret Thatcher

"Electricity can be dangerous. My nephew tried to stick a penny into a plug. Whoever said a penny doesn't go far didn't see him shoot across that floor. I told him he was grounded."
Tim Allen

"A penny saved is worthless"

"I've been too many places. I'm like the bad penny."
Jack Nicholson

"If it's a penny for your thoughts and you put in your two cents worth, then someone, somewhere is making a penny."
Steven Wright

"A million dollars in pennies is still a million dollars."
Antonio Bryant

"Sometimes a coin will have a new dye. Real red pennies. Pennies with two or more different colors. They're not worth any more, but people just like them."
Mickey Harr

"A bad penny always comes back."
German Proverb

"Mike Tyson has been given every penny he has coming."
Don King

"A penny is a lot of money, if you have not got a penny."
Yiddish Proverb quotes

"Government is the people's business and every man, woman and child becomes a shareholder with the first penny of tax paid."
Ronald Reagan

"Few people know so clearly what they want. Most people can't even think what to hope for when they throw a penny in a fountain."
Barbara Kingsolver



A Problematic Napoléon 5 Lire 'Coin'



By Pierre Driessen

Fake coins are almost as old as authentic ones. Some are obvious copies or replicas, some even clearly say so. These are not intended to deceive but meant as 'fillers' or for the tourist market. On the other hand, there are coins, which are specifically made to deceive, skillfully executed and difficult to distinguish from the real thing. In conjunction with this month's presentation topic: *"Counterfeits, replicas, copies and outright fakes - a primer on what to look for when buying coins,"* I would like to share with you my recent experience with one of these. So gather around.

I was wasting some quality time on eBay looking for medals and coins that could potentially fill gaps in my collection, when I stumbled upon a listing, which tweaked my interest. The listing was for a Kingdom of Italy 1812 Milan mint 5 Lire.

Despite the fact that coin catalogues list it as a common coin, with a mintage of 1,849,490, for some reason finding it in EF or better condition is rather difficult. Over the years I have seen many in auction catalogues or on the Internet, but not in this condition for a half decent price, so you can understand my excitement when I saw this one.

Having bookmarked the listing, I began to scrutinize the details. The coin pictured was gorgeous, showing only slight wear on its highest points. I enlarged the pictures on my computer to get a closer look at the coin's surface and engraving details, everything appeared correct for the coin listed. In addition, the particulars - metal type, diameter and weight - were correct. I asked if the coin had any edge inscriptions or decorations and what they were. The seller stated there were, but he could not read the language - which in my experience is not unusual.

I also checked out, as best as one can, the seller. Although relatively new to eBay, his score was good, no neutrals or negatives, and his feedback, from different buyers, was glowing. All appeared to be above board. So I bid and was successful. The final price was very reasonable, not an uncommon occurrence with new sellers. I promptly paid, and the seller was quick to ship. In less than a week the coin arrived from across the Atlantic. That is when the fun began.

I eagerly opened the package. The first clue that something was not 100% correct was the manner in which the seller had packed the coin. The coin had been thrown loose into the bubble envelop, no coin flip or other protective packaging. I thought it strange but again not unusual. Some sellers are more careful than others. I gave the coin a quick glance, the colour was a little different, but I thought nothing of it at first. I put it aside and went back to work. Later that evening I sat down to take a good look at my new treasure. Against better judgement I was hoping that I was misinterpreting things.

The first thing that became very evident was the fact that the coin I had received in the mail was different from the one pictured in the seller's listing. Alarmed I gathered my numismatic detective tools - a high-powered loupe, precision scale, calipers and reference texts - and the analysis began. Like an onion the layers of deceit began to peel away.

COLOUR:

When taking a better look, the colour struck me as funny. Although at first glance it appears slightly toned, the usual bluish tone or glow of silver was not present. The colour was dull and lacked radiance and depth.

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Figure 1: the obverse of the fake 5 Lire Napoléon 1812 Milan Mint 'coin'. Note the R in IMPERATORE and surrounding area where the plating is gone.



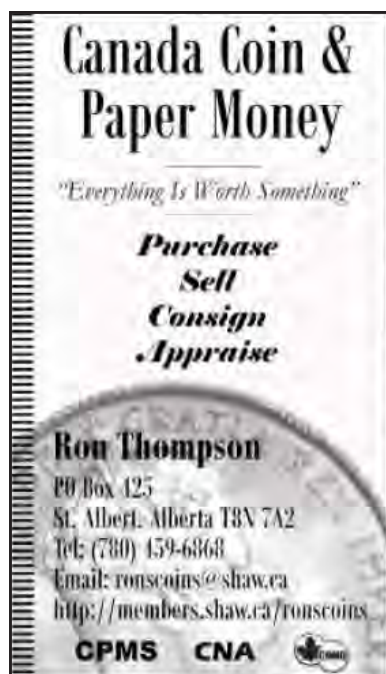
Figure 3: the obverse of an authentic 5 Lire Napoléon 1813 Milan Mint coin.



Figure 2: the reverse of the fake. Note the areas around and inside the crown, the drapery on the left side where the plating is missing.



Figure 4: the reverse of an authentic 5 Lire Napoléon 1813 Milan Mint coin.



TARNISH / DIRT:

At first sight the brownish areas found by the R in IMPERATORE on the obverse and on the reverse near and in the crown above the coat of arms appear to be dirt or debris trapped in the coin's details. See figures 1 and 2. Taking a closer look and trying to see if the dirt could be lifted off, I discovered that these areas were not dirt filled at all. Rather they were areas where the base metal underneath was showing through. To my disgust the coin

was plated to simulate silver. The plating had worn off or never been properly applied.

WEIGHT:

A real 5 Lire of this year and type should weigh 25 grams and be 0.900 silver or 0.7234 oz ASW. This 'coin' weighs 22.73 grams. It is not unusual for coins struck before the advent of modern coining technology to differ in actual weight from the official weight. These differences are usually slight, a little more or a little less. An authenticated 1808

5 Lire from the same mint in my collection weighs 24.84 grams, a difference of 0.16 grams or 0.64% from the official weight. The fake 'coin' is 22.73 grams in weight, a difference of 2.27 grams or 9.08%.

You may say so what, but when seen in percentage terms this is huge. Despite more primitive methods and tools, mints of the period were very accurate in their standards of purity and weight. A near 10% difference would not be acceptable to



Figure 5: Top detail of the obverse portrait of the fake 'coin'.

Figure 6: Bottom detail of the obverse portrait of an authentic 5 Lire coin.

any mint master worth his weight so to speak. A mint master working for a ruler as demanding and attentive to the details of the administration of his empire as Napoléon Bonaparte most certainly would not have risked it. The weight issue is even more significant when taking into account the fact that the fake 'coin' shows little to no wear to explain its weight loss.

DIAMETER:

At 37 mm this is the only characteristic of the fake 'coin' which corresponds with that of an authentic one.

EDGE MARKING:

The authentic 5 Lire has an edge inscription, either in relief or incuse depending upon the year. For the year the 1812 'coin' purports to be the inscription should be incuse and read "DIO PROTEGGE L'ITALIA" (*God protect Italy*) followed by a five-pointed star. The fake 'coin' has some edge markings, which are poorly executed and not what they should be. The word 'FERT', if in fact it is a word, appears on the edge.

Intrigued I began to do some research on the Internet and discovered that this is a modern high-pressure cast fake, produced around 2000. Yes, you guessed it by our friends in the knock-off capital of the world the Peoples Republic of China.

Having become convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the coin I received was a fake, I contacted the seller. Explaining my reasoning, I asked him for his explanation. He replied that he was surprised, hastening to add that he was not a professional but rather an amateur liquidating his collection. This read as plausible, we can all make

a mistake or be taken in. Even experienced dealers and experts can and have been fooled.

Then I asked him why he had sent a coin different from the one pictured in his eBay listing. He stated that he had several of this type and thus to save time only took a picture of one. I found his reply to this question disturbing, since we all know that each coin is unique and should be judged on its merits. Sadly I have come across certain auction houses and coin retailers who also do this from time to time.

The seller suggested I return the 'coin' if I was not satisfied but refused to reimburse me for the cost of return shipping. I decided it was not worth the effort and expense to return the item. Since eBay has made an agreement with the FBI to crackdown on sellers' listing copies, replicas and counterfeits of coins and medals as of 20 February 2012, I decided to contact eBay and explained the situation. To make a long story short, the seller has been removed from eBay.

Despite the fact it is a fake, or because of it, the 'coin' is an important educational tool. In addition to the obvious factors as described above (colour, weight, diameter, surface finish and edge treatment) a careful

study of the engraving gives valuable clues to look for when determining the authenticity of coins of this era and type.

RELIEF and ENGRAVING DETAILS:

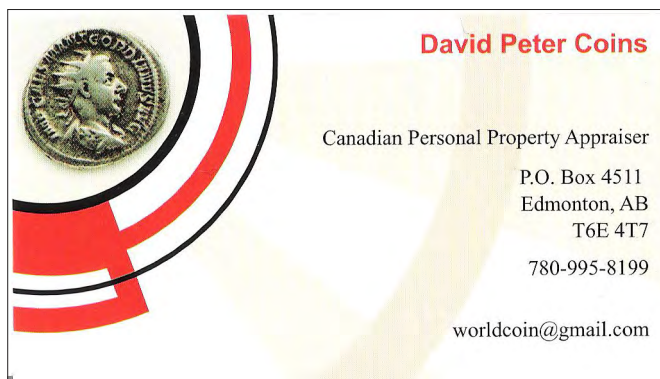
As the adage goes: "The devil is in the details," so let's have a look at these details and compare an authentic coin with the fake. Since the execution of crisp, quality detail is difficult and requires skill, it is here that most fakes will ultimately be



Figure 7: Top detail of the shield from the reverse of the fake 'coin'.

Figure 8: Bottom detail of the shield from the reverse of an authentic 5 Lire coin.





discovered, if the obvious factors fail to do so. On the right figures 3 and 4 are images of an authentic Napoleon 5 Lire coin. Now let's get a close-up look at the areas of greatest detail.

When comparing the overall appearance of the obverse in figure 1 (the fake) with figure 3 (the real), you can already see the differences. The general impression figure 3 gives is of higher quality craftsmanship with more lifelike detail. The portrait of Emperor Napoléon is that of a real person, however stylized, not a flat lifeless image. Going further the areas of greatest interest on the head are the hair followed by the nose, ear and eye. When comparing figures 5 (fake) and 6 (real), you can clearly see the differences. The hair, nose, mouth, eye and ear are different. The fake in figure 5 lacks dimensionality, has no real detail and is rather flat. The appearance of the head is unnatural and amateurish, not the quality of engraving for which French Empire coinage is known.

The hair is too stylized; the fine detail and waviness, which is characteristic of the portraits of Napoléon, are missing.

The eye shows no depth, the ear no detail, the nose not its characteristic curve nor the mouth and lips their distinctive expression.

Similar issues with detail are found with the fake's reverse (figure 7). A close look shows the lack of attention to detail paid by the forger. The ermine tails of the real coin (figure 8) found on the mantle, which forms the background for the shield, are merely blobs in the fake. The original circles surrounding the crown in the centre of the shield are missing on the fake. The eagle's feathers are different and lack depth in the fake. The fake's thunderbolts at the bottom of the shield are not raised but rather a mere series of lines.

To the unobservant eye the lack of sharp detail could be attributed to wear, yet this is inconsistent with the supposed detail still present, such as the upper portions of the eagle's wings that are regions that usually show wear first.

Despite its shortcomings this fake 'coin' will have an honored place in my collection, not only as an educational tool, but also as a reminder to remain vigilant, to never let my guard down and never to accept things at face value, but to always question. It also reinforces the value of having a good selection of reference sources which you can consult before you purchase your next treasure. In light of the new frontier, or wild west in numismatics inaugurated by the entry of China into the marketplace, it remains a world where more than ever the warning *caveat emptor* should be respected. This holds true for any and all areas of collecting. So enjoy your hobby, but keep your wits about you.

Coin reference: KM10.4; LMN 860.



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New Membership Applications

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Zukiwski

Mr. Michael Terry

These individuals have applied for membership into the Edmonton Numismatic Society. Pending any objections from the membership at large, these individuals will be accepted as "Members in Good Standing", effective this publishing date. Any objections to the aforementioned applications must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Edmonton Numismatic Society, and will be evaluated by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Coming Events

April 11, 2012 - ENS April Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

April 21 & 22, 2012 - The Regina Coin Club's spring show & sale, Wilfred Orr Business & Convention Centre, 4400-4th Avenue, doors open at 10:00 am, For more information, contact George Manz at (306) 352-2337. Email: george@georgemanzcoins.com. web site: www.reginacoinclub.com

May 9, 2012 - ENS May Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

June 13, 2012 - ENS June Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

July 8, 2012 - ENS Annual BBQ, watch coming issues of *The Planchet* for details.

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



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