

THE PLANCHET

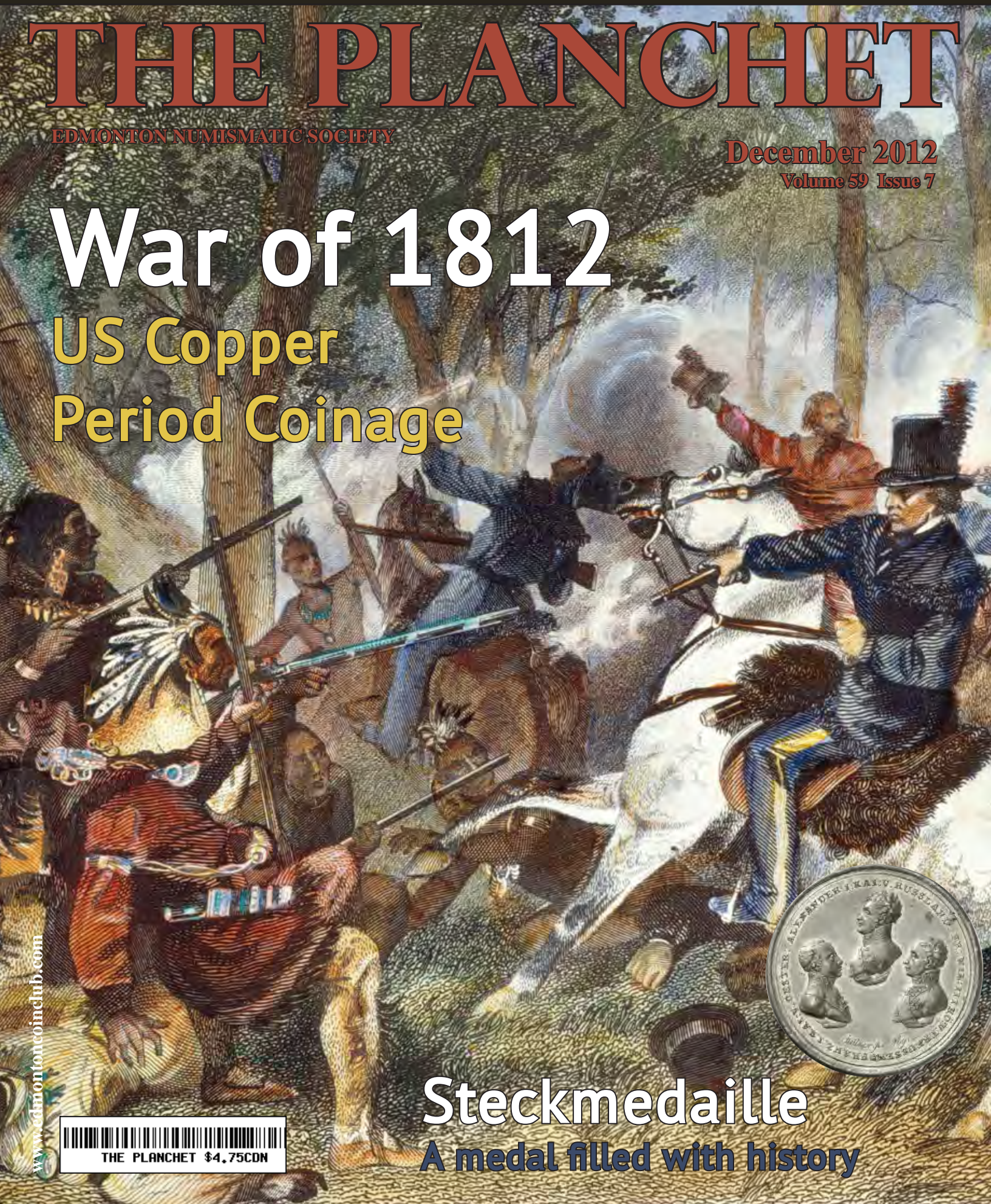
EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

December 2012

Volume 59 Issue 7

War of 1812

US Copper Period Coinage



Steckmedaille

A medal filled with history





2012 - 1st Place
ANA Outstanding Local
Club Publication Award



2011 - 2nd Place
ANA Outstanding Local
Club Publication Award



2010 - 1st Place
RCNA Best Local
Newsletter



THE PLANCHET

December 2012 Volume 59. Issue 7

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ON THE COVER:

An engraving depicting U.S. troops battling the British and their Indian allies along the Thames River in Ontario during the War of 1812. The Shawnee chief Tecumseh was killed in the Battle of the Thames, which took place on October 5, 1813.

<http://cincinnati.com>

Obverse cover of the Steckmedaille celebrating the 1814 Campaign of the Allies against Napoléon.

Disclaimer: The opinions herein are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Edmonton Numismatic Society.

The editors, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to accept or refuse any material submitted for publication.

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Message from the President

David Peter 2010-13



Greetings everyone.

It's been an exciting month since our last show and meeting. Once again, the show was a tremendous success, thanks to the help of all our volunteers.

There have been several announcements in the last few weeks, including the appointment of Edmonton's own Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney as Governor of the Bank of England. This change of signature compliments some other recent changes, such as our new polymer money. We wish him the best in his new role.

The Royal Canadian Mint also sold off several thousand \$5 and \$10 gold coins from the 1912-1914 period. Although there was a lot of hype about this sale, it will be interesting to see the quality of coins released, as most were described as "hand selected".

As the holidays approach, I would like to remind all members of our annual charity auction, with the proceeds going towards a charity to be determined during December's meeting. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be auctioned on December 12th.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David

@ The Next Meeting Wednesday, January 9, 2013



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

The ENS wishes to thank Stan Wright from Diverse Equities for the generous donation to the club.

- ENS matters
- ENS March 2013 Show update
- election preparedness:
 - establishment of the election committee
 - call for nominations for directors
 - call for nominations for executive members
- presentation: "Coin and Medal Slabbing and Third Party Grading a Cautionary Tale", by Pierre Driessen
- show and tell
- silent auction
- door prize draws

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

Minutes from ENS Monthly Meeting November 14, 2012

David Peter the ENS President opened the meeting at 1922 hrs. He mentioned that it was nice to see everyone and hoped that they all took in the show and enjoyed themselves. He declared that he was very pleased with the turnout at our coin show last week end. We had roughly 1000 attendees which was amazing when we factor in the weather, 2 different CFL playoff games, the Canadian Finals Rodeo held here in Edmonton and last but not least, Remembrance Day itself on Sunday. A bus trip of 30 persons made the trip to our show from Calgary and they took the time to also make a stop at the Royal Alberta Museum. The show itself was run like a well oiled machine thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers.

Mark Bink took this opportunity to reiterate his thanks to all the amazing volunteers who made the set up and tear down of this show the best yet. The use of the cargo truck made a huge difference in terms of time appreciation as all our equipment and material was able to be transported in one load for the first time.

The ability to permanently store our equipment in the truck when not in use is definitely great news, not only for the society, but even more so for John Callaghan, who after several years finally gets the use of his own garage back for its intended purpose! A big heartfelt thank you was given to John for this generosity to the ENS.

David also encouraged the club members to bring up any suggestions on how we can improve things even more for future shows.

Howard Gilbey gave a report on the Silent Auction to close out the discussion on the Nov 2012 coin show. It was the most successful one to date with 41 out of 45 lots selling.

The presentation of the evening "Collecting the fakes and fantasies of the 1880s can be expensive!" was given by Markus Molenda.

- The premise is that many of the tokens in the 1880s were actually fakes or fantasies. During the 1912 ANA Convention famous Canadian numismatist Robert W. McLachlan declared that 1/3 of the 500 or so tokens catalogued by Breton are not authentic at all. Collectors in that era were not happy with this so they simply ignored his point of view and prices stayed high on many of the pieces. The decades that passed, has since proven McLachlan correct on many counts as new information came to light. It doesn't matter though as these pieces are still very collectible and highly sought after.

- The focus of this talk was the September 2012 Geoffrey Bell Auction featuring Dr. John Temple's collection of post confederation tokens of which many were these fake and fantasy pieces from the 19th century.

- Marcus classified the tokens in separate categories;

- a) Forgeries such as electrotypes and cast copies
- b) Fantasies made to look like old pieces
- c) Fictitious tokens
- d) Mules – Struck by collectors of the time to make new varieties

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[Continued on page 39]



A Total Waste of Time

By Marc Bink



*"In 1814 we took a little trip,
Along with Colonel Jackson down the mighty Mississip'
We took a little bacon and we took a little beans,
And we caught the bloody British in the town of New Orleans..."*

Johnny Horton wrote "The Battle of New Orleans" in 1959, and there's an old black-and-white video out there featuring him singing the song wearing a full coon-skin hat and matching Davy Crocket outfit. He looks a whole lot fatter and better dressed in the video than the people he was singing about. But yes, this story has a bit about the War of 1812, which for me started with the acquisition of an 1812 American cent. Every time I look at that coin that stupid song and video comes into my head. For a long time I've wanted to write about early American pennies but have never found a reason to. Now with the anniversary of the War of 1812 I have found a reason, albeit rather weak, just because there's the off chance that a couple of my coins were carried by a soldier in that war. Considering the condition my coins are in, it could also be that a soldier was buried with them still in his possession. Looking at them I've often wondered if that was a better possibility, considering they are not worn down to blanks and haven't seen anywhere near the kind of circulation they should have. So grab a cup of Tim Horton's and bear with me while I tie some loose ends together and try and make a story out of this.

I acquired these coins a while ago and didn't really think much of them at the time. Then I just wanted to get the earliest American coins I could find. I had an idea it would be tough to acquire anything US from the 18th century, so when these coins came up, I jumped at them. After being spoiled by how cheap European coins are from this same era, I was surprised to see how much better grade early American coins are worth. Why is that?

The early 19th century wasn't one of my favorite periods to study. I used to think it was one of the slower periods in time when nothing much happened. To be sure there was a war or



**1812 Small Date Classic Head
Large Cent
- PCGS MS62+ Red Brown**

two, but I would challenge anyone who reads European history to find a year prior to 1945 when there wasn't a war or two going on. So I saw the first 2 decades of the 19th century as pretty boring with not much happening socially or technologically. Fashions were not as ornate as they were only ten years earlier. Pocket watches (my other collecting passion) were no longer as ornate and were being simplified. The technology used in them didn't improve, although the number manufactured increased as techniques became more mechanized. The Industrial Revolution was in its infancy in Britain, and the French Revolution was in its old age and getting very stale. Beside Napoleon stomping

around and laying waste to Europe, the first two decades of the 19th century were in my opinion more or less a washout or a continuation of events started in the 18th. However since meeting my erstwhile compatriot Pierre who knows more about the early 19th century than anyone else I've ever met, my opinion has started to change. The early 19th century is basically when modern history begins and the older history ends. Banking was changing too; after the Napoleonic Wars a new system of finance and banking emerged that would in turn give rise to our modern system.

But it also depends on what area one looks into during this timeframe. In this period the United States was just beginning to become a country and have its own separate identity apart from Britain. Economically the US was also beginning to flex some muscle and set up markets in both Britain and the remaining colonies of Upper and Lower Canada. However it was still primarily agricultural or natural resource based, and there was no real manufacturing going on then. The US sold tobacco, cotton and furs to Britain and Europe in return for much needed manufactured goods. In this way things hadn't changed much since prior to the American War of Independence in 1776. The only thing that had changed is that the manufactured goods had got more expensive and the customers had got scarcer. The lands to the north in Lower and Upper Canada were the largest customers for any US goods. In fact most people in the Ontario peninsula had relatives on the US side of the border and were either ex-American themselves or Empire loyalist families that were evicted from the US at the start of the revolution of 1776. They traded freely and crossed the border without restriction or impedance, in many cases not even realizing they had crossed a national border.

These were the days before police forces and organized customs departments. Governments were very small and usually cash-strapped. People traded for commodities and goods and hardly ever used "hard" money. Only people who traded in vast amounts of goods used any kind of cash. And this cash could have been just about anything that was worth money, ranging from Spanish "pieces of eight" to English guineas, or even the new American dollars. But the use of dollars or paper currency was nowhere nearly as prominent as it is today. Gold was traded but silver not as widely so. Both were very scarce on both sides of the border. This was before gold and silver were discovered and mined in the west. For the most part, though, the Spanish milled dollar or the "pillar dollar" of 8 reales was the basic unit of currency used by the general public in North America until well into the 1850s. It seemed that

there was a perpetual shortage of coinage and money until the American Civil War ended, after which the number of coins in the money supply just exploded. But until then this lack of coin was to stifle the economic potential of both the US and Canada, and it also contributed to how the War of 1812 was waged by both sides.

North America was a curious place in those days. In the north there were the Canadians and the French-Canadians. This British colony was more or less beholden to the Hudson's Bay Company. Canada's primary export was furs. Canadians might have started selling Maple syrup, but this probably wouldn't have kept during the time it took to cross the Atlantic. The US consisted of the original 13 colonies and the recent Louisiana Purchase. The furthestmost frontier to the west was the Mississippi river. After that was "Injun Country", inhabited by what today is referred to as "First Nations" people or "Indians", as the indigenous peoples of the area were then known. Population in the US was growing by leaps and bounds, and immigration was taking place. More and more people were flooding in, lured by the promise of cheap arable land. Deals were made between settlers and the Indians, but it seemed that the Indians always managed to get the short end. They had finally realized that beads and shiny trinkets were not good compensation for lands lost never to be seen again. They wanted

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US Capital Building circa. 1814

guns, and they were very quickly learning to play by the "white man's rules". They learned fairly early on that the Americans couldn't be trusted, so they tossed their lot in with the British who seemed to pay them more attention. Unfortunately for them the British weren't much better in the end either.

One gentleman by the name of Tecumseh had seen the writing on the wall and tried to unify all the tribes and get a fair deal for his people. He was having a great deal of trouble encouraging them to present a unified front, but the Americans under William Henry Harrison made things easier for him by lowballing him on a deal for the Michigan territories. Harrison, wanting to "be someone" and expand his horizons, had no problems trying to take the land he needed by force, if persuasion didn't work. He was, according to the prevailing outlook at the time, dealing with a bunch of savages who didn't know better anyway. Tecumseh proved that this was certainly not the case, and that there was a new sheriff in town. He was not about to be bullied by a condescending American and began shifting his people out of the US proper. Also he started to apply pressure to his British allies to do something about the American problem. He was not told that there would be no support forthcoming. Chafing at what he perceived as British indecision and waffling, he went so far as to refer to British General Proctor as a "weak woman". He was not entirely successful at restraining the violence of his warriors.

The War of 1812 in North America is largely regarded as a mistake. The US initially had good reason to go to war with Britain; American sailors were being "press-ganged" into the Royal Navy at gunpoint. Since Britain was deeply involved in a losing war with Napoleon's Europe at the time, the Royal Navy needed every body they could get a hold of to maintain the fleet. "Writs of Passage" signed by the US president did little to protect the sanctity of American ships. Britain regarded anyone who was initially born in Britain as a citizen and therefore open to seizure and forced to serve the crown regardless of where he actually resided, much like modern day Americans or American born individuals are beholden to the IRS.

The US is a country of immigrants, and at that time most of the immigrants came from somewhere in the British Isles, so this meant there was no shortage of people to seize from American ships. A lot of people from the peripheries of the British Isles went to America to avoid service in both the navy and the army. Most of these naturalized US citizens and former British subjects were regarded as "deserters" and not legal immigrants. Considering how effective Napoleon and his army was, it seemed only logical for the Irish or Scots, who really had no beef with Napoleon or a kinship with the British, to get out and head to a place where one wouldn't get taken away and forced into a red uniform as a professional target.

In those days there were no real embassies or consular staff that one could go and complain to; in fact the American representation in London was fairly small and somewhat understaffed. Couple this with the fact that King George and his ministers never really did take American independence seriously, and one is left with a bit of a credibility problem. So after a number of years of complaining and saber-rattling, the war-hawks in Congress finally carried the day and persuaded President Madison to declare war on Great Britain. Mr. Madison wasn't really sure if this was such a great idea. It turns out he was right, even though he eventually got a renovated house out of the deal. The problem was that by the time war was declared, the British had decided to repeal the offending "Orders in Council" and honour American sovereignty over its own shipping and rendering the main reason for war moot. Communications as they were in those days, no one knew about this until well after the first shots were fired. Somewhere along the line the war-hawks in Congress prevailed on the rest and refused to call off the war. Britain, on the other hand, wasn't as interested in fighting this war, because it was still tied up with Napoleon and France. For the British the French problem rated much higher on their priority scale, and they didn't have the resources to carry on a major campaign in the Americas. The US and their funny little war would just have to wait. British forces in Canada were told to maintain a defensive posture. They were also told not to expect any real support until Napoleon was taken care of. British General Sir Isaac Brock decided that a good offense was better than a poor defense, so he made do with what he had and actually managed to thwart early American moves in Upper Canada. He also took Detroit.

***"We fired our guns and the British kept
a'comin',
There wasn't nigh as many as there was a
while ago.
We fired once more and they began a'runnin',
On down the Mississippi to the Gulf of
Mexico!"***



***"Push On, Brave York Volunteers"
Image of the death of General Brock at the Battle of Queenston
Heights, by John David Kelly (1862 - 1958).***

The Americans were intent on turning the Niagara peninsula and Upper Canada into a new state. They figured it would be a "cake-walk" to move an army up and take it from the British who didn't have the manpower to stop them. The US was counting on raising a huge army consisting of civilian soldiers formed up into militia units on temporary enlistment terms. It was assumed that these largely untrained armies would flood into Canada and overwhelm it. What neither side appreciated until later, though, was the fact that civilian soldiers are essentially useless in the face of regulars unless properly drilled and trained. The terms of enlistment were insufficient for this to occur, as was the fact that these soldiers were promised cash on enlistment and promised timely pay in cash. What turned out to be a big problem for the Americans was how to raise the sums needed and how to safely transport them.

The US also didn't count on the British being very adept at defense or having a disciplined core of regulars that would stand up and face these hordes. It also had underestimated Isaac Brock. Unfortunately he was killed fairly early in the war; otherwise it could have been a much different conflict, as Brock was a natural strategist who thought nothing about turning a disadvantage into an advantage and going on the offensive. The other advantage the British had was they were friendlier with the Indians who were promised some autonomy and economic freedoms for their support. Tecumseh, the de-facto leader of the Indian tribes, was looking to establish a Native Confederacy and stop the US from expanding into

lands they felt were their own. Not only was this war to be his undoing, it was the beginning of the end for the First Nations as a dominant force in North America. First Nations power was at its zenith at this point in time. A few dumb moves and a massacre here and there finished off any chance at an American deal with the Indians; worse yet is the fact that British were perceived to have lost control of them. The only way the Americans would deal with the Indians from now on was at gunpoint.

The Americans were hampered in their goals of conquest as much by illness as well as the brutal incompetence of their leadership. Before the war it was thought that an army could just nonchalantly walk into Canada and take it over without a shot being fired. The reality was much different. US armies mustered together and slowly made their move north, spreading disease and sickness when they did so. Yellow fever transmitted by mosquitoes was perhaps the largest problem faced by the north-bound armies. Disease killed more than actual combat did. Incompetence and fear were rife amongst the American general staff. Bad decisions squandered good chances, and in each case the British either meekly responded or also threw away a good chance. Huge American armies were forced to winter out past their supply lines. American officers had a hard time finding enough

volunteers in their militias who were willing to cross the border and go on the offensive. It would appear that most militiamen signed up to protect their country and not invade another one. Whole militias just got up and left once their enlistment term was up, leaving huge gaps in the lines. Many would not be persuaded to come back regardless of the money being offered. Also a consideration was the Indian allies of the British whom they just couldn't seem to control. The Americans were absolutely terrified of the Indians and for a good reason; as the Indians had this nasty habit of not taking any prisoners, and those they took were usually subjected to a brutal and painful death. American bodies, minus their scalps, littered the countryside.

***"Ol' Hickory said we could take 'em by surprise,
If we didn't fire our muskets 'til we looked 'em in the eye,
We held our fire 'til we see'd their faces well,
Then we opened up with squirrel guns and really gave 'em...well..."***

So the Americans sat in crudely made camps exposed to the elements as well as in many cases British shellfire and Indian attacks. Needless to say they weren't in a good mood. In a couple of cases American armies made winter camps too close to swamps and never separated the latrines and the graveyards from the main camp, thus contaminating their drinking water supplies. Whole armies got very sick, and as was the case in a pre-twentieth-century war, more soldiers died from illness than from combat. The Canadians had it easier; they were for the most part already home. However things got ugly for them once the Americans started burning down towns. The firing of York (modern-day Toronto) started it. This sparked a sort of "an eye for an eye" mentality among the combatants that didn't really quit until the British burned down Washington DC in 1814. In the meantime, though, most of the towns on either side of the Niagara peninsula were burned to the ground, and an awful lot of people were displaced. This coloured relations between the two sides for generations and eventually helped establish a separate identity for Canadians.

So what about the money angle? It seems the US mint in Philadelphia was constantly short of plate. After numerous failed or short-lived attempts at getting a "national" currency together, the newly created and officially sanctioned US mint in Philadelphia struck coins for the new US government in 1793. Prior to that there were no real legal grounds to strike a currency, and congress was concerned with quite a few issues

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The author's 1802 Draped Bust Cent - no stems

put forth by the various camps and factions; some wanted a unified currency, some didn't, some wanted a currency tied to another one, others didn't, and there was the whole issue of chartering banks and who would end up with control over the money supply. The new constitution, which had been ratified in 1787, was supposed to have fixed that. It did to an extent, and there were a number of amendments that were made over the years to get to the current Federal Reserve System.

There was another problem. The Americans usually took a break in the summer months when things got hot. This was because, for some inexplicable reason, people got very sick during the spring and summer. Those who survived usually went back to work in the fall. What people didn't know at the time was that the yellow fever they were suffering from was borne by mosquitoes which happened to turn up in droves every spring. Of course they thought it was because of fermenting coffee beans or recent immigrants from Haiti or an act of God. The reality is that the mosquitoes that were bothering Philadelphia probably came in on water-barrels imported from tropical climates. Some clowns actually thought that Afro-American slaves were immune to these illnesses and forced them to stay while their white masters fled. So for the first 10 – 15 years of operation the US mint shut down in the summer and restarted in the fall. Its labour force was affected by this break, and no doubt many signed up for the militia once war was declared. It's been said that the US operated with many different forms of cash up until at least 1830, but it looks like things really didn't come

together until the Civil War and the issuance of a national paper currency. Until 1861 there were a myriad of notes, tokens, coins, foreign coins and counterfeits in circulation. It was more of an art to determine if the money one was being paid in was real or if it was worth anything. Part of the problem was that banks failed with alarming regularity and could not honour their notes. The other problem was counterfeiting. For every real note issued, two fakes came out. So paying armies got to be a problem. Treasury notes were issued by the government; they were supposedly redeemable in gold once the war was over. Even coins were faked. Apparently a lot of the early 50 cent issues were counterfeited or illegally made by mint officials after the year of issue. Those coins that were in circulation and were acceptable were used until they were worn down to blanks. This is why it is rare to find high-grade US currency from the early period today.

The large cent coins featured in this article (with the exception of the last one) could have been in the pocket of any one of the militiamen who fought during the War of 1812. I'm going with two of the types in use at the time and use a later issue as a sort of control. The first issue I'd like to describe is the "Draped Bust" cent, issued from 1796 until 1807. The coin was designed by Robert Scot, who was the first designer and engraver at the Philadelphia mint. He was replaced by John Reich, who went on to design all of the large cent series. He played around with the head design ostensibly to get one that would strike up right. The final design, the "Coronet Head", was used more or less



Battle of the Thames and the death of Tecumseh, by the Kentucky mounted volunteers led by Colonel Richard M. Johnson, 5th Oct. 1813. Lithograph, hand coloured. 1833

until the series was replaced by the small cent in 1857. The reverse side remained practically the same throughout the period of the large cent. It was just "tweaked" a bit here and there as required to improve the quality of the strike.

The mintage for my first coin, the 1802 "Draped Bust", was 3,435,100 pieces. In this number there were three different varieties made. There is the normal reverse, the corrected fraction reverse (1/100 corrected from 1/000) and the "Stemless" variety. Mine is the "Stemless" variety. The current values for the coins are pretty much the same up to the VG-8 grade. Higher grades start becoming worth more, with the "Red Book" value for the "Stemless" variety coming in at \$1400.00 in EF-40. The AG-3 value for the same coin is \$32.00, which shows just how scarce higher grade coins are. My coin is in VF-20 condition. It exhibits a lot of detail; the hairlines are all visible, and the face detail is still mostly "there". On the reverse the leaves are all complete except that the detail in the leaves has started to blend together. The one thing that

detracts from the appearance of this coin is the fact that it is pitted. It might have spent some time in the ground, and it was cleaned at some point in the not-too-distant past. This cleaning might have saved it. It removed some of the verdigris which was probably responsible for some of the pitting. But one can never be too sure, because the metal used to make these coins in those days was pretty soft. Cleaning coins was considered "okay" up until about 40 years ago, so when this thing was cleaned up, I can only guess. I

would have to say it was fairly recently, because the tarnish comes off awfully easily. These coins were pretty

much pure copper, which turns an unhealthy pink when exposed to sweat from a person's hands.

So handling this coin would have also kept it relatively tarnish free and a god-awful pink colour throughout the period it was in circulation. The acids in sweat were also enough to start pitting the coin, so just when the pitting occurred is a mystery. All in all, though, this coin is fairly pleasing to look at and is in better condition than most specimens I've seen of this type. It didn't buy much but would have probably been used by soldiers when gambling. The



1802 - PCGS MS64+ Brown



The author's 1812 Classic Head Large Date

mintage figures for this series are all in the millions, so there would have been a few of them around, and American soldiers would have had them. The only real rarity in this set is the 1804 issue. The initial batch numbered only 95,000, and there was an "unofficial" restrrike in 1860. All of the 1860 coins are in MS condition, as none were ever circulated. It seems that no one really knows how many were made in 1860, and it is fairly easy to tell the real ones from the fakes, as the genuine ones have some very defining characteristics that don't appear on the later coins.

The next coin is a cent minted in 1812. This coin is considered the "Classic Head" cent. It was minted from 1808 until 1814. The designer was John Reich again. This particular group of coins suffered from poor metallurgy and was not struck as sharply as the previous set which necessitated a mild redesign in 1814. The copper used was for all intents and purposes garbage, and my example reflects this. The strike is pretty soft, and the coin has pits. It is considered VF only because of the detail that is remaining. At some point it too was cleaned, and because of the fact that it is pure copper, the colouring tends to come off easily when exposed to body acids. Cents in this condition are fairly rare; most were worn to absolute blanks in short order. The 1812 issue has a fairly low mintage, and only 1,075,500 were made. This one is the "Large Date" variety. The fastest way to confirm which variety is which is to look at the second "1" in the date; on the "Large Date" it is pretty much the same size as the "2", and the font is slightly different from the "Small Date" variety. Values for these coins are about the same, regardless of variety. There were 2 more cents issued in that series, in 1813 and 1814.

Each of these is fairly rare and has much lower mintages than the previous few years. Demands on metals for the war might have been so much that the allocations for the mint were reduced. The need for small change was still there but would not be adequately addressed by the mint until the 1870's at the earliest.

The last coin in this set is sort of a comparison, because it was actually minted after the war. There was no 1815 issue, so the minting of cents resumed again in 1816. This is referred to as the "Coronet Head" cent and was designed by John Reich and Robert Scot. It's an obvious redesign of the "Classic Head", but it seems the devices strike up better. The reverse is for the most part unchanged from the "Draped Bust" issue. The obverse does show changes, the most obvious of which is the truncated head. The design of Liberty's face and hair are quite similar, but the bust-line has been changed. She looks as though she's been guillotined in the later variety. The "Coronet Head" variety was made from 1816 until 1835, when it was replaced by yet another subtle change in Liberty's appearance, referred to as the "Braided Hair" variety. As with the previous series the reverse remains essentially unchanged. My coin is in VF as well and is fairly rare in this condition. However the series is not as scarce as the earlier varieties and can be had for a reasonable amount of money. However, as with the previous series, there are a lot of different varieties in each year. It would seem that the dies were all hand-cut from a master and were therefore subtly changed every time they were replaced. This says something for the quality control at the mint at this time. What is bizarre is that it is mostly the obverse die that was changed; there are very few



The author's 1816 Coronet Head

varieties of the reverse listed. This could also have something to do with the fact that some of these coins which are listed as genuine could actually be fakes struck after the year of issue by unscrupulous mint officials. Apparently this was a big problem at the time and one that was not properly addressed until well into the 1880s. What is known is that the US mint very rarely destroyed or defaced used dies in the early days, and therefore they could have been used over again later on. Trying to prove this was difficult, but it seems it the public either accepted the fact or was ignorant about it.

It's this kind of thing that makes collecting early US coins interesting and challenging. I thought that it would be a fairly easy and straightforward thing; just pick up the nicest coins one can afford, and voila, one has a nice US date collection. I had no idea that there was a possibility that some of my half-dollars or cents could be fakes or a later unofficial "re-issue". As with anything numismatic knowledge is key when looking at early US coinage. There are plenty of books and articles out there, so anyone looking to start collecting early American coinage is advised to do some research before buying. This is particularly true with the early series of coins issued prior to 1830, as these



**1816 Coronet Head
PCGS MS66 Brown**



The Battle of New Orleans. General Andrew Jackson stands on the parapet of his makeshift defenses as his troops repulse attacking Highlanders. 1910 painting by Edward Percy Moran. Library of Congress

issues tend to be very expensive in grades above Fine.

So what of the war? It could have been a very different war, if Brock hadn't decided to fill a breach in his lines at Queenstown Heights with his own body. As he spurred his horse up the hill, he was a pretty easy target with the fancy uniform he had on. Officers in those days also had this propensity for large hats which made the sharpshooter's job all the easier. Brock's uniform still exists and shows that he was hit directly in the heart. The chances are he was killed almost instantly, and therefore the famous picture of him directing his troops while dying a hero's death tends to be somewhat exaggerated.

The Indian, or "First Nations", dream of self-government and limiting aggressive American expansion died with Tecumseh at the Battle of the Thames in Niagara in 1813. After he was killed, the whole coalition that he worked so hard to put together disintegrated. Recently the Royal Canadian Mint decided to issue a 25 cent commemorative coin with Tecumseh's effigy on it. How the RCM managed this is a bit of a mystery, since no one is really sure what Tecumseh looked like, and no formal portrait of him exists. Some

Native groups tried to separately sue for peace with the Americans only to find themselves shot out of hand or herded into reservations and their numbers decimated by disease. One has to realize that before the War of 1812 the First Nations were a power to contend with and a very brutal one at that. The Indians gave no quarter and usually took no prisoners. They took scalps instead. The Americans were absolutely terrified of them, so they did anything to contain or eliminate them.

The Americans' dream of expansion into Canada and total control of the Great Lakes was only partially realized. They started an arms race and actually managed to wrestle control of the lakes away from the powerful British Royal Navy. Through incredibly incompetent leadership and poor training the Americans squandered both a numerical and material advantage over the poorly supplied and supported British troops who had to rely more on their wits and whatever they could scrounge together. After York was burned, both sides then started to lay waste to each other's frontiers, resulting in the eventual British attack on Washington. Had Baltimore actually fallen, the "Star Spangled Banner" might have been written as more of a ballad of what went wrong as opposed to the national anthem it became.

And finally the Battle of New Orleans really didn't have to happen, because it more or less occurred after a treaty was agreed upon in 1814 at Brugge, Belgium by both the US and Britain. The British had decided to mount an all-out invasion of the US starting in New Orleans, and its forces landed in January of 1815. Of course there were no cell phones or fax machines around then, so getting the word out took a while. It was just long enough for "Ol' Hickory" Jackson to cement his reputation that he needed for an eventual run for the US presidency. The British, under a General Pakenham, figured this would be another easy victory. They severely underestimated Jackson and were soundly beaten. This marks the end of the land campaign of the war.

The effects of the war on both sides of the Niagara were incalculable and are still felt to this day. But the Americans showed the British that they could build and float a navy in a hurry, and that it could mount a serious threat to the Royal Navy's supremacy. The British were tired of war, and their economy was strained to the breaking point. This more than anything convinced the British that the time had come to entertain overtures from a group of American diplomats who had been cooling their heels in Russia for a while.

***"We fired our guns and the British kept
a'comin',
There wasn't nigh as many as there was a
while ago.
We fired once more and they began a'runnin',
On down the Mississippi to the Gulf of
Mexico!"***

But the end result of the War of 1812 was listed as *"Status quo ante bellum"* in the treaty, meaning nothing was gained, and nothing was lost by either side. There were no clear winners or losers; the whole thing was just a total waste of time and lives. Oh yes, the song is pretty much bunk too. The Americans never chased the British down the Mississippi. If anything it was the other way around. Most of the American generals or commanders who fought in this war spent a lot of time afterwards justifying their dismal accomplishments and painting lipstick on their failures. This is how the modern-day myth that the US actually won this war was started. Were it not for an American victory at the Battle of New Orleans, the war might well be perceived by the Americans as an unnecessary skirmish. But Americans today view the war as their winning it and as the awakening of their nationhood with their arrival on the world stage. To them it was the second war of independence. In that regard it was successful; it became accepted knowledge

that America as an independent power was here to stay.

This war firmly separated the Canadian identity from the American one and set the stage for what Canada and Canadians eventually became. We would always see ourselves as different from and better than the Americans. The British see the American facet of the war as a subset to the larger and more important conflict going on at the time, the Napoleonic wars. They still don't devote much time or resources to it; if anything it's regarded as a mere footnote. The First Nations regard the war as the beginning of the end; if anything they were the real losers. They lost everything, the right to access land and the right to trade as equals with both the British and the Americans. From this point onward they were herded onto reservations and left to starve or die of some interesting new disease.

So were my coins carried by some soldier or buried with one? Nah, the chances are they were lost in a couch or forgotten in a cigar box somewhere. They actually show no sign of ever being in the ground.

***"Yeah, they ran through the briars and they
ran through the brambles
And they ran through the bushes were a
rabbit couldn't go!
They ran so fast that the hounds couldn't
catch'em,
Down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico!"***

Now you'll never look at an early American cent the same way either...

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A Brief History of United States Three-Cent Pieces

By Ermin Chow



Have you ever pondered over the rationale behind the issue of unusual denominations in many currency systems? Almost certainly, there is a logical reason behind it, which is usually necessity. The three cent pieces of the United States of America are no exception, as their coming into existence was the consequence of a shortage of small change during the hoarding of other silver denominations in the United States.

This specific denomination was chosen, since the postage rate at the time was exactly three cents. These curious little pieces were initially minted in silver and later in nickel due to hoarding. By extension, the issuing of the three cent stamps was also the reasoning being the striking of the relatively scarce three dollar gold piece.



difficult, although not overly pricey, to obtain from dealers in Canada.

This curious denomination was widely circulated in the 1850's, beginning in 1851, and had the purchasing power of \$2.50 US. The high mintages of business (circulation) strikes in the earlier years were over a million, with the highest at nearly 19 million in 1852. There was a sharp decline in production of the business strikes in later years. There are three major types of the coin, and Type I is the most common in all grades. The design differences are highlighted in the chart below.

Silver Three Cents "Trimes"

Silver three cent pieces, commonly referred to as trimes, are neat little pieces of history to study and collect. Despite the lower mintage and few years of issue, these coins are surprisingly readily and inexpensively acquirable in most grades in the United States. However, they are somewhat more

Most of the trimes are business strikes, although, a much smaller quantity of proof strikes do exist. The proof coins were minted in various years, including 1851 and 1854-1857, and the reason for



1866 Nickel Trime

	Type I	Type II	Type III
Dates	1851-1853	1854-1858	1859-1873
Star	Single outline	Three outlines	Two outlines
Shield	Same design	Same design	Same design
Lettering	Larger letters	Larger letters	Smaller letters and different font
Design Elements on Reverse	None	Olive branch above "III" and 3 arrows in a ribbon below	Olive branch above "III" and 3 arrows in a ribbon below
Stars on Outer Rim	13	13	13
Weight	0.80 grams	0.75 grams	0.75 grams
Composition	75% silver 25% copper	90% silver 10% copper	90% silver 10% copper
Diameter	14 mm	14 mm	14 mm
Mint	Philadelphia, New Orleans	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Edge Reeding	None	None	None

this remains a mystery. The mintages of the proof coins are always miniscule; the highest ones of 1000 each bear the dates 1860, 1861 and 1870. There are records of public sales of proof sets for collectors from 1858 to 1873. Interestingly enough, in 1873, the last year of production of this denomination in silver, there were no business strikes.

The silver three cent pieces were struck in low relief on extremely small, thin planchets, so the coins wore down much more quickly. Amateur numismatists should exercise caution when purchasing trimes, as cleaning is often used to remove toning, which can be identified as incuse lines on the coin. Its appearance is similar to die polishing, which has raised lines on the coin. However, upon further examination under magnification, it is possible to differentiate between cleaning and die polishing.

Nickel Three Cent Pieces

The nickel counterpart to the trime was first minted in 1865. The business strikes were for everyday commerce, and their issue was the consequence of the public's hoarding the silver trimes and its mistrust of fractional currency. The fractional notes would easily wear and tear due to the low quality paper it was printed on. There

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Type I silver Trime



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were also proof issues of nickel three cents as part of the mint sets, which had significantly lower mintages. Although mintage figures were slightly higher than those of the proof silver three cent pieces, they were less than 5000 in any given year (with the exception of 1883). The low mintages clearly stand in contrast to the mintage figures of millions for the business strikes.

The obverse of the nickel three cents the commonly depicted Liberty head. On the reverse, is the Roman numeral "III", surrounded by a laurel wreath. The unmalleable nickel alloy proved difficult for minting, which resulted in the earlier pieces' being weakly struck.

Within its lifespan of 25 years, over 30 million pieces were coined. In its later years, there were mostly proof issues due to the low demand for circulation specimens. Inevitably, this odd denomination was eventually abolished in 1890, largely due to an increase in postage rates.

The weight of this slightly larger coin is 1.94 grams, and the diameter is increased to 17.9 mm. Like the trime, the nickel three cent piece does not have edge reeding. Its composition is 75% copper and 25% nickel, and it was minted at the Philadelphia mint.

Common Three Cent Errors and Varieties

Varieties are a relatively common occurrence for this denomination, as contrasted to the much fewer die errors. Die errors are caused by errors being made to the planchet, rather than by the slight variations in the working die. There are some die errors which can even be unique coins.

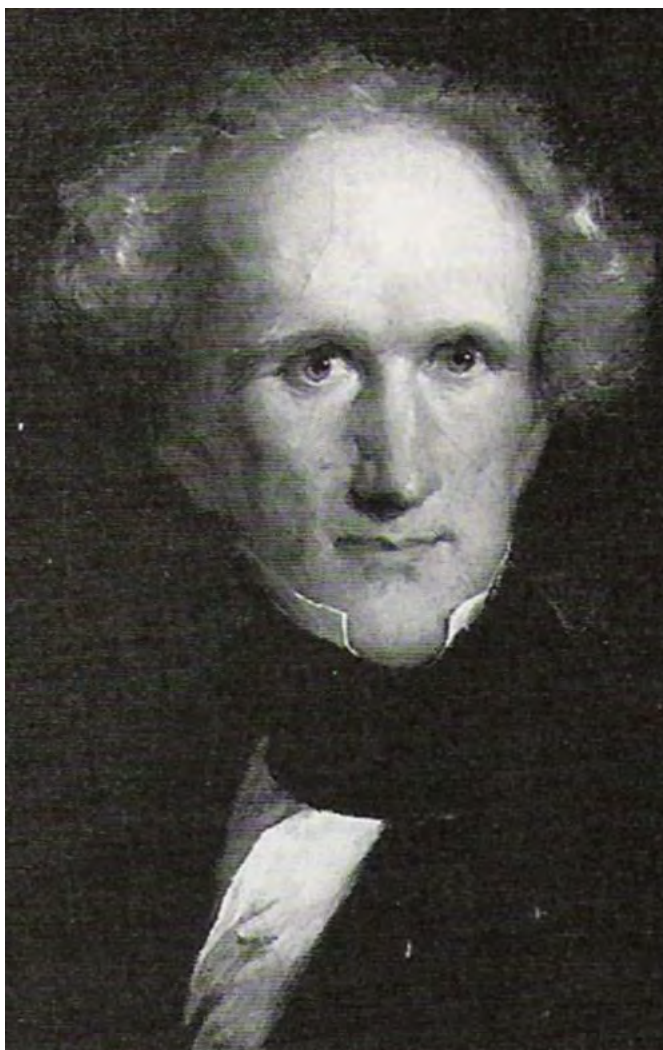


A relatively less scarce error in the three cent denomination is the off-center strike. This occurs when the blank is not fully inserted into the coining press. The result is the design only transferring to a portion of the coin, leaving the other section blank. Off center errors are measured in percentages of the design not struck on the planchet. Also measured is the direction the off-strike, expressed as a clock position, eg. 3 o'clock.



Another error often found in the denomination is a brockage. This die error occurs when a coin is struck but is stuck to the die when the next one is struck. This produces a normal reverse on one side and the mirror image of the reverse on the other. The result is that all of the features on the obverse are flipped, creating a neat mirror-image.

There are many varieties that were struck, consisting mostly of repunched dates, doubled-die obverses/reverses, overdates and misplaced dates. All the major varieties are listed in the *Cherrypicker's Guide (Vol 1)*, by Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton. However, *The Authoritative Reference on Three Cent Silver Coins* and *The Authoritative Reference on Three Cent Nickels* are more comprehensive guides to the denomination. Largely due to the significantly higher mintages of nickel three cents, far more varieties of the nickel exist than of the silver.



Meet the Designer

Both three cent coins are designed by James Barton Longacre. Longacre was born on August 11, 1794 in Delaware County, United States. At the age of twelve, he apprenticed himself at a bookstore in Philadelphia and later went on to be apprenticed under engraver George Murray. During this time, he engraved various portraits of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, among many others.



1850 Liberty Cap three-cent pattern

James Longacre started an engraving business in 1819 and designed countless engraved portraits. Finally, in 1844, his talent was summed up by his appointment as Chief Engraver of the United States Mint. At the Mint, Longacre had conflicts with Chief Coiner Franklin Peale, because he used mint equipment and labor for personal interests. Despite Peale's efforts to remove Longacre from office, Longacre ironically appealed and caused the eventual termination of Peale in 1854.

Other notable works of Longacre include the flying eagle cent, the Indian head cent, the double eagle, the shield nickel and the two cent piece. Longacre is also credited with the design modifications of the Liberty seated series, which include the dime, quarter and half dollar.

Longacre was married to Eliza Stiles and had five children. During his tenure as Chief Engraver of the United States, he passed away on January 1, 1869. Longacre was a true master in the fine art of engraving.

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It's A Travelling Man

By Terence Cheesman

The coinage of the Roman Republic had two distinctly different groups of officials who had the authority to mint coins. The first was the *Tri viri monetales* who minted coins at Rome. Normally these were annually elected officers and were in fact the lowest rung of the political ladder. The other group were senior military commanders who could mint coins in the field. Often the latter, because of the length of their command, would be minting coins for an extended period of time. The essential military nature of this coinage has made it extremely difficult to assign a particular issue of coins to a particular mint. This is because soldiers in times of war rarely stay in one place for any length of time. Military contingencies demand that units have to be moved about to counter threats created by the enemy. Thus coins can easily be minted in one region and carried off to others, leaving little or no imprint within the region where they were minted. The other problem is that the coins usually are not dated. Thus when trying to establish a date and a location of issue, numismatists are forced to work from the evidence provided by the coins themselves, and the arguments usually centre on matters of style and content.



Perhaps the greatest obstacle is actually one created by modern study. The history of the Roman state is divided into three broad divisions, the Republic, the Imperial state and the Byzantine Empire. These divisions, though they are convenient for scholars, have had a tendency to create as many problems as they have solved. This is particularly true of the transitional period encompassing the end of the Republic and the founding of the Imperial state. It is a complex

period during which Roman politicians, grappling with a rapidly changing and lethal political environment, tried to create order during a complex interplay of civil strife as well as civil and foreign wars. Though the coinage of this period still falls neatly into the well-established corpus of the Roman Republic, the coinage of the eventual victor Octavian, later called Augustus, does still create intense debate.



Coin of Octavian minted prior to 36 B.C.

Octavian emerged onto the Roman political scene after the death of his uncle Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. For much of his early career he was overshadowed by his more experienced colleague Marc Antony. For the next eight years he fought in not only the civil war caused by the death of Caesar but the debris of a previous civil war between Caesar and Pompey. During this period he became an adept through ruthless player in the game of Roman politics, and thus when it finally came down to the final showdown with Antony, he emerged victorious. In fact the month of August, named after him, commemorates the defeat of Antony and Cleopatra on the first day of that month in 30 B.C.

Traditionally the coins of Octavian minted during the period from 44 to 30 B.C. were small issues of rather crude coins which according to recent scholarship ended sometime in 36 B.C. The main rationale seemed to be that Octavian, after defeating Sextus Pompey in 36 B.C., had very little need to issue coins until the great contest between him and Antony which began early in 32 B.C. However it was clear that such an arrangement was untenable. Octavian had an enormous army, and sometime in 34 B.C. he began a campaign in what is today Croatia. Certainly a coinage would have been minted to finance this effort, and it was found in a rather unlikely place.

Despite being in Spain for over two hundred years, the Romans did not finish the conquest of that peninsula until 17 B.C. To help facilitate this conquest, the Romans established three mints that were involved in the production of silver denarii. One of these mint cities was Emerita which is the modern Spanish city of Merida. This mint was established sometime in 25 B.C. and continued operation until 22 B.C. when the operation was closed. One of the coins assigned to this mint is the subject of this article. The obverse features the portrait of Augustus without any obverse legend. This is unusual, as Romans generally like to fill any unused space with information, and this issue rather resembles coins minted by the Greeks. The reverse features a large round shield with

three concentric rows of studs and the legend IMP. CAESAR DIVI F. In full this would be, IMPERATOR CAESAR DIVI FILIUS. Roughly translated it would read, "the victorious army commander, Caesar the son of the god (Caesar)". The main reason for this attribution is that the shield depicted on the reverse is thought to be of a Spanish design, and thus it would seem logical that the coin should be minted in Spain.

Questions about the accuracy of this attribution began to emerge as scholars were re-examining the early coinage of Augustus. One factor which seemed to undermine the Spanish

attribution of this coin was that it resembles a number of coins minted in Italy starting in around 30 B.C. Again the portrait of Augustus is not accompanied with a obverse legend, and the reverse legend, CAESAR DIVI F., is very similar to that of our coin. Further, the portrait is considered to be somewhat less mature than on those minted in Italy, which would seem to be unlikely if it was struck afterward in Spain. Thus the coin has been moved. It is now thought that it was minted somewhere in northern Italy, possibly as early as 34 B.C., to finance Octavian's campaign in the Balkans or, perhaps as late as 32 B.C., in anticipation of the war with Antony.

Given its new position, our coin assumes a far greater importance in the development of the coinage of Octavian- Augustus. Rather than being a rather anomalous coin minted in Spain, it is now the first one to show the change in the portrait of Octavian from warlord to Augustus Emperor. As noted above, the early portraits of Octavian were very crudely done, usually emphasising his youth and his devotion to the memory of his uncle Julius Caesar. The portrait is far more refined, and the lack of legend actually gives the image greater strength and power. This coin is in effect giving notice that Octavian is coming out from the shadow of his uncle and is standing on his own merits.

As noted elsewhere, Octavian was a skilled politician, and this can be seen on his subsequent issues of coins. He experimented with his image and his message and managed to avoid the pitfalls that destroyed many other Roman politicians including Julius Caesar and Marc Antony. In many respects his coinage became the blueprint for much of what follows. As for our coin, it is hoped that it has finally been located to its proper place and time. Its new position seems logical, but it has to be remembered that for over 50 years the coin was placed within the issues minted in Spain. One wonders if our coin will be travelling once again.





A Tale of Three Cities:

Three Incuse, Spread-Flan

Nomoi of South Italy

By Wayne Hansen



***"If I have only one life
to live, let me live it as a
numismatist!!"***

(paraphrase of 1961 'blonde' hair colour
commercial)

This life only sounds tedious – OK maybe it is 90% tedium and frustration with only 10% reward. But how else would an enthusiastic coin collector be able to find the little treasures that generate so much interest, despair (and let's not forget envy) among fellow collectors? It is the ongoing search that connects the collector to the coins. For example, the three large ancient silver nomoi featured in this article are related to each other by culture, region, manufacture and date, but it took me a full nine years to find reasonable, affordable specimens of each type. It would have been a much shorter wait if I was willing to pay a lot more, and a much longer wait if I had insisted on fewer condition problems. It's the 'nature of the beast', as they say.

My Three Incuse, Spread-Flan Nomoi

A small group of six Greek colonies in South Italy minted a remarkable and experimental type of incuse, spread-flan coinage in the late 6th century BC. The "Tale of Three Cities" refers to three of these specific minting cities from which I have obtained an example of this very early coinage. The cities represented in my collection are Kroton, Sybaris and Metapontion. Other cities in this early group, but not in my collection, are Kaulonia, Poseidonia and Taras - although there were also

Aahh, the life of a numismatist: Get up in the morning – check the internet – quick breakfast – check the mail - look at new catalogue – make some bids - check the internet – check sold prices – contact dealer – argue about list price – argue about shipping – have a snack – cash in RRSP – pay dealer – wait for coin – have a snack – wait for coin – find similar coin on internet for cheaper but in better grade (too late) – wait for coin – open package – double check original photo of coin – rationalize coin's problems - gaze at coin - show coin at coin club – listen to derisive comments - put coin in bank vault – get up in the morning – check the internet But I digress.

shared issues between Kroton and Sybaris, plus issues by allies of Sybaris and Kroton (such as Sirinos and Pynoos), that all used the basic 'standing bull' obverse type of Sybaris. Locations of the six main minting cities and the history of the coinages are discussed below. Suffice it to say at this point that the history of the largest, earliest issues is relatively short and, in the case of Sybaris, was terminal (the city was destroyed soon after the early coins were produced).

The largest, spread-flan coins from any of these cities are quite rare, so it is difficult to find them in presentable condition (in people-years, when compared to the complete 1,100 year span of ancient coins from the first coins to the end of the Roman era, they would be about 100 years old, so you can see the problem). My three early examples are from the more available cities in the group, perhaps in this order (most numerous to least common): Metapontion – Sybaris – Kroton. The other three cities are mega-rare and highly desirable, not only because they are very scarce, but because they have interesting figural designs. While my coins have a Grain Ear, Standing Bull or a Sacred Tripod, the others have a Striding Poseidon, Striding Apollo or a Boy Riding Dolphin motif. No contest. Nonetheless, any of the coin types is worth having, since they are dramatic and fascinating even for a disinterested observer.

As described in the following sections, the nature of the south Italy spread-flan coins changed drastically after their initial production period between 550 - 510 BC. Rivalries, practicalities, conventions and production problems dictated that a new, smaller format be developed in those cities that survived the upheaval in Sybaris.

Following are photos and vital statistics for my three spread-flan nomoi (Figures 1a-c) and public auction examples of similar issues from the other three spread-flan cities (Figures 2a-c). I hesitate to show the auction examples, since they look so fabulous, but please note that it is no coincidence they command fabulously stratospheric prices.

Figure 1 – Three Incuse, Spread-Flan Issues from Author's Collection

These three nomoi from Sybaris, Kroton and Metapontion are occasionally available and relatively affordable for the dedicated collector.

The name of the issuing city (the 'ethnic') is inscribed on the obverse of each coin and sometimes on the reverse as well. Sybaris is noted as 'SY', or 'Σ V' in Greek (retrograde, with the S turned sideways to look like an M); Kroton is noted as 'KRO', or 'Q P O' in Greek; and Metapontion is noted as META, or 'M E T A' in Greek. Each issuing city was obviously proud of its coins, so they emphasized both the central image and the large ethnic on each issue. The main type employed on each of these coins is either a city badge or divine symbol. In the case of Kroton, it is a sacred temple tripod that was used to hold offerings to the city's patron deity; Sybaris shows a semi-divine standing bull that possibly idolized a powerful local river god; and Metapontion displays an ear of grain that symbolized the great wealth it earned from agricultural activities.



1a – Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Sybaris - 530-510 BC

(7.47 g, 28.5 x 27.5 mm, 12h) Obv: Σ Y (retrograde, S turned); Bull Standing left, Head Reverted. Rev: Same without Ethnic, Incuse. Ex: CNG and Nilus Coins, 2003.

This is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a Sybaris nomos. The lines on the neck of the bull are the first to indicate wear, but the lines on this coin are intact. The coin was likely minted a little later in the series, since the ethnic lettering is below the exergal line instead of above the bull, the rump of the bull is only slightly elevated, and the flan edge is ragged. Overall, it is a bit less artistic than those with the earliest die style, however the obverse image is nicely struck, the bull is a fine archaic specimen, and the reverse incuse is perfect.



1b - Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Kroton - 530-520 BC

(7.57 g, 27.2 x 26.5 mm, 12h) Obv: Q P O; Sacred Tripod, Two Snakes Below, (Crane Standing). Rev: Same without Snakes, Incuse (Crane Standing). Ex: H Berk, 2007.

This is one of the scarce, early coins from this mint, since the earliest dies have snakes in the obverse design. However, the very first issues show snakes rising from the bowl of the tripod instead of sitting at its base. Later issues without snakes show a standing crane and/or a crab beside the tripod. The dies for this coin are rather plain, with neither side exhibiting any frills or fancy details (the tripods on some dies are extensively decorated). My coin is a reasonable example, plus it is well toned and the obverse die is very rare, but there is a mystery surrounding its condition. Before purchasing it, I noticed that the original dies had intended to show a standing crane to the right of the obverse tripod. At some point, the crane had been erased on this coin, except for a tiny foot beside the tripod's paw, leaving a slight depression in the metal (the affected area had re-toned at some point in the near past or ancient past). Not only had I seen the exact die match in a specialized incuse coin publication, confirming the original die state, but the publication also indicated that there was supposed to be a crude crane image on the right side of the reverse die as well. I can only surmise that the initial strike was slightly askew, leaving the shallow reverse image of the crane un-struck (the metal does not appear to have been flattened in that area), and that someone later adjusted the coin's obverse to remove evidence of a crane. Nonetheless, a coin with this die type is very rare, being struck at the precise moment that snakes were being phased out in favor of the later, more common crane design.

1c – Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Metapontion – 550-510 BC

(7.68 g, 30.0 x 29.7 mm, 12h) Obv: M E T A; Grain Ear. Rev: Same without Ethnic, Incuse. Ex: eBay, 2012.

This is the largest of my three coins at 30 mm. Metapontion coins were likely the first to be struck in the spread-flan format, but this coin is not the earliest of the Metapontion series. The first Metapontion coins are smaller at about 27 mm and sport a different style of grain ear – one more wedge shaped, with twin leaves at its base - and a shorter ethnic inscription. There are many variations in the style of the grain ear over the relatively short duration of the series because of the large quantity of dies made. The number of individual grains on each grain ear can range from five or six-high to ten or eleven-high (mine is seven or eight on the obverse and about ten on the reverse, so it may be transitional). This coin has one or two small striking edge breaks on the outer rim and a small gap at 2-3 o'clock, where a piece of the flan broken off, but is otherwise reasonably intact and fairly high grade (consider the detail of the grains on the high point of the obverse). The upper part of the grain ear is slightly under-struck, missing some of the grain outline. The full ethnic 'META' is distinct, although it is carved too finely for good visibility – a contrast to the boldness of the grain ear. Given the price, I thought it was a good representative of the type.

(1c. - image on next page)



1c – Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Metapontion – 550-510 BC

Figure 2 – Examples of Other Incuse, Spread-Flan Civic Issues

These 'other' spread-flan coins, depicting god-like (therefore human-like) figures, are of course aesthetically pleasing, very desirable and expensive. As with the featured coins, the name of the issuing city is inscribed on the obverse and sometimes on the reverse as well. Poseidonia is noted as 'POS', or 'Π Ο Σ' in Greek (with the S turned sideways to look like an M); Kaulonia is noted as 'KAUL', or 'Κ Α Υ Λ' in Greek; and Taras is noted as TARAS, or 'Τ Α Ρ Α Σ' in Greek (note that some Greek dialects use different forms of lettering as with the R and S of Taras). The main figure on each of these coins reflected a local religious cult or founding myth. In the case of Poseidonia, it was Poseidon (god of the sea) and his trident; for Kaulonia it was Apollo (god of truth, prophecy, music, etc) with a deer and tiny daimon (benevolent nature spirit); and for Taras it was either the Spartan founder, Phalanthos, riding a dolphin, or more likely Poseidon's mythic son Taras being saved by a dolphin.



2a - Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Poseidonia - 530-500 BC

(7.25 g) Obv: Π Ο Σ (retrograde, S turned); Poseidon Striding Right, Hurling Trident. Rev: Same, Incuse. Ex: Gemini Sale, Jan 2011.




2b - Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Taras - 510-500 BC

(8.03 g) Obv: T A R A S (retrograde); Taras Riding Dolphin; Scallop Shell. Rev: Same, Incuse.
Ex: Freeman & Sear Manhattan II Sale, Jan 2011.



2c - Incuse, Spread Flan Nomos of Kaulonia - 525-500 BC

(8.25g) Obv: K A V Λ; Apollo Striding with Daimon on Arm; Deer Below. Rev: Same without Ethnic, Incuse. Ex: New York Sale XX, Jan 2012.



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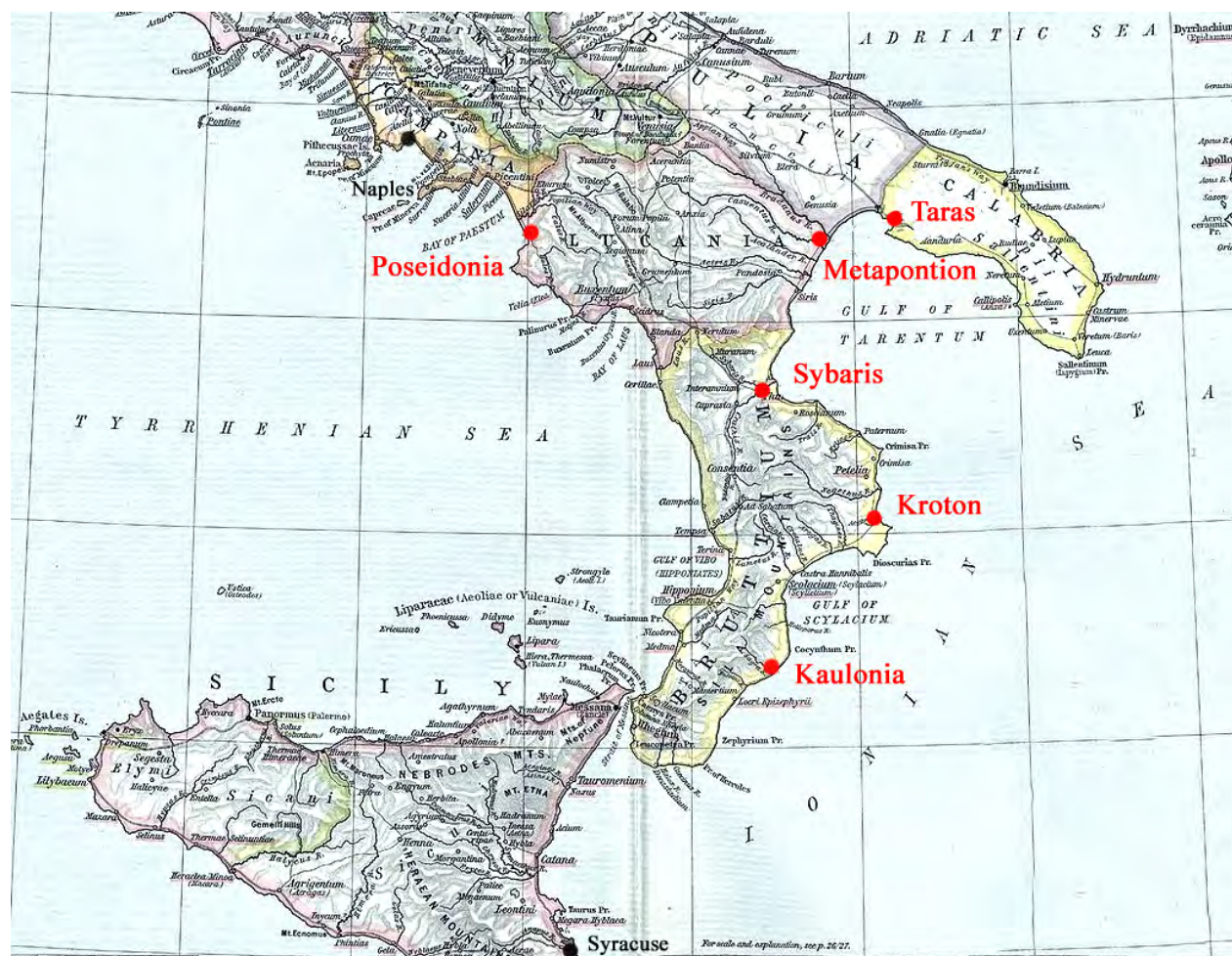


Figure 3 - Map: South Italy Showing Ancient Spread-Flan Mint Cities circa 510 BC
The six main cities that minted incuse, spread-flan nomoi are highlighted. These cities maintained an active trading relationship so that their coins became interchangeable and consequently found in each other's territory. The new spread-flan minting technique was invented in these cities, but the geographic isolation of the cities, coin standardization and various technical limitations prevented the technique from being exported to other Greek centers.

Location of the Six Cities that Minted Incuse, Spread-Flan Nomoi

The map in Figure 3 indicates the locations of the six spread-flan issuing cities of south Italy that were mentioned in the introduction. Distances would have seemed much greater in ancient times, but all the cities were close enough to have regular communication. Poseidonia was the exceptional one, being on the west coast of the Italian peninsula, while the rest were on the east coast. Cities on the east coast would have had easy access by ship to other eastern-port cities, but it would also have been possible if necessary for eastern traders to sail to Poseidonia around the toe of the boot through the narrow Sicilian Strait. Land routes also connected Poseidonia to the east coast through the mountains, and there was a particularly active trading relationship between Poseidonia and Metapontion.

Metapontion and Taras were very close to each other. Sybaris, Kroton and Kaulonia formed a more distant cluster. Much of the east coast was a fertile coastal plain, so land travel along that side was possible. In terms of rough distances, Sybaris to Kaulonia was approximately 240 km, Sybaris to Taras was approximately 150 km, and Taras to Poseidonia was approximately 260 km (I just drove through most of these places earlier this year, so I am quite familiar with the terrain).

Brief History of the Featured Mint Cities

Migrants arrived in the five settlements pinpointed on the east side of the above map (Figure 3) starting in the late 8th century, with all of the eastern towns established by about 690 BC. Four of the five eastern cities were founded by Achaean migrants from the Peloponnesian area of Greece, while the fifth, Taras, was founded by ethnic

Dorians from Sparta. The settlements prospered from the great potential of the local soil and coastal fisheries, as well as from local forests in some locations. The history of these spread-flan cities is generally not well documented. However, I am providing a few comments about each of the centers below to give some perspective on the role they played in ancient affairs.

1. Regarding the three cities featured in my spread-flan collection:

- **Sybaris** - Sybaris was probably the earliest of the new towns, being founded around 720 BC. It grew large with wealth, power and slaves to become the dominant force in the region. Its population grew tremendously because of the rich agriculture and its policy to admit foreigners as citizens. It was renowned for its luxury, especially for its taste in fine garments, and it was envied and admired throughout the Hellenistic world (the ancient city inspired the modern word 'sybaritic'). At its height around 550 BC, it could reportedly field massive armies of up to 300,000 soldiers. Its end came in 510 BC, after a democratic government took over from an oligarchy and drove leading citizens into exile in Kroton. But the democratic leader, cum tyrant, of Sybaris demanded return of the fugitives and marched on Kroton, only to lose the Sybarite army in battle to a much smaller force and then lose Sybaris itself, when Kroton completely destroyed the city. The survivors of the disaster eventually joined with the Athenians several decades later and founded a new city nearby called Thourioi.

- **Kroton** - The inhabitants were famous for their physical strength and plain living. They won many honors at Olympic and other Panhellenic Games after 588 BC. The city was also reputed to have the best physicians in all of Greece. Pythagoras moved to Kroton in 530 BC and founded his religious movement called Pythagoreanism – dealing in philosophy, mysticism and mathematics. The Pythagoreans assisted the political leaders in Kroton, but this led to their expulsion (Pythagoras retired to Metapontion). As noted above, Kroton defeated its rival Sybaris in 510 BC with an army of 100,000 men commanded by their top wrestler Milo, and they destroyed the city Sybaris. However in 480 BC, it lost a battle with Locri, marking the start of its decline. It was subsequently captured by the tyrant Dionysios of Syracuse who held it for twelve years, then it was occupied by the Brettii and later retaken by Syracuse under Agathokles in 295 BC. By 277 BC, it had submitted to Rome, but it revolted to join Hannibal in 216, only to be recaptured by Rome in 205.

- **Metapontion** - Metapontion was established by new migrants from Achaea at the urging of Sybaris and Kroton, who didn't want the territory to be occupied by nearby Taras. It remained somewhat on the fringe of various military adventures in later centuries but sided with Epirus at one point, and then with Carthage in the Second Punic War. When Hannibal retreated in 207 BC, he evacuated the city to spare them Roman vengeance. The city never recovered.

2. Regarding the three other cities not in my spread-flan collection:

- **Taras** - According to one report, Taras was founded by a special group of Dorians. They were 'sons of virgins' – sons of unmarried Spartan women who were encouraged to have children with free men outside Sparta in order to increase the numbers of warriors during the First Messenian War (this took place from 743-724 BC, when the Dorians invaded Achaeian lands – the Dorians won and then settled in Sparta). The permission for this illegitimacy was later retroactively revoked, and the sons were banned from Greece. Taras became a great commercial success in agriculture and fisheries, plus it created a significant pottery industry. Its political/military might also enabled it to control much of southern Italy at one point. In 280 BC, Taras confronted an expanding Rome with the help of a Greek ally, King Pyrrhos of Epiros (yes, you're right, it was the same Pyrrhos who borrowed 20 war elephants from Ptolemy II of Egypt and charged the astonished Romans). They won the first war with Rome but lost the second in 272 BC, resulting in a drastic decline in Taras's strategic importance.

- **Kaulonia** - Kaulonia was a colony of Kroton but soon became independent and produced its own spread-flan coinage concurrently with the other cities. It produced coins on a limited scale, with only 20 obverse dies for its early, spread-flan types. Its economy relied in part on timber production and supplied Athens with wood for ships during the Peloponnesian War (Syracuse burned Kaulonia's stockpiles in retaliation). The city was destroyed by Rome in 200 BC, because it supported Hannibal in the Second Punic War.

- **Poseidonia** - Located on the west side of the Italian peninsula, Poseidonia was not established as a sub-colony of Sybaris until the late 7th century (almost one hundred years after the original colonies). As with the five eastern settlements, Poseidonia was surrounded by a fertile coastal plain, allowing it to prosper even after it was conquered by local Lucani in the late 5th century (there are three large Greek temples standing on the site even now – attesting to its importance). Eventually the city and the interests of the whole region were subsumed by Rome.

Photos of Poseidonia (Current Paestum)



Overview of the North End of the Site



Temple of Ceres or Athena (500 BC)



Temple of Apollo (450 BC)



Fresco from Tomb of the Diver (480 BC)

Figure 4 - Photos of Poseidonia

On a driving tour in May, we re-visited many ancient Greek sites in South Italy and Sicily. Little remains of most of the spread-flan cities mentioned in this article. However, Poseidonia (current day Paestum) does have a significant archeological presence, and it is near Amalfi and Sorrento for anyone visiting the area. It was buried by silt in a swampy region for many centuries, so there are extensive foundation ruins and three fairly intact Greek temples dating from 530 to 450 BC. The largest temple (the third most complete in the world) was dedicated to Apollo, the god honored on the city's coins. Among other things, the museum on site contains tomb frescos – including those from the Tomb of the Diver that date to 480 BC – that are the oldest surviving Greek paintings in the world. (Side note: The American invasion of Italy in the Second World War occurred nearby.)

Background to Spread-Flan Coin Development

The earliest of the spread-flan, incuse coins were minted in south Italy between 550 – 510 BC, and the type was not struck anywhere else. This was just before coinage started to be adopted by the other Greek settlements in Magna Graecia (south Italy and Sicily), so the spread-flan coins certainly preceded the production of all future Greek coins on the western frontier. By comparison, the earliest, archaic didrachm issues of powerful Sicilian city-states such as Akragas and Gela commenced around 510-490 BC, at the same time as didrachms and tetradrachms were first minted by tyrant rulers in Syracuse. The early incuse, spread-flan coins were actually produced no more than one hundred years after the development of the world's first true coins, which were made from natural electrum in Lydia (an inland, non-Greek area of Asia Minor) and only a couple of decades after King Kroisos of Lydia produced the first pure silver coinage. So the coinage revolution must have spread very rapidly from the dynastic rulers in Asia Minor to the Greek homeland and then to all of the far-flung outposts of Greek civilization. Events such as the Olympic Games and the ongoing movement of Greek migrants to new territories assisted in the spread of coin knowledge.

It is apparent that the six spread-flan colonies mentioned here must have been active trading partners and in regular communication, even though they were not entirely of common migrant stock (as noted, the settlers of Taras were Dorian while the rest were Achaean). The coinage of all six cities was developed within the same narrow time period, had similar styles and designs and had a similar and unique weight standard. It is reported as well that archeological finds in any of the cities have included coins from the other spread-flan mints and that these coins are not found elsewhere in Magna Graecia, even in nearby Sicily. It is curious that Metapontion seems to have produced the most coins among the spread-flan mints, but it was Sybaris that had the greatest wealth and power. The use of the ethnic city name on coins at this early date is also an interesting feature, since archaic coins minted in eastern regions (Greece and Asia Minor) near the beginning of coinage were not only lumpy, but they were almost devoid of markings. In

the east, usually an identifying civic badge (plant, animal, or god) would suffice to identify the issuing city-state or ruler.

Incuse, Spread-Flan Technology

The radical spread-flan coins took ancient materials engineering to an extreme level. It isn't hard to imagine that the new cities, with their wealth from fisheries and agriculture, and with no other coinage models in the western region, wanted to be somewhat innovative. They would have wanted to impress their neighbors and reinforce their own identity. With brilliant precision, they designed a coin that maximized surface area (approaching two-dimensionality) by making it as wide and as thin as possible. Their flattened-flan concept was enhanced further by incorporating an incuse reverse image, which closely mirrored the high-relief obverse image, thereby providing maximum relief and maximum metal spread. This was great for displaying civic artwork, but the impracticality of the format eventually led to production changes. Coin fashion may also have played a role in the cessation of the large diameter coinage when inter-colony relations expanded. The spread-flan coins did not fit into the normal conventions of later coins minted by other Magna Graecia cities.

There has been some suggestion that the philosopher/mathematician Pythagoras (approx 570-495 BC, of Samos, Kroton and later Metapontion) may have invented the spread-flan format. He lived in the area during that period,

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and he certainly participated in intellectual and civic affairs in Kroton. However, there is no real evidence that he was involved in coin production. If indeed the first spread-flans were issued around 550 BC in Metapontion, and he apparently moved to Kroton in 530 BC, it seems less likely that he contributed to the design. (I'm going out on a limb here – reminds me of a T-shirt slogan I saw a few years ago on an older fellow: "I thought I made a mistake once, ... but I was wrong").

The earliest spread flan coins range in diameter from approximately 28 - 31 mm and in weight from approximately 7.0 – 8.2 grams. This makes them feel and appear wafer-thin, which was of course the intent of the mint cities. Each coin design includes a bold representation of a plant, animal or god presented in high relief on the obverse side and an equally bold negative image shown as an incuse on the reverse side. As well, each design includes at least two letters of the city name, usually around the obverse border of the coin, which is sometimes repeated on the reverse. Use of the ethnic name later became normal in other Magna Graecia coinages (perhaps inspired by these very early types). Contemporary archaic coinage of Greece and Asia Minor, where coins tended to be lumpy with one iconic image on the obverse and an opposing punch reverse, tended to not use an ethnic – the obverse design of the coin with a distinct civic emblem was identity enough.

It is remarkable that even the earliest issues of the large, spread-flan coins were elaborately produced and sophisticated, implying that the initial period of experimentation was very short. The coins were either struck with great precision, causing few defects, or mint supervisors rejected a lot of strikes at the production stage.

Spread-Flan Problems and New Format

Aside from the possible pressure from powerful neighbors in Italy and especially Sicily to conform to a more normal standards, I see the following as the most likely reasons why the spread-flan coin design was problematic:

- **Production** - With the very large diameter dies above and below the coin blank and the necessity to align both dies perfectly before each strike (both around the circumference of the dies and vertically to achieve flat metal throughout), coin production must have been a nightmare or at least not very efficient. Most other ancient mints didn't even bother to ensure that the upper and lower dies pointed in the same direction.

- **Ergonomics** - The spread coins were very thin. Although the fresh metal was no doubt resilient, there must have been a considerable problem with coins bending or breaking, even with the embossed edge around the perimeter of the coins. As well, the pressure on the metal during striking regularly resulted in splits or gaps in the thin coin edges. Even a perfectly struck edge would have felt a bit sharp to ancient peoples, but a ragged edge would have felt even worse.
- **Psychology** - I have already mentioned the edge splits and gaps that were sometimes produced in striking the spread-flan coins. What better way to ruin the civic image than by issuing ragged coins? Aside from that potential problem, there is another aspect of the thinness that I think might have played on ancient perception. The size of an object creates an expectation of substance – if it looks larger, you would expect it to weigh more. When you hold one of these wafer-thin coins, they don't seem to be very heavy, especially since the weight is spread over a larger area. Again, this may not assist in communicating the value of the coinage and the wealth of the city. The smaller diameter, simple, archaic metal lumps produced at other Greek centers mentioned above, would ironically provide a heavier feel.

With the political tension between Kroton and Sybaris at the end of the 6th century, and after two or three decades of experience with the large format coinage, the remaining five mints began to adjust their coin formats. Most began by simply keeping the matching incuse format and reducing the spread of the flan, going from 28-31 mm to about 24 mm and then even smaller. Some, such as Metapontion and Kroton, issued large numbers of these mid-size coins, so they are fairly common today. Other issues kept the incuse on the reverse side of the somewhat smaller coin but changed to a different type of incuse image, such as occurred in the Kroton nomos with tripod obverse and incuse flying eagle reverse motif in the 500-480 period. The extra metal thickness on the new, smaller diameter coins allowed for more flexibility in this regard. Figure 5 illustrates the size difference between an early, spread-flan nomos of Kroton before 510 BC and a reduced diameter, mid-period nomos of the same city. The weight of each coin is similar, but of course the artistry of the design had to be altered to fit the smaller format.



Figure 5 – Comparison of Kroton Spread-Flan Nomos Size (530-510 BC) with Reduced-Diameter Nomos Size (500-480 BC)

Reduced size nomoi were minted to the same weight standard as the earlier, spread-flan types. The same devices and incuse techniques were initially used in their production, but their diameter was gradually reduced to more closely match the normal issues of other Magna Graecia cities. Eventually, about 480 BC, the incuse fabric was abandoned. The smaller incuse coin shown here is in the later stages of size reduction but retains an incuse reverse.

Kroton Nomos Comparison:

- Early Spread Flan (530-520 BC) – weight 7.57 g and diameter 27.2 x 26.5 mm
- Mid-Period Reduced Flan (500-480 BC) - weight 7.94 g and diameter 19.0 mm

After a couple of decades of reducing the size of their nomoi, about 480-470 BC, the south Italy cities moved to a more conventional flan of 18-20 mm for the 8.0 gram didrachm/nomos (see two of my early examples of the smaller coinage from Poseidonia and Kaulonia in Figures 6a-b). The new coins were struck with the usual type of separate images on each side, which forced them to decide where to install the original civic design that they began using in the 6th century, and then what new image they would use on the opposite side of each issue. Interestingly, Taras and Metapontion placed their previous 6th century city badge on the reverse of their smaller coins (Sybaris had already disappeared, and the other three put their image on the obverse side).

Out of the six early incuse, spread-flan mints operating in 510 BC, only three – Taras, Metapontion and Kroton – were still issuing significant coinage by the 4th century (Poseidonia and Kaulonia had largely disappeared). Of these, Taras and Metapontion were the most prolific with

multiple issues and design changes into the 3rd century when the Roman Empire became dominant.

Figure 6 – Revised Small Format for Non-Incuse Nomoi in South Italy

These are my examples of the first, small diameter, non-incuse coinages minted by two of the original, spread-flan mints in South Italy around the mid 5th century BC. The weight of these coins is very similar to their experimental, spread-flan predecessors, but their diameter shrunk by at least 10 mm, and the coins display a separate reverse image. The new fabric and style of this coinage is very similar to that of the didrachms that began to be produced by the Greek cities in southern Sicily a few decades earlier, except that the Sicilian coins weigh about 0.5 grams more. The smaller flans of the new format coins restricted artistic scope so the designs are simpler.

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6a - Early Small Format, Two-Sided Nomos of Poseidonia - 470-445 BC

(8.10 g, 18.9 x 17.5 mm, 2h) Obv: ΠΟΜΕ(Σ) Apollo Striding Right, Hurling Trident.

Rev: ΠΟΜΕΣ (retrograde) Bull Standing Right. Ex: Ponterio and Tempus Vivendi, Brazil, 2009.



6b – Early Small Format, Two-Sided Nomos of Kaulonia - 470-440 BC

(8.07 g, 19.7 x 18.8 mm, 6h) Obv: ΚΑΥΛ (retrograde); Apollo Striding with Daimon on Arm;

Deer Below. Rev: ΚΑΥΛ (retrograde); Deer Standing Right; Branch in Front. Ex: Calgary Coin, 2011.

In Closing...

Any collection will benefit from a variety of coin types to reduce repetition. Ancient Greek coins (basically anything other than Roman coins) are probably the most diverse set of coin issues, so there is no lack of variety. The incuse, spread-flan nomoi of Magna Graecia stretch the bounds of diversity, not only because they were innovative, but because they were very difficult to produce, and they were impractical. They were designed to be spectacular without regard to the normal rigors of the marketplace. Even if they were too precious for normal everyday transactions, the cumulative effects of production problems, wear and tear and standardization pressures, required city authorities to change minting practices.

Nonetheless, the existence of these coins adds considerable texture to the fabric of Greek coin collecting. They stand as a very important and unique component of the earliest Greek silver coinages. Finding reasonable, if imperfect, examples of these fragile coins is doubly rewarding. In the end, the spread-flan, incuse nomoi remain spectacular in their own way and a testament to the creativity of ancient peoples. The ancients didn't all live lives of war and deprivation (though there was enough of that to go around).

These coins help us see that they appreciated art, innovation, economic relationships and societal progress.

Photo, Map and Coin Credits:

- Figures 1a-c - Photos by the author; coins from author's collection.
- Figures 2a-c - Photo sourced from auctions as noted; coins in commerce.
- Figure 3 - Map heavily adapted from Wikipedia: "Map of Ancient Italy Southern Part".
- Figure 4 - Photos by the author.
- Figure 5 - Photo by the author; large coin from author's collection; small coin from T Cheesman's collection.
- Figures 6a-b - Photos by the author; coins from author's collection.

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3. Wikipedia Articles – *Crotone; Paestum; Caulonia; Metapontum; Sybaris; Taranto; Pythagoras; Pyrrhus of Epirus.*



[Continued from page 5 - About Your Society]

- He described several examples and showed pictures of them as well as their prices realized. Many of these were record prices in the thousands of dollars. There will be 2 more upcoming Geoffrey Bell auctions with more selections from the Dr. John Temple Collection.
- It is worth noting that most prominent Montreal numismatists of the time including McLachlan had some role to play in the creation of some of these tokens by acquiring dies and then striking more examples etc. It's ironic that McLachlan who was involved in assisting Pierre Breton in creating his catalogue later attacked it in 1912!

Door prizes were drawn and the meeting was adjourned.

Mitch Goudreau, ENS Secretary



For Show & Tell several items were passed around and admired including a United States 1935 NGC Graded MS 65 Texas Commemorative half dollar. (Your esteemed secretary was so busy admiring the coins passed around that he forgot to note them!)

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2012 *The Planchet*

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Edmonton Coin Show and Sale - Fall 2012

By Roger Grove



This year's Edmonton Numismatic Society's Fall Coin Show and Sale followed the trend of previous shows by being another huge success. The bourse was very busy with yet another two-day attendance topping 1,000 patrons.

With the show's second day falling on Remembrance Day, the theme was "Remembrance through the ages". This was explored through various displays relating to war, including the Second Punic War, French military decorations from the 1800's, and modern remembrance items.

The Spring session of the Coin Show and Sale is booked for Saturday March 2, 2013 (10:00 - 17:00 hrs) & Sunday March 3, 2013 (10:00 - 17:00 hrs). The Show and Sale will be at the same location: Edmonton Hotel & Convention Centre, 4520 - 76 Avenue Edmonton Alberta T6B 0A5; Tel: (780) 468-5400 (for hotel room reservations); Bookings: use code ECS or Edmonton Coin Show.



Sgt. G.F. (Glen) Demmon, NWR Counterfeit Co-ordinator, Calgary Commercial Crime, was on hand to show attendees how to determine counterfeit currency from authentic.



As always, more than numismatic items were to be found.



Canada Gem Coin



Kameron Coins - their last show



Go for the Gold

The third annual Go For the Gold awards were presented at the December ENS meeting. The award categories are:

- Volunteer
- *The Planchet*
- Executive

Volunteer

Club members* who volunteer at least three hours of time throughout the year qualify to receive a silver maple leaf. Each member will only qualify for one silver maple leaf regardless of how many times they volunteer. Every time a member volunteers, they will receive one entry into a draw for one gold coin.** There is no limit to the number of entries a member can receive; the more you volunteer the more chances you will have to win.

Volunteering can come in many forms:

- Helping with the *Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale* (set-up, tear down, displays, admission desk, hospitality suite, etc.).
- Designing club brochures and marketing materials.
- Displays at the Coin Show and Sales.
- Volunteering for duties within the club (librarian, Face Book, etc.).
- Any activity that will benefit the club.

The Planchet

Any club member* who submits one article for submission to *The Planchet* will qualify for one silver maple leaf. Articles must be at least one page in length and must provide a contribution to numismatics. An article must be selected and printed in an edition of *The Planchet* in the calendar year in order to qualify. The acceptances of all *The Planchet* submissions are subject to the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. Each member will only qualify for one silver maple leaf regardless of how many articles they submit.

Every accepted submission will earn the member one entry into a draw for a gold coin.** There is no limit to the number of entries a member can receive; the more articles submitted the more chances you will have to win. Members who also

volunteer for *The Planchet* related tasks will also qualify as if they were article submissions (i.e., mail distribution, content editing, etc.).

Executive

All elected Executive members will receive one

silver maple leaf at the end of their immediate term, at the February meeting.

The ENS Executive would like to thank all members who volunteered their time and energy to help make the Edmonton Numismatic Society one of the most vibrant clubs in Canada. It is clear to see the commitment that everyone puts into their club and we thank you. The club will only be as good as what you put into it. By the showing of the commitment of our members, we have a great club!!!

The live draws for the gold coins were held at the December meeting.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's gold coin draws:

**Volunteer Category
Del Keown**

***The Planchet*
Wayne Hansen**

* Only club members in good standing can qualify for any Go For the Gold awards.

** The size of the gold coins will be determined by the Executive prior to the award meeting.

The breakdown of the number of club members who will receive a silver maple leaf are listed below in alphabetical order. Also listed are the number of entries each member received for the Volunteer gold coin draw and *The Planchet* gold coin draw.

NAME	PLANCHET	Mar Show	Nov Show	Presentations	Misc	Total
Randy Ash		1	1			2
Marv Berger		7	8			15
Marc Bink	17	10	17	2	5	34
Gillian Budd		2	1			3
John Callaghan		13	10		16	39
Lance Casagrande			2			2
Kimberly Casagrande			2			2
Terry Cheeseman	8	5	3	1		9
Ermin Chow	4	4	3	1	1	9
Bill Demontigny		3	6			9
Pierre Driessen	27	41	40	2	29	112
Mirko Dumanovic	1	3	3	1		7
Bob Eriksson		1	1			2
Pat Eriksson		1	1			2
Bob Fillman	1	2	1			3
John Gallupe		2	1			3
Howard Gilbey	9	11	16			27
Dan Gosling			1			1
Mitch Goudreau	2	8	8		10	26
Don Griffith		1	2			3
Roger Grove	12	4	2	2	23	31
Chris Hale	9	1	2			3
Wayne Hansen	6	4	2	1		7
Bill Hladky		2	2			4
Joe Kennedy		1	1			2
Del Keown		2	3			5
Guy Kreps		1				1
Olivia Kreps		1				1
Kaylen Kutcher	1					1
Elmer Lupul			2			2
Jack MacDonald			1			1
Alan Mall			1			1
Jeremy Martin		4	3		2	9
Zoltan Miholy		4	5			9
Markus Molenda	9			1		1
Seymour Neumann		3	2			5
David Peter		2	2		20	24
Kim Peter		1	1		20	22
Larry Priestnall		5	5			10
Paul Purdie			3			3
Jules Rach		2	3			5
Arif Sheena			1			1
Andy Vanderleest		2	4			6
Jim Vanderleest		2				2
Greg Wichman		12	15			27



STECKMEDAILLE

- a pictorial story

By Pierre Driessen



The November 2012 Edmonton Coin Show and Sale was a great success, judging from the feedback received from dealers and attendees. For me on a personal level, it also proved to be fruitful. I discovered a very interesting and unique item one seldom stumbles upon, namely a complete and intact Steckmedaille from the Napoleonic era.

What is a Steckmedaille you may ask? This German term refers to a fascinating branch of exonumia. Loosely translated into English as 'stacking medal', it is commonly referred to as a box medal.

These unique items have their origin in the 16th century, when artisans demonstrated their skill by creating Schraubmedaillen or 'screw medals'. These were made from medals, thalers or other large silver coins, which were sawed in half horizontally, then had their core filed away and inner edges provided with screw thread. This in essence created a box from a coin or medal.

The inside of these creations can reveal surprising treasures. They can be engraved or have loosely placed or glued-in small portraits, lithographs, oil miniatures, or miniature medals or jetons. The portraits and lithographs are often accompanied with descriptions. Over time, sophistication increased, and several portraits or lithographs were included, often glued to silk ribbon, to tell a story.

The stories told could be varied, including, but not limited to, religious, political, social or military themes. Some were also erotic and downright naughty. Personal themes, to celebrate births, christenings, confirmations, weddings, holidays or trips, were also popular. Social themes, such as traditional costumes or fashions of the time, can also be found.

The medal boxes could be put to any purpose; to serve as miniature family chronicles, travel guides, political pamphlets; the only limit was the creator's imagination and purpose.

Germany was the main region of manufacture, centered on the city of Augsburg. Lesser centres of manufacture were Nürnberg, Salzburg and Vienna. There are also examples from France, England and the United States.

The essential difference between the Schraubmedaillen and the Steckmedaillen is the very nature of their manufacture.

The Steckmedaille is the evolution of the Schraubmedaille. Simplification of the manufacturing process was introduced. To avoid the time consuming and costly task of converting a coin or medal into a box, instead the halves of the box medal were purposely made. One of the half's would be slightly smaller, so that it would fit or stack into the other half. No need for the time consuming reworking of the inner edge to produce a screw thread, rather pressure fitting would secure the two halves.

The Steckmedaille or box medal I discovered at the show is of German manufacture. It celebrates the Wars of Liberation and specifically tells the story of the 1814 invasion of France by the Allied powers and campaign against Napoleon. The box medal was created by Johann Thomas Stettner (1785 - 1872), engraver and medalist from Nürnberg, responsible for numerous box medals of varied themes.

The box medal's halves are struck in tin. To the inside of each half is glued a paper disk with text. Like a harmonica, as the medal is opened, a series of paper disks is revealed. The disks are glued to a green silken ribbon, which in turn is glued to the tin covers.

There are a total of 24 hand cut paper or board disks, consisting of 12 hand colored lithographs and 12 with explanatory text. There are also two disks glued to the tin box medal covers, celebrating in flowery language the end of the tyranny of the French under Napoléon and the moving of the Germanic peoples from darkness to the light through the actions of their enlightened monarchs. It reminds you of the theme of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.



Image 1: obverse or top cover of the Steckmedaille celebrating the 1814 Campaign of the Allies against Napoléon.

Show are the busts of the monarchs of the three principal allied powers. In the place of honor, as the most powerful of the three, is Alexander I, Emperor of All The Russias. To the left is Francis I, Emperor of Austria. To the right is Friederich Wilhelm III, King of Prussia.

Below the busts is the signature of the engraver Stettner. fec[it] (made it): Nbg: [Nürnberg].

The legend reads: FRANZ I. KAI: V. OESTER: ALEXANDER. I. KAI: V. RUSSLAND. FR: WIL: III. KÖ: V. PREUSSEN (Francis I Emperor of Austria; Alexander I Emperor of Russia; Friederich Wilhelm III King of Prussia).

Image 2: reverse or bottom cover of the Steckmedaille celebrating the 1814 Campaign of the Allies against Napoléon.

In the center is a classically dressed goddess with the attributes of Minerva or Pallas Athena. Here she personifies Germania or the Germanic peoples. In her right hand she holds a spear around which is coiled a vine of oak leaves, symbolizing victory in war. Her left hand rests on a shield inscribed with GERMANIA, the Greek and Roman name for the region inhabited by the Germani or Germans. On her head is a Greek helmet surmounted by a crowned eagle, from which light radiates.

The legend reads: SCHOEN WIE DIE DEUTSCHE EICHENGRÜN MEINES VOLKES GLÜCK (Beautiful as the green of the German oak is my peoples good fortune).





Image 3: the box medal with the full extent of its contents displayed.
 - The top row shows one side, the bottom the flip side. The hand colored lithograph disks are backed with text disks, glued against each other, with the green silk ribbon in between.



Image 4: the box medal when first opened, with the disks still stacked.



Image 5: the disks glued inside the tin covers of the box medal. The obverse cover on the left, the reverse cover on the right.



Image 6: the lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Brienne. Here dated 1 February 1814, the actual battle took place 28 January 1814. See the wonderful drawing, the crisp and vivid colors. Between the paper disks can be seen the silk ribbon upon which they are glued.



Image 7: lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Chateau-Thierry 14 February 1814.



Image 8: the lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Montereau 18 February 1814.



Image 9: lithograph and accompanying text for the Siege of Troyes February 1814.
You can see the vivid depiction of the bombardment of the city by howitzers.



Image 10: the lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Bar-sur-Aube
27 February 1814.



Image 11: the lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle by Laon
8 March 1814.



Image 12: the lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Rheims March 1814. On the left hand side you can see the outer cover, to which the lithograph is attached with the silk ribbon.



Image 13: the lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Grand-Torci 20 March 1814.



Image 14: lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Arcis sur Aube 21 March 1814.



Image 15: lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle of Fere-Champenoise 25 March 1814.



Image 16: lithograph and accompanying text for the Battle for Paris 30 March 1814.



Image 17: lithograph and accompanying text for the triumphal entry of the allied troops into the City of Paris 31 March 1814. At the head of the military parade can be see the monarchs of the three principal powers of the alliance, the same monarchs featured on the box medal's obverse cover. On the right hand side can be see a part of the box medal's outer cover.

The text disk attached to the cover featuring the three monarchs is in old German and reads:

"Die Macht der Tirany ist nun defunken: Der eigenen Gefetze freut sich jedes Volk. Der goldne Friede schmücket bald die Erde Heil euch drie Herrshern Ihr schuft dieses Glück."
(The power of the tyranny is no more. This situation delights all the people. The golden peace will soon adorn the earth. Blessings to you, the three rulers, you brought this good fortune.)

The disks are arranged in chronological order in an attempt to correspond with the sequence of military events, which took place during the 1814 Allied campaign against Napoléon. The series of lithographs in this box medal guides the viewer through the momentous events of 1814, beginning with the first engagement on French soil and ending with the triumphal entry of the allied monarchs into Paris, the capital of their sworn enemy.

Following his defeat at the Battle of Leipzig, popularly known as the Battle of Nations due to the number of countries present, fought 16 - 19 October 1813, French emperor Napoléon began a steady withdrawal westward toward France. His former allies could not desert him fast enough to join the Allied powers. In early November 1813, Napoléon and what remained of his forces crossed the River Rhine at the city of Mainz.

France was assailed from all sides. The Austrian general Schwarzenberg came via Switzerland, violating the treaty of neutrality. The main armies of the allies crossed the Rhine between 21 and 25 December 1813. Prussian field marshal Blücher and his forces crossed the Rhine at Mannheim and Coblenz on 1 January 1814. The combined allied armies amounted to approximately 200,000 men. While Blücher marched through Lorraine, the main Allied force advanced through Burgundy. The objective was to link-up and take Paris.

Napoléon regained the brilliance he had shown in his early career. Gone was the massive and unwieldy Grande Armée. Instead, he and his commanders had smaller, more maneuverable armies. Napoléon put up a stiff resistance, moved with lightening speed and inflicting stinging defeats, but the sheer weight of numbers was against him. In addition, most of his troops were raw recruits, fresh from the depots, without any battle experience. He also lacked cavalry to drive home his advantages or victories.

To complicate matters, his top commanders, with whom he had conquered Europe, were either dead, disabled or had grown disillusioned with the

never ending fighting. Many of these men wanted to enjoy the fruits of their labours and protect the privileges, wealth and positions they had gained. Some made deals with the allies, while others put up half-hearted resistance.

Napoléon fought like a lion, but even he showed the signs of age and fatigue. He abdicated unconditionally on 11 April 1814, following the French Senate's declaration that he and his family had lost the right to rule. He was exiled to Elba.

Historically, the information presented in this box medal is not entirely accurate; in many instances it should be considered propaganda, to present allied actions in the best light possible. Retreats become heroic actions, and the numbers of enemy troops faced are often exaggerated.

For instance, the information for the accompanying text of the first lithograph, **Die Schlacht bei Brienne** (the Battle of Brienne), (image 6) reads:

"Hier erfocht die Armee der Verbündeten einen grossen Sieg über Napoleon." (Here the Allied army fought a great victory over Napoléon).

It goes on to say that the Prussian Field Marshal Blücher won his laurel wreath here and that his army captured 75 French cannon and many thousands of prisoners.

The opposite happened. In four battles between 10 and 15 February 1814, Napoléon defeated the various corps of Blücher's army. He then turned against the main army and defeated it at Nangis and Montereau on 17 and 18 February 1814, forcing the Prussians to retreat.

Despite some historical inaccuracies, the box medal is a beautifully executed snapshot of the period. It was not officially commissioned but rather aimed at the consumer market for those who wished to have a pictorial memento of the momentous events of their time.

What impressed me above all is the fact that this box medal was presented for sale at our Edmonton Coin Show and Sale. It goes to show that the hard work of the Edmonton Numismatic Society, its show management and the society's dedicated volunteers has started to pay significant dividends. Through rising attendance, increasing sales revenue and a wider and deeper selection of dealers who bring fresh, exciting and interesting items, Edmonton is truly becoming Canada's numismatic destination of choice.



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Classified & Coming Events

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All ads to be submitted to editor_ens@yahoo.ca e-mail or given to the Editing Team at monthly meetings.

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Original BU rolls 1-cent rolls from 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987 & 1988, call Bob (780) 980-1324

BU red 1953 SF - singles or rolls. Call Bob (780) 980-1324

All period Napoleonic memorabilia & Militaria. Contact Bill at wjdy2k@hotmail.com

Early English or German hammered coins. Contact Marc. mbink@shaw.ca

Complete Date, Canadian Decimal coin sets. Great for gifts. Low prices. Contact Ray, (780) 433-7288

BU red 2010 magnetic 1-cent - Call Bob (780) 980-1324

Early French medals or English/British Coins dating from 1642-1821. Contact Pierre. pierre@nancykbrown.com

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Large collection of certified & raw coins & banknotes, some up to 50% off cat. Inc. Errors. Call John (780) 455-8375

BU RED Penny's 1947 to 2012 from Original Rolls Most Varieties, call Bob (780) 980-1324

New Membership Applications

No new membership applications this month

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

January 9, 2013 - ENS January Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

February 13, 2013 - ENS February Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

March 2 & 3, 2013 - *Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale, Edmonton Hotel & Conference Centre, 4520 - 76 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 0A5, dealers wishing to attend call 780-270-6312.*

March 13, 2013 - ENS February Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

April 10, 2013 - ENS February Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

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



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