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VOL 58. ISSUE 1 Jan/Feb 2011

Edmonton Numismatic Society

\$4.25

The Planchet



SAXONY
MEDALS



LOOSE ENDS



A GALLIC
EMPEROR



The Planchet



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ON THE COVER: Blast white Mercury dime - photo courtesy of PCGS Coin Facts.

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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THANK YOU

For the kind words of appreciation and \$20.00 donation to *The Planchet* from ENS member and *The Planchet* subscriber Randy Tillotson.

His note read: "Please direct remainder to *The Planchet*, love it!"



Message from the President

David Peter



Well, the Christmas break is over, winter has set in and it looks like we're in for the long haul. On behalf of the ENS Executive I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas full of good times with family and friends, and we wish you all a Happy New Year!

We have a confirmed date for the Spring Show; March 12-13 2011 at the Century Hotel. The hotel has expressed its satisfaction with our show, professionalism, and the turnout we got for the Fall Show. So we're on track to make this one coming up the same if not better. Advance tickets have been printed and delivered, and the advertising machine is revving up again. Of course, we always need volunteers for set-up and tear-down. Both jobs are covered in our "Go for the Gold" program, so if you haven't ever volunteered with us before, here's your chance to get in on the fun. Besides the "Gold" program, volunteering gets you into the Hospitality Suite on Saturday night, which is a good chance to make some contacts with your favourite dealers. Please come see me or contact me at mbink@shaw.ca if you'd like to volunteer. And my thanks to those who've already committed for this show. It's because of you that these shows run so well!

Memberships are due again, and this year we've refined the system even further. I'll be sending the cards out starting late February or into early March. The cut-off date is March 1, 2011. If you haven't paid your dues by that point in time, you will no longer receive *The Planchet* and its class-A original content. There are a number of convenient ways to pay, either cash or cheque (make payable to Edmonton Numismatic Society, PO Box 75024, Ritchie PO, Edmonton AB, T5E 6K1) or via PayPal. If you like what you see in *The Planchet* and haven't renewed yet, we encourage you to act now!

Nominations for executive office are still open until the Annual General Meeting on February 9th, 2011. We

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@The Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2011



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

- Silent auction
- Show and tell
- Club matters
- Presentations of recognition awards to the outgoing directors and executive members
- Election of directors and executive members
- March 2011 Edmonton Coin Show and Sale update and preparation finalization
- finalization of show volunteer roster
- Presentation: Markus Molenda
Topic: Jean-Marie Arnault, a man of many talents

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

January 12, 2011 general meeting. Meeting was opened at 7:30 by David Pater.

He welcomed everyone back after the Christmas break. David discussed the upcoming March show. He asked members if they knew of any places we would put up a large road sign promoting the show. He also asked for ideas for locations where to put them for the November show because we are only allowed by the city to put up four at overpasses in a calendar year. Most of the dealer tables are sold. Calgary show is the weekend before ours.

Membership dues are up for renewal. You can pay at the meeting, on the website via PayPal or you can mail a cheque.

Pierre reminded members that we want to encourage everyone to get electronic copies of *The Planchet* if they can. Please give your e-mail addresses to Pierre.

Roger notified members of the change in *The Planchet* release dates. There will now be no issue in January and members will now receive one in July. Members will continue to receive 10 high quality issues each year. Roger also asked for article submissions, and reminded members that each submission qualifies the author into the Go for the Gold contest.

David made a call for show volunteers. He is finalizing the tickets and will release them right away. There will be new posters coming for the show and he would like members to take them and put them wherever they can. The show will be March 12 and 13. The executive will be meeting with the hotel shortly to set the next two show dates. Hotel rooms can be booked through Tara at the hotel; ask for the 10% discount

for the show. David mentioned this will be the final call for elections, which will be done at the February meeting. Contact Terry or Marc with nominations.

Roger presented to the members how the club can save money on its annual dues to the American Numismatic Association (ANA). Each club member who is a member of the ANA will qualify the club for \$5 off of its annual dues. Please give your name and ANA member number to Roger and he will submit the form. Roger also presented on a course offered by the ANA called, *School of Numismatics Diploma Program*. The course gives an overview of the following areas, Intro to numismatics, grading coins, grading mint-state US coins, detecting counterfeit and altered US coins, modern minting processes, and errors and varieties. The course is US numismatically based. The course cost is \$399.00 USD, and the membership was asked if they would like the club to purchase the course and teach to members are upcoming meetings. A vote was conducted and a unanimous decision was made to proceed with the purchase and offer the course to members.

Bob told the membership about some issues with some US dealers who won't ship to Canada. There is a website (www.myus.com) where for about \$7/month you can have a US postal address set up and they will ship to you stuff mailed to the US box.

Howard discussed an auction of estate part 2 that he is conducting. There are lots of Victorian and Edwardian silver, prooflike coins, jewellery, and paper. There are over 200 lots in the auction. Absentee bids will be accepted. Bidders need to

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Odds and Ends

By Marc Bink



One would think that a month's hiatus would be long enough to come up with something interesting to write about; but no ... I'm still in the process of unpacking the "box-farm" downstairs, and the office is a disorganized mess. So I figured I'd take advantage of this and clear up some loose ends.

It all started last spring when the wife decided the house we were living in was too small. As any of you that have been married for more than 2 weeks have no doubt learned, your state of peace and contentment is directly proportional to her wishes and desires. God forbid if I neglected that cardinal rule! We ended up buying a much larger (expensive) house in a different town. The new house was finished in December (well, sort of) and we moved into it in time for Christmas. Of course, when one moves 20 years of accumulated property things, tend to get hairy in a hurry. This move definitely was all of that and more. I will never do it again. The next time, rather than move all of this junk, I will just strike a match. I've had it, never again.

Moving a coin collection also does have its challenges. I'm one of the few people who keeps the entire collection at home. As a result moving and securing it was a challenge. The first challenge was actually packing the whole thing up. I soon discovered that I have more than enough material to stock a coin shop at home. Unfortunately though, most of it is junk. I discovered a few stashes of Canadian pennies and nickels lying around that I'd forgotten I had. Of course, rediscovering these new-found treasures means that they have to be searched through, all of which takes time away from the task at hand, packing. Well, I soon discovered why I forgot about these coins in the first place. It was a load of circulated junk from the '40's, none of it being particularly rare or desirable. The same thing happened when I stumbled upon a hoard of international coins. After going through the lot it soon became apparent that there was a very good reason why they were still loose, and that I had blown another day that should have been devoted to packing.

And then comes moving day; a dreary, snowy day, not too cold though, about -15 with a bit of a wind. As I looked around the office, it dawned on me that the things I had put off packing because they were either too large, or too fragile, or too valuable, had to be dealt with right now. Great ... the first priority was the collection itself. My collection isn't very valuable from a monetary standpoint. In fact if anyone ever stole it, he would probably find that the work and effort required to move it far outstripped its cash value. After

carting a few of the international binders out to the car, I began to question the sanity of keeping any of this stuff, knowing that there was absolutely nothing of any value in them and that most coin shops sell the stuff by the pound. Soon I was ready to haul the last few binders out, and the movers were preparing to dismantle the bookshelves and the desk. There was a box on the desk and an old Pickelhaube (World War I German Army helmet) on the bookshelf. The Pickelhaube didn't fit into the box. Nice ... so now what? In a panic and not quite thinking clearly, I just put it on my head, promptly forgot about it, and went



about filling the box. My "real" job requires that I wear a helmet, so wearing anything on my head becomes second nature. Therefore I didn't notice that I was wandering around dispensing advice and coordinating the move looking like an idiot. I couldn't figure out why the movers were looking at me rather strangely, so I checked my fly and just dismissed it as their being uncomfortable with my height or something. I was hauling the last binder out to the car, the one and only binder that is worth something, when I slipped on some ice and found myself flat on my back under the car with Roman coins flying all over the place. The Pickelhaube had come off and speared itself into a nearby snow bank. Insult and embarrassment soon replaced



Silver Crown of Charles I (1625)

Obv: King crowned on horseback left, sword in right hand pointing back, horse caparisoned with plume on head and crupper, type 1a; lis, cross calvary mintmarks

CAROLVS D G MAG BRI FR ET HIB REX

Rev: Square-topped shield with arms (lion, fleur de lis, harp) over long cross fourchee; lis, cross calvary mintmark
CHRISTO AVSPICE REGNO

injury as I scurried around in the snow looking for any coins that were missing. When I went back into the house I was met with a few smirks and smiles; nothing major though. The rest of the move went more smoothly but a little more painfully after that. The next phase was to finish the new house and get it habitable, a chore which still defeats any predictions and any kind of scheduling to this day. Every day there's been someone here fixing this, replacing that, or installing something. At first the cable company screwed up, delaying phone installation which in turn delayed the alarm system installation. When I told them they would be liable for my collection if the house got broken into, they soon sent someone out to run the requisite cable to the house and get me on-line in a hurry. So it's been a lot of work; a lot of either sweet-talking or screaming at telephones, dealing with individuals who were probably kicked out of the "Special Olympic Program" for being too challenged.

So the new office, while larger than the old one, is still a mess. The coin collection is all up there,

as is all that recently rediscovered junk coinage that needs sorting. However my research books and catalogs are still in the box farm in the basement. I have not found them yet, and knowing my luck they probably will be the last ones I find. A word about the box-farm; it's a 6' X 6' cube of boxes of mostly heavy history books that no one but myself has read or will ever read. I now get my daily workout climbing 2 flights of stairs up to the bonus room library carrying a laundry basket full of books. I've lost count of the trips so far, and it doesn't even look like I've dented the cube yet, but I have lost some weight.



So hopefully I'll rediscover all those books over the next month and be able to finish my research on a few projected articles. I have a few topics on the go. One is on East German economics and currency, one on Charles I of England shillings, and one on the value of medieval money and its uses. I'll also be open to any other topics readers suggest, so feel free to email me or contact Roger through *The Planchet*.

Having an inquisitive 17 month-old boy around also makes things interesting. I had an article prepared for this month, and while I went to get a coffee he came into the room and started pushing buttons on the computer. When I came back into the room and all he was saying was "Nooo ... no...oh no...", I knew something was amiss. I haven't been able to find that article, and I've searched the whole hard drive, so my guess is he deleted it. I love him to death, but sometimes I feel like....oh well, that's life I guess.

The latest on the Sherritt Rolling Mill Archives

The other day Bill Hladky, John Callaghan, Jeremy Martin and I went to the Sherritt International plant to inventory the old Rolling Mill collection. Sherritt's Rolling Mill played a very large part in Canadian and world coinage from 1962 until it was wound down by the Westaim Corporation in 2001. We were invited in by Sherritt management which has expressed an interest in finding someone or some group that will act as custodians of this material. We went through it all and have set aside 13 boxes worth of coins and related materials and are now waiting for Sherritt management to approve the list. We're going to wind up with a lot of good material here, although there wasn't as much documentation as expected. I'm currently asking around to see

if there is some more Rolling Mill documentation, but it looks as though a lot of it was destroyed when Westaim closed the mill. We're anticipating that Sherritt will respond back to us with their approval after February 17th, after which we will remove the archives to a secure location off-site.

Some clarifications...

In December's article, on the Lusitania and the medals of Karl Goetz, I had mentioned that one of his designs was selected for use on a 5 Reichsmark Coin. He designed a Hindenburg commemorative for the Weimar government in 1925 and did not design the reverse for the Nazi 2 and 5 Reichsmark coins (KM-86, 93, 94). He had nothing to do with these coins at all. Goetz did do some work during the war for the Nazis, but it was more under duress, as his heart wasn't into their style of politics. He did remain a patriotic German, but he was (like most sane people) appalled by the Nazi excesses when they were made public after the war.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Nick Wickendon, who



corrected my use of the term "cathedral" in my Luebeck article. There can only be one cathedral in any town, as it is more or less a Catholic term, and it refers to the bishop's seat. Since there can only be one bishop in any town, it only follows that there can then be only one cathedral. It would seem that in some cases the term "cathedral" was allowed to be used on Protestant churches after the Reformation, and although it is generally considered to be incorrect usage, it would seem that we North Americans got used

to using the term to refer to all big old churches. I have to admit I fell into this trap as well and now stand corrected.

Another point that Nick Wickendon brought up that also should have been corrected long ago is with regard to the same article. It referred to my interpretation of St. John the Baptist and the Lamb of God on the Luebeck 1 Thaler piece. I had stated that I didn't know what the symbolism behind the "Lamb of God" was and hadn't found any references to it. He quickly came up with a few good references which could be easily accessed, proving that I apparently didn't know what I was talking about. Well, now I do. The "Lamb of God" (or Agnus Dei) refers back to the Old Testament practice of sacrificing a lamb as a possible means of atonement. The Gospel of John has it that Christians can be freed from sin by the spilling of the blood of Jesus, the unblemished Lamb of God, hence the symbolism. The other crass blasphemy that I committed was to refer to the Cross carried by the Lamb as a sword with a pair of bloomers attached to it. Yes, it is a cross and not a sword, and what looked like bloomers on the coin are a Christian standard. This standard was carried by the Crusaders to the Holy Land whenever they invaded and was used by the Church up until the modern era. My apologies if I offended anyone due to my ignorance. *Dona nobis pacem...*

Silver coinage...a good deal?

No doubt many of you have noticed that silver prices have climbed to heights not seen since 1979. We are now seeing people cash in all of their old Canadian decimal silver and getting huge returns on otherwise worthless coins. This is a bit of a double edged sword. On the one hand a person makes some money from worthless coinage, and on the other, it shows just how far our currency has been devalued. The amount of silver on the market far exceeds any industrial demand,

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and for years the prices have reflected that by being artificially low in relation to the old gold-silver standard. Now however, the price of silver is increasing, but the industrial demand isn't. In fact, it has dropped since photographic film was replaced by digital imaging. There are fewer new applications for silver which haven't met up to the old demand. So why the sharp spike in prices? Is it a "bubble"? Well, it seems that silver still does follow gold, and while gold has risen exponentially, the buying power of our dollar has decreased by the same amount. Silver prices are still reasonably "cheap" in relation to gold and the dollar, even at these levels. When buying precious metals, it is always good to remember that both gold and silver are wealth preservation tools and not speculative tools. The amount of gold you bought will buy exactly the same thing it would have when you bought it, meaning although you've made more "dollars", the amount of goods those same dollars will now buy are less than they were before. Inflation has taken care of your money by reducing its buying power and shifted more of your wealth to government coffers in the form of taxes. As Keynes stated 70 some odd years ago, inflation is the most subtle way a government has of appropriating wealth, and this is how governments propose to pay down their deficits caused by the crash of 2008. Stats-Can says the inflation rate is around 3 %. Look around and you can see it's actually more like 15 %. How is your pension or RRSP doing?

That said though, now is the time to look around for deals on some of the scarcer silver coins, or not so avidly collected stuff. I just loaded up my collection of specimen silver commemorative dollars. Each coin was sold to me loose at melt value, around \$10.50 each, which is the current book price. I got them without the capsules or the boxes, just the way I wanted them, so I don't have to worry about paying a premium for the extra materials. Sure, they're technically worth less without the packaging, but in my collection they go into 2 X

Continued from page 5 - Your Society

to register with Howard. There are some very interesting and some scarce pieces.

Jamie, the ENS Past-President, presented a 2009 RCNA medal to Markus Molenda.

Roger informed the membership that the ENS will be entering the following awards for 2011:

- RCNA best club publication
- ANA best club publication
- RCNA best article
- RCNA club of the year

2's anyway, so there's no loss for me. Therefore it wasn't a bad deal, considering that 5 or 6 years ago they were trading for around the same amount, and that same \$10.00 bought a bit more than a cup of coffee back then. So there are still some deals to be had out there, and the selection of silver coins has never been better. Most of the local shops are awash in "junk" silver of all types. It's probably a good idea to go out and look for some of these coins if you collect them before they wind up in a smelter's pot. Most dealers are keen to get these things out so that they can maximize their profits on them. It is surprising that even .500 silver coins are being retained for melt now. Before it just didn't make sense to reduce a coin of that purity because of the costs involved in cracking out the impurities. I guess it does now with the high cost of commodities being what they are. The funny thing about the last time silver prices spiked the whole process went so fast that people didn't get the time to get their hoards melted down, so theoretically all the silver coin that has been made so far is still "out there". That means there is a huge amount of silver still in private hands, possibly much more than anticipated. A lot is getting melted down this time, but probably nowhere nearly enough to justify the silver price. What could happen is the same thing that happened back in the '90s with American gold coins. Speculators were actually shocked that the amount of gold in private hands was actually close to infinite. The more they bought at high values, the more turned up. As a result the market crashed when the supply of money to buy them dried up. The same thing could happen to the silver market now.

And now it's back to the box-farm and more lifting. Maybe today will be the day that I finally find those books ...



Wayne Hansen did an excellent talk on ancient Greek coins. Copies of his presentation can be found at the following website:

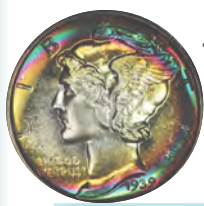
Ancient Greek Coins Overview Powerpoint -- files.me.com/trevorhansen/df9njf

Ancient Greek Coins Overview Movie -- files.me.com/trevorhansen/xtgoyy.mov (turn on speakers)

Alexander Memphis Tetradrachm Powerpoint -- files.me.com/trevorhansen/5avp0u

Silent Auction was completed and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.





Liberty Head "Mercury" Dimes

By Roger Grove



In 1916, the United States witnessed a major change in its coinage. It was effectively the end of the now tiresome and boring Barber type which had dominated the coin landscape since 1892, appearing on the dime, twenty-five and fifty cent pieces. The times had changed, the world had changed and the US wanted a change; but a change to its coinage did not come without internal struggles. In the end Congress won, and America now had circulating coinage which was modern, beautiful but most of all told the world what America was all about.

The official request to make a change on American coinage started with President Theodore Roosevelt. He wanted to bring American coinage into the modern age, where art deco and dada art were forefront in the world, something that American coinage certainly did not display. It wasn't just the President who sought change, but there were many people throughout the country who desired a new look for the US. There was one major obstacle in their way – the *Coinage Act* of September 26, 1890. The Act stipulated that no change to the design or dies of any American coins could be made more often than once every 25 years. This included the year in which the coins and/or dies were developed. Considering that many wanted to initiate a coinage design reform as early as 1907, they had no choice but to wait until 1916.

During 1914 and 1915, the US Mint began to invest a great deal of effort and time in discussions surrounding new designs for its coins. But these discussions never proceeded further than the boardrooms, and nothing tangible was ever produced. Then came President Roosevelt's statement that he wanted new designs on American coins before the start of the new decade - 1920. And he wanted them to be of the same

beauty and quality as the recent new changes to American coins. The Lincoln cent made its debut in 1909, the Indian Head Eagles (\$10.00) were released in 1907, the Indian Head Quarter Eagle (\$2.50) and Half Eagles (\$5.00) were changed in 1908, and the widely acclaimed to be the most beautiful American coin ever, the \$20.00

Double Eagle with Augustus Saint-Gaudens' walking liberty, was released in 1907. The pressure was now on the Mint to produce something, and now it had a target date.



The Secretary of the Treasury upped the heat in 1915 when he announced to the new Mint Director, Robert Wickliffe Woolley, that he was anxious for work to begin on the new designs for the silver half, quarter dollar and dime and that they should be ready for coinage in 1916 (exactly 25 years after the Barber dies were developed). This did not leave much time for the Chief Engraver, Charles Barber (the same engraver who did the engraving for all of the highly criticized existing Barber series of coinage). Mr. Barber did not take kindly to the unkind words spoken and inferred upon his creations and did not very willingly move to make any changes to his designs.

Since Barber was the Chief Engraver, protocol



dictated that he should have the first opportunity to design the new coinage for the half, quarter dollar and dime. He was given the official opportunity from Woolley to submit his designs. At this point, Barber was not overly impressed with the Mint, nor was the mint impressed with his other designs. Earlier he had submitted designs for all the Eagle redesigns 10 years prior, and not one of his designs was selected.

When talks and designs from Barber were not moving forward, The Mint Director Woolley approached the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission also agreed that beautiful new coinage was needed. In the end, three artists were recommended by the Commission: Adolf Alexander Weinman, Herman Atkins MacNeil, and Albin Polasek. On December 28, 1915, the three artists were contacted by Woolley requesting them to submit several designs before April 16, 1916. If none of their designs were determined to be acceptable, they would be paid \$300.00 for their efforts, but if one of their designs was chosen, the winner would receive \$2,000.00 for his design. At this time Barber was left out of all discussions and decisions as much as possible, as he had a long standing grudge against outside artists, and his attempts to thwart them whenever he could were well known. Some of the stipulations from the Mint for the new coin designs were that the half and quarter dollar reverse must include an eagle, and the dime must not have one.

The three outside artists all submitted several designs as did Barber (even though he was not invited to). As expected, none of Barber's designs were selected. The final results were that Adolf Weinman's designs for the dime and half-dollar were chosen, and MacNeil's design of the Standing

Liberty quarter dollar was selected. These coins changed the face of United States, and because of their beauty have become some of the most sought after and collected series in all American coinage.

In the summer of 1916, the dies for the new dime were not ready. Barber still managed to keep using his powers as Chief Engraver to stifle the process. By July, there was such a national demand for quarters and dimes that the Mint had no options but to produce more of the old Barber dimes to meet public demand. In September, the first new test dimes were minted and quickly stopped due to design problems. The design problems were fixed, then the call finally came to create the working dies in October. The new dies were shipped to the Denver and San Francisco mints, but they were told not to use



them until explicitly instructed. The mints' first priority was to produce quarter dollars and other denominations. The Denver Mint was to continue to produce quarters until it had \$1,000,000 in face value and then coin cent and five-cents coins. Eventually, it was given the direction to produce the new dimes, but just as production wound up, it was instructed to stop dime production and produce other denominations. As a result only 264,000 Denver Mint 1916 Liberty Head dimes were minted, instantly creating a rarity. Once given the go-ahead to mint the new dimes, the San Francisco and Philadelphia mints minted unimpeded and produced 10 million and 22 million coins respectively.

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When the new dime was finally released to the public in late 1916, there was an immediate enthusiasm towards it. The design was artistic, beautiful and signified the United States' position of power and sovereignty during a time of world crisis – the Great War (later to be known as World War I). The dime's name was technically the 'Liberty Head' dime, but due to the likeness of the obverse portrait to the Roman god Mercury, the dime was quickly dubbed the 'Mercury Dime'.

The likeness was completely unintentional, and the portraiture is believed to be based on the likeness of Elsie Kachel Stevens, one of Weinman's tenants. The god Mercury, or Hermes as the Greeks referred to him, was the god of commerce, therefore the reference to this being Mercury made further sense. But that is really where the similarities end. Mercury was a male god and the dime has an image of a woman as Liberty. Mercury was usually depicted wearing a winged helmet and not a winged cap. The cap on the liberty dime is correctly referred to as a Phrygian cap and has been used on American coinage for over a century. It is to signify freedom, while the wings on Miss Liberty are to symbolize liberty of thought.



The reverse displays Roman fasces symbolizing power and authority. The fasces is made into the handle of an axe to prove to the world that the US was in a ready state to do battle if needed. Behind the fasces is an olive branch to symbolize peace during the chaotic times. The fasces is bound by a strip of leather wound around it diagonally.

The Mercury dime was eventually replaced in 1946 after the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. A Roosevelt helped bring the Mercury dime into being while another caused it to disappear. It was not removed due to its unpopularity (even though there were many who were beginning to be displeased with it, because the Fascists in Italy adopted Roman fasces as their symbol of power). It was removed because the dime was chosen to be the appropriate coin to use to commemorate the recently deceased FDR.

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Collecting Mercury Dimes

When it comes to collecting Mercury dimes the possibilities are nearly infinite as to how one could collect them. They come in every condition and are easily obtainable. Even though the series was discontinued in 1945, the dimes continued to show up in circulation well into the 1960's. Only when the US changed the composition of all its silver coins to clad¹ in 1965, did they start to disappear. But this was only due to their being stashed away for their silver value. Because Mercury dimes stayed in circulation for such a long period of time, many are so heavily worn that the best they could grade would be About Good-3. Conversely, in most years they were minted in the 10's of millions, and in the 1940's there were years in which the mintage topped 100 million. This high mintage leaves a lot of high quality and uncirculated Mercury dimes out there to be found. The combination of high mintages and long circulation makes it very easy for any average or beginning collector to collect Mercury dimes and to build a nice collection. Prices are generally a few dollars for an average circulated piece (and they typically are only worth silver bullion for many dates and mints). But don't let the high mintages fool you.

1 The composition of US coinage was changed in 1965 to a clad composition.

There are many key dates and key varieties to be had which come with a hefty price tag in any condition.

Mercury dimes were minted at all three operating mints – Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco - throughout the series, but the numbers minted at each mint can vary drastically. The most plentiful are coins from the Philadelphia mint, where each year of mintage a Philadelphia minted dime is available. In some years the branch mints of Denver and San Francisco did not mint any Mercury dimes. When it comes to these branch mints, Mercury dimes were generally minted in the low millions to the tens of millions. Mint marked Mercury dimes may not really be less plentiful or difficult to find than the Philadelphia minted coins, but collectors of Mercury dimes can be willing to pay slight premiums for these dimes with mint marks.

Date-Set

The most simple and common method of collecting Mercury dimes is to collect a date-set. There are a total of 28 dates that the coins were minted in, and all dates are readily available. The biggest challenge for any date-set will be a dime from 1921. In this year only 1.2 million were minted in Philadelphia, and one million were minted in Denver. None came out of the San Francisco mint. The year 1921 is considered a semi key date in the series, and one will run you about \$60-70 in Good-4 condition. The 1921D carries a higher premium due to there being 200,000 less minted than in Philadelphia. In XF-40, the prices for these increase to \$525 for Philadelphia and \$660 for Denver minted ones. These coins are quite easy to find in very low grades on any auction site but become much more difficult to locate in higher quality with no problems. Collecting an entire date series in average circulated condition can be done for only about \$100 - \$150, and though it is not really challenging, it is fun and produces a very nice collection.

Short-Set

The next, and probably the easiest, method of collecting Mercury dimes is to collect a short-set. Collecting a short-set involves assembling each year and all mints during a specific time frame. There are two types of short sets that are collected: the long-short set from 1934 - 1945 and the true short set from 1941 - 1945. Both of these short-sets can easily be completed, and due to the high numbers of coins minted during these years, very high quality coins can be found for very reasonable prices. Prior to 1934, high mintages were only found in Philadelphia minted coins, making collecting the branch mints a bit

more challenging. In Fine-12 condition all these coins, in both short-sets, will cost you about \$1.50 - \$2.00 each. The only ones that may cost a buck or two more would be the 1934D and 1938D. If a collector wants to obtain a collection of these short-sets in Gem condition with blazing white surfaces, he can do it. All coins from 1940 - 1945 will cost about \$25 - \$30 in MS-65. Those from 1934 - 1939 will cost a bit more but generally run from \$30 - \$100 in MS-65. And for a collector seeking superior coins in MS-67, the price tag will still only be around \$75 - \$100 each for the coins from the 1940's. If you have not seen a 'blast white' high grade mercury dime, you are missing out. Adolf Weinman did something different with these dimes when he strayed from the norm and chose to use a textured background rather than the normal flat shiny fields. In high Gem conditions, the textured fields scream back at you. It is a real treat to see these coins in high grades.

Full-Set

Another method of collecting Mercury dimes is to collect the entire series from all mints. There are a total of 77 regular issue Mercury dimes from 1916 - 1945, and if you add the major varieties in, that adds another 3 for a total of 80. The bulk of these 80 coins can easily be acquired in lower grades. Up to 1920 they were minted in the 10's of millions from each mint, except for 1917D when there were 9.4 million minted. All of these coins will run you about \$3 - \$5 in Fine-12 and generally \$50 - \$100 in Mint State. Many high grades do exist and can quite easily be found.

There is one obvious exception to all of this – the aforementioned 1916 Denver minted Mercury dime. This dime is considered by many experts to be the rarest modern issued US coin and one of the most sought after. There were only a paltry 264,000 minted. Luckily for collectors many of these were saved, and several exist in mint condition, not because it was a rarity but because it was simply the first year of issue, so the tendency is for people to save them. As rare as this issue is, it is not at all difficult to obtain one. These coins frequently appear in very low grades, usually Fair-2 or AG-3. Don't expect to get them for a steal. They still trade at about \$500 - \$600 in these low conditions, and a Good-4 will cost you a good \$1,000. In VF-20 the price jumps to \$3,500, and an MS-65 will set you back over \$25,000.

Collectors need to be very careful when purchasing any 1916D Mercury Dime. Counterfeiters have targeted this year and mint for decades, resulting in many different counterfeits out there, including some in fake major 3rd party grading slabs. The most common alteration is to remove a D mintmark

from any other Mercury dime and glue or solder it to a 1916 Philadelphia mint dime. The good thing about this type of counterfeit is it can sometimes be easily detected by an astute collector, because the D mintmark was only used in 1916, 1917 and 1929.² Often the added mintmark was a D of a different year and can quickly be discovered. Counterfeiters will also try to change the date of other Denver minted coins to look like a 1916D. The date style of 1916 is a little unique, and this can also lead to the determination of a fake. For explicit details and pictures of genuine 1916D dimes, see David W. Lange, *The Complete Guide to Mercury Dimes*, Second Edition.

Collecting the rest of the entire series won't pose much problem after the 1916D and both 1921 coins are acquired. There will be a few pieces that one might find elusive in higher circulated grades, if that is what you are intending to collect. The 1925D and S mints will cost about \$3 - \$5 in VG-8 but increase to \$100 - \$150 in XF-40. Another coin that should be considered to be semi-key, but is not, is the 1926S dime. Only 1.5million were minted, and they start at about \$12 in G-4 and \$275 - \$300 in XF-40. After these coins, all the rest will not be an issue to collect, even the 1945 micro S. In 1945, a mintmark punch was used that was intended for early 20th century coins from the Philippines.³ It is assumed the punch was brought out of storage due to the high mintage of dimes in 1945 and was used to mintmark the working dies.

Aside from the above mentioned coins, there are a couple of other key date coins which the average collector may have difficulty acquiring.

2 When minting Mercury dimes, the Denver Mint used several different styles of "D" mintmark punches. Normally these mintmarks were used for an entire year and sometimes over several years, but in a few cases more than one style of mintmark was used in the same year. These create very minor varieties and do not command any premiums. The 1916D mintmark punch was only used in three years, and then it was retired from use.

3 The San Francisco mint produced coins for the Philippines for several years. These coins were mintmarked with a very small S. This punch was inadvertently brought out of storage and used in 1945 on some working dies for Mercury dimes. These Mercury dimes are called 'micro S' dimes due to the smaller than normal mintmark. The total mintage of micro S dimes is not known, but they are plentiful in all conditions. They bring only a small premium over regular 1945S dimes.



In 1942, some dies from 1941 were reused and simply punched over the 41 with 42. Coins of this nature are only found from Philadelphia and from Denver. The Philadelphia minted 42/41 dimes very clearly show the repunched 42 over the 41. The error is so blatant that there are conspiracy theorists who think this error was intentionally created. The 42/41 Denver coin is not quite as clearly overdated and should not be confused with the minor variety of 1942 double date. As with the 1916D, counterfeiting is severe and common with these coins. It is recommended that only 3rd party certified pieces or pieces purchased from a reputable dealer should be sought. In G-4 the 42/41 brings in \$525 while the 42/41D will run you \$475. In XF-40 the prices increase to \$750 and \$845 respectively.

Full Split Bands

With Mercury dimes, the term "Full Split Bands" means everything. Different US coinages have details that will be opposite the highest relief point on the other side of the coin. During the minting process the flow of metal goes to the easiest accessible and largest spaces, thereby at times creating spots of limited or no details on a section of the coin. The Standing Liberty Quarter is rare to



find with full details on the head (Full Head), Franklin half-dollars are rare to find with "Full Bell Lines" on the reverse, several years of Jefferson nickels are rare to find with all the details of the stairs showing on Monticello (Full Stairs), and more are available.

With Mercury dimes the reverse generally does not display Full Split Bands (Full Bands – aka. FSB or FB). In the middle of the fasces on the reverse is a band. With most Mercury dimes this band is one continuous thick band. If the conditions were right and the metal flowed into all the cavities of the die, the band in the middle would be two distinctly different bands with rounded edges. There is also a category called "Partial Split Bands". This is where the coins displays full separation between the two bands, but the bands themselves are flat and not rounded. Mercury dimes that display Full Split Bands will command a premium, while those with Partial Split Bands will result in a smaller premium if any. Collecting Full Split Bands is generally the goal of most Mercury dime collectors. All major 3rd party grading companies will identify Full Split Bands on their slab (usually denoted as FS).

Depending on the year and mint, the premium for FB Mercury dimes can be a staggering difference from the normal coin. Several years are well known to have great strikes, and Full Split Bands is not hard to find,




NORMAL S

its premium being reasonable. Pretty much all coins minted in the 1940's will cost around \$20 - \$30 in MS-65, and with Full Split Bands the price only goes up to \$40 - \$75 per coin. Full Split Bands can be quite easily found in some earlier years as well, 1935, 1936, 1936S, 1937, 1938, 1938D, 1939D, where prices will be less than \$100 in MS-65 FB. After these years, the price can fluctuate quite drastically. 1917S in MS-65 is \$475 and with FB is \$1,265, 1924S \$1,100 to \$16,750 with FB, and the 1945 Philadelphia jumps from \$25 in MS-65 to \$9,750 in MS-65 FB. This is a true rarity due to the minting process. According to PCGS Population Reports, only 110 Philadelphia minted 1945 FB Mercury dimes have been certified in all grades compared to 5,038 with no split bands. Considering 159,130,000 were minted in Philadelphia in 1945, 110 known survivors is remarkably low. To put its rarity in perspective with how difficult this coin is to come by, the

MICRO S

key date 1916D, with its very low mintage, has 346 pieces certified by PCGS as FB. Beware of counterfeiters retooling the bands to make them appear to be Full Split Bands. It is again recommended to only purchase 1945 FB coins which have been certified or come from a reputable dealer.

There are countless other potential opportunities for collecting Mercury dimes. In high mint states they have a blast white appearance which some collectors strive for. Mercury dimes are famous for toning, and some only collect toned samples. Collectors may even try to assemble a set of similarly toned and condition coins. David W. Lange, the most renowned authority on Mercury dimes, is building a collection in VF XF with the same tone and finding it particularly challenging. One doesn't have to limit them self to the norm when collecting – collect what you want, what interests you and what challenges you. 

FENSKE, Robert Otto On December 20th, 2010 Robert Fenske passed away at the age of 97. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his sons Bobby (Caroline), and Alvin (Theresa, Michael and Jackie, Brian and Zoryana, Alexandra, Darcy), grandson Chad (Trina); great-grandchildren: Cassidy, Colton and Tanner Fenske; special cousins John and Helen Mueller; numerous relatives and many long time associates from the auction business. Robert was predeceased by his wife Ella; daughters-in-law Pat and Marlene; grandson Robb; his parents John and Ernestina Fenske; his brothers: Reinhold, Leonard, Dan, August and Edward; his sisters: Helena Schmidt, Martha Brandenburg, Wanda Besler, Emma Schmitke, Lydia Pockrant, and Hulda Fenske. The Funeral Service for Robert were held on Thursday, December 23, 2010 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014 -81 Avenue, Edmonton, with Reverend Markus Wilhelm officiating.

Vice-President Edmonton Coin Club 1964

President Edmonton Coin Club 1965



An ANTONINIANUS of TETRICUS I 270 to 273 A.D.

By Terence Cheesman

The Internet has not only changed the way people collect but also the way people can learn about their collections. Many collectors have created web pages devoted to their collecting specialty. Over the years I have tried to save some of these sites, and from some I have created a hard copy by printing out the pages on my printer. These sites are very useful, and though they have to be treated with some caution, can offer insights on areas of ancient coins not well covered by numismatic scholarship. Also most are well illustrated using actual coins usually owned by the collector/enthusiast, so the reader can gauge to some degree the scope of the subject and the rarity and desirability of some issues.



A while ago I acquired an antoninianus of Tetricus I. Tetricus was the last reigning emperor of the Gallic Empire. In 259 A.D. the Roman general Postumus led a revolt against the Emperor Gallienus. Postumus failed to defeat Gallienus but was able to maintain his power in Gaul, Roman Germany, Spain, and Britain. Postumus died in 268 A.D., but the Gallic Empire survived, and in 270 A.D. Tetricus I became Emperor. The coinage at this time was wretched. The antoninianus, a coin which began as a silver coin weighing about 5.5 grams and about the size of a quarter, was reduced to a bronze coin weighing about 2.4 grams and about the size of a dime. These coins were minted in vast numbers with very little care, and thus

many are struck off centre with dies that are badly worn. Also the flans can be too small for the dies being used as well as being very poorly prepared so that precise identification can become very difficult.

The antoniniani of Tetricus are divided into five issues. Further these coins are thought to have been struck at two mints. The cities are unknown, but two are in strong contention, Trier and Cologne, both now in Germany. Trier became the main administrative centre of the region, and it seems likely that this was true during the reign of Tetricus, but we cannot be sure. Another contender would be Lyons in France. This was the principle

western mint for Roman coins until Postumus moved the mint to Cologne. At his death a second mint had opened in Trier. This system seems to have stayed in place, however it is possible that Tetricus moved a mint to Lyons as he had to face the resurgence of the central Roman Empire under its new Emperor Aurelian. This arrangement is given somewhat more validity as Aurelian, after he defeated Tetricus, minted coins both at Lyons as well as Trier.

The obverse legend of my coin is fairly straightforward. It reads IMP. C. TETRICVS P. F. AVG. In full this would read Imperator Caesar Tetricus Pius Felix Augustus. Roughly translated this would read "Victorious General and Heir to Caesar Tetricus the Pious and Lucky Emperor". The portrait shows the bust of Tetricus, wearing a radiate crown and clothed in military armour and cloak. The reverse legend is PRINC. IVVENT, which in full would read Princeps Iuuentutis. This would translate as "Leader of the Youth", one of the titles of the heir, in this case the emperor's son Tetricus II. Tetricus II is depicted on the reverse standing left in military dress, holding a branch downwards in his right hand and a sceptre in his left. The use of a branch is unusual for this type of coin, as the usual attribute would have been a globe. Emperors have been depicted with a branch but usually upright. The branch is also associated

with Securitas, the personification of security, and it may have that meaning here. The downward position of the branch may be a symbol of the son's inferior status to his father.

Scholarship has placed this coin within issue four from mint one which then should put the minting of this coin early in 273 A.D. Normally this coin is considered to be a hybrid or mule, combining the obverse of one emperor Tetricus I with the reverse of another Tetricus II. However this type is known from over a hundred and twenty examples in the Normandy hoard, and it would seem more likely that this reverse was intended for use by both Tetricus I and Tetricus II. However it is also possible that the need for coinage at this point was so great that normal controls within the mint had broken down, and coins were minted in great haste with little or no concern as to pairing the correct obverse with the correct reverse. These low value coins had to be minted in huge numbers simply to pay for the normal state expenses, not to mention the extra expenses needed to counter the military build up by Aurelian. One by-product was that the interior of Gaul, a region thought to be an economy based on barter, was converted to a money-using society because of the flood of these low value coins.







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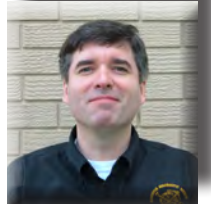


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The Kingdom of SAXONY

By Pierre Driessen



Napoléon finally achieved supremacy in the Germanies after defeating the Austro-Russian alliance in 1805 and Prussia in 1806. To consolidate his hold on the region he set about reorganizing it. One of the states which appeared to benefit the most from this reorganization was Saxony.

The Saxons originally came from the Schleswig-Holstein (present day Denmark) area. Their first appearance on the stage of history in the 2nd century coincided with the beginning of their migrations to and colonization of other territories. The trigger for these may have been overpopulation or pressure from their enemies. The Saxons moved south on the European continent and as Roman power waned began to raid and settle the British Isles.

The area they settled in the northwest of what is today Germany eventually came to be known as Saxony, which together with Bavaria, Franconia and Swabia are considered the stem or original tribal regions of the German people.

The Saxons were not conquered by the Romans nor displaced by the waves of barbarian hordes moving westward during the 4th and 5th centuries as Pax Romanorum began to crumble and eventually the Western Roman Empire collapsed.

As Europe emerged from the Dark Ages and entered its early medieval period, the Saxons found themselves fighting for their independence and very survival as a people against the ever expanding Frankish Empire. In 772 A.D. Charlemagne, King of the Franks, invaded Saxon territory. This began a vicious thirty year struggle, marked by numerous revolts and atrocities. Despite inflicting several defeats on the Franks, the Saxons were conquered, converted to Christianity at the point of the sword and absorbed into what became the Holy Roman Empire.

In the mid 9th century, Charlemagne's successors created here the Duchy of Saxony. Eventually Saxony, together with the Duchy of Bavaria, became the most important lands of the vast holdings of the powerful Welf (Guelph) dynasty.



Map showing the original location of Saxon tribal territory in the 6th century A.D. ¹

At their height Welf territories extended in the north from the North and Baltic Seas to the Alps in the south. In the west they almost reached the Rhine River and in the east the Oder River. It was a kingdom in all but name and the most powerful state in Germany. Its head, Henry the Lion (1129 - 95 A.D.), came into conflict with the Holy

Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa (1122 - 90 A.D.). In 1180 A.D. Duke Henry was tried in absentia for insubordination, declared an outlaw and stripped of his holdings. The original Duchy of Saxony ceased to exist, and its territories were divided amongst the various secular and ecclesiastical princes who had supported the emperor against Duke Henry.

The ducal title and three small unconnected parcels of land between the Elbe and Weser Rivers in the eastern part of the Holy Roman Empire were granted to Bernhard von Anhalt (1140 - 1212 A.D.), a cousin of Duke Henry the Lion. This is the reason the name Saxony moved eastward and came to be applied to the area around the city of Wittenberg.

As a result of the dynastic rules of inheritance, family possessions continued to be divided amongst male heirs, resulting in the splintering of ancestral lands. This gave rise to the ridiculous situation where the rulers of numerous states who could trace their ancestry to one of the rulers of the original Duchy of Saxony styled themselves Dukes of Saxony. This can be seen in the names of the numerous German principalities which had the prefix Saxe. These included Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Lauenburg, Saxe-Wittenberg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, et cetera.

Within the complicated structure of the Holy Roman Empire, the rulers of the states of Saxe-Wittenberg and Saxe-Lauenburg, the two senior amongst the bunch, each claimed the original Duke of Saxony's hereditary title of Elector of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Holy Roman Empire, in theory an elective monarchy, had



Painting of Friedrich August I "the Just" King of Saxony painted in 1823 by Carl Christian Vogel von Vogelstein (1788 - 1868), from the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, Germany.

a college of seven electors, which chose the King of the Romans, who would become Holy Roman Emperor when crowned by the pope. In 1356 A.D., Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV (1316 - 78 A.D.) issued the Golden Bull - setting down the fundamental laws of the Empire - which amongst other matters defined the method for electing the King of the Romans and fixed the electors. As a result, the Duchy of Saxe-Wittenberg became one of the seven electorates. This changed everything.

Its ruler became *Princeps Elector*, prince-elect or Kurfürst. Although not a title of nobility, it was a coveted honor which carried great prestige and made the holder second only to the emperor himself in importance within the political hierarchy of the Empire. To create a firm foundation Emperor Charles IV made the electoral state or Kurkreis indivisible. This exempted the prince-elect or Kurfürst from Salic laws governing inheritance amongst continental European nobility.

These laws required an equal division of land amongst all living male children, creating ever smaller estates. Succession in a Kurkreis would be based on primogenitor.

Ending the continual splintering of territory with each successive generation allowed for the accumulation of lands and thus the gathering of political and economic power. It laid the foundation for the creation of the great states, which would come to dominate Germany during the following centuries.

To avoid confusion with the other Saxonies, Saxe-Wittenberg came to be known as the Electorate of Saxony. She survived the turbulent periods of the Protestant Reformation, the Thirty Years' War (1618 - 48 A.D.), the Wars of the Austrian Succession (1740 - 48 A.D.) and numerous minor wars and conflicts. Her rulers at times even held the title of King of Poland.

By the mid-18th century however the Electorate of Saxony became uncomfortably squeezed between the ambitions of the Austrian Hapsburgs and the rising warlike state of Prussia-Brandenburg. Attempting, at times successfully, to play one off against the other, she eventually came to be dominated by Prussia. When Prussia, following Austria's and Russia's defeat at Austerlitz on 2 December 1805, foolishly declared war on French Emperor Napoléon I in August 1806, Saxony followed suit. Weak and dependent on Prussia she had little choice.

The result was a disaster. The previously thought invincible Prussia war machine was soundly defeated in the record time of 19 days during a lightening campaign culminating in the spectacular twin battles of Jena and Auerstädt on 14 October

1806. Prussia was broken, her capital Berlin occupied and her army ceased to exist. This left Saxony and its ruler Friedrich August III (1750 - 1827) in a very difficult position. What retribution would the victorious French exact?

If the terms imposed on the Prussians were a portent of things to come the situation for Saxony looked dire. Napoléon punished Prussia in the most severe and vindictive manner, so much so that it caused a permanent rift with his Foreign Minister Taylleyrand with far reaching implications for Napoléon and his dynasty.

Prussia lost all her territories west of the Elbe River, which she ceded to France; her Polish provinces were transformed into the Duchy of Warsaw; her Baltic port of Danzig became a free city, and she was to pay the lion's share of the 160 million francs war levy imposed on the German states which had fought against the French. In all Prussia lost about half of her territory and population. To add insult to injury the size of the Prussian standing army was limited to 40,000 men. She lost independence of foreign policy, having to provide, at her expense, men and supplies for France's armies. Furthermore, through the Berlin Decrees, she joined the Continental System, Napoléon's economic blockade of Britain, which devastated her economy. These were all formalized in the Treaties of Tilsitz, 7 - 9 July 1807.

The Saxons had dissociated themselves from Prussia immediately after Jena-Auerstädt. Partly in recognition of this, but also because he needed an ally and strong counter to Prussia, Austria and Russia, and because he could use her troops to fill the ranks of the Grande Armée, the victorious Napoléon treated her with a very gentle

hand. Captured Saxon troops were released, and her territory was left intact. In fact it was expanded at the expense of Prussia, with secession of the district of Cottbus to Saxony and the creation of Friedrich August as Duke Fryderyk August I of Warsaw.

Elector Friedrich August III (1763 -1806) was elevated to the rank of king as Friedrich August I (1806 - 27) by Napoléon. He joined Napoléon's Confederation of the Rhine and became his most loyal ally. It was not until the Battle of Leipzig (Battle of Nations) 16 - 19 October 1813 when Saxon troops deserted to the Allies and he was captured by the Prussians that this bond was broken.

The Prussians never forgave Saxony for these insults and made her pay dearly at the Congress of Vienna in 1814 - 15, when the fate of Europe and nations was decided by the Napoléon's victors.^{2,3,4,5,6,7,8}

To celebrate the alliance and close relationship between the two monarchs, the Paris Medal Mint issued a series of

commemorative medals.

The Alliance with Saxony Medal

This is the most important of the commemorative medals associated with Saxony struck by the Paris Medal Mint. Beautifully designed and executed, it is representative of every purpose to which Napoléon's regime employed the medallic arts. Rich in mythology, history, allegory, symbolism and propaganda, with this medal, Vivant Denon, Director of the Paris Medal Mint, reached back into the mists of Germanic and Saxon history. He resurrects figures from the time of the very formation of the German peoples and the foundation of the German state - the Holy Roman Empire.

At the same time he managed to link these legendary figures and their deeds with Napoléon and his actions.

Obverse:

Here can be seen the busts of Napoléon and Charles the Great or Charlemagne (742 - 814 A.D.), the first Holy Roman Emperor, facing right. Significantly the bust of Napoléon is placed on top of that of Charlemagne, giving the viewer the clear message that the former is the greater of the two.

Charlemagne is depicted as a Frankish ruler, with strong facial features, sporting a long beard and moustache, wearing the imperial crown and dressed in medieval armor. He is the very image of an early medieval warrior king.

Napoléon is depicted as Augustus in classical Roman fashion with the laurel wreath of an *imperator* or victorious general. Why was the legendary Charlemagne chosen? The reasons were multifaceted and served a variety of purposes.



Gold and jewel encrusted bust of Charlemagne

Charlemagne is a major figure in western European and especially German history. Born 10 April 742 A.D. at Aix-la-Chapelle, son of Pepin the Short ^c, mayor of the palace ^b to the Merovingian kings ^a, and grandson of Charles Martel who defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Tours in 732 A.D.

In 752 A.D. Pepin the Short, with papal permission, deposed Childeric III the last Merovingian king. Having united the various Merovingian kingdoms, he became the first King of the Franks.

Upon Pepin's death in 768 A.D., according to Salic law the kingdom was divided between his two sons, Charlemagne and Carloman, who jointly became Kings of the Franks. When Carloman died in 771 A.D., Charlemagne seized Carloman's territories, ignoring his brother's children, and became sole ruler. During his reign he expanded Frankish domains in all directions, eventually creating a European kingdom the size of which had not been seen

since the Roman Empire.

In 774 A.D. he conquered and absorbed the Kingdom of Lombardy in northern Italy and assumed its iron crown. In 788 A.D. he conquered Bavaria. In the north, after 30 years and 18 battles, he subdued the Saxon confederation. In addition to these he conquered many other pagan tribes and at the point of the sword converted them to Christianity.



Obverse of the Alliance with Saxony medal, showing the busts of Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, and Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor .

The papacy had fostered a close relationship with the Carolingians, looking to the most powerful rulers in Western Europe for protection and as a counter to the Byzantine emperor. To cement this relationship Pope Stephen II (715 - 57 A.D.) anointed Pepin as *Patricius* in 754 A.D., making him regent and protector of Italy, an honor which legally could only be conferred by the Byzantine emperor. In 756 A.D. Pepin in turn made the Donation of Pepin, conferring on the papacy territory in Italy, which laid the foundations for the *Patrimonium Petri* (papal states).

Pope Leo III (750 - 816 A.D.), on 25 December 800 A.D., brought matters to a head and took things to their logical conclusion by crowning Charlemagne *Imperator Romanorum* (Emperor of the Romans). This re-established the western part of the Roman Empire - Holy Roman Empire - and formalized the break with Byzantium. It did not all go the papacy's way; its strategy was a double-edged sword. One master had been replaced with another, for Charlemagne was quick to assert that he was sovereign and not subordinate to the pope.

Rather he adopted the strictest Byzantine tradition and saw himself and his office, like that of the Byzantine emperor, superior in station to the Church. The papacy saw things differently, which would lead to centuries of power struggles between temporal and secular forces.

As the first Holy Roman Emperor, Charlemagne came to be seen by many as the embodiment of the dream for the return to the unity, prosperity and peace of the Roman Empire - a Europe united. After the chaos of the Dark Ages, the creation of a pan-European state became the ideal and the ambition of many a ruler.

It is here that the significance of the choice of Charlemagne lies. Napoléon aspired to the mantle of the unifier of Europe, the resurrector of the Roman Empire, the restorer of its traditions, power and peace. Napoléon's assumption of the title Emperor of the French in 1804 A.D. harkens back to Charlemagne's title King of the Franks. It is the title of the ruler of a people, not a geographic area, a subtle but important differentiation from the titles of Napoléon's contemporary rulers and those of the kings of France. It invokes the ancient heritage of the



Franks from which the French people descend. This decent can be seen in the name Germanic peoples, such as the Dutch and Germans, use for France - Frankrijk or Frankreich - Kingdom of the Franks. It appealed to the imagination of Napoléon's French subjects.

It was also designed to appeal to his German subjects and allies. Having effectively dissolved the Holy Roman Empire, Napoléon had created the Confederacy of the Rhine, a collection of German states with him as protector. This association gave it a form of legitimacy. Another element was religious in nature. Charlemagne spread Christianity throughout his domains and those of his vassals. Napoléon restored religion, especially the Catholic Church, to a place of prominence in the life of the French nation, after it had been suppressed during the French Revolution. Thus both rulers were benefactors and protectors of the Church and the papacy. Both rulers however used religion as an instrument of power and governance. They viewed the Church and the papacy as subordinate to their sovereignty.

The parallels are unmistakable. Both rulers were sanctified by the pope, both created an empire, both were victorious generals and both viewed themselves as benefactors and protectors of the Christian faith. One essential difference is that Napoléon saw himself as the one who, after more than 1000 years, would finally be successful in realizing the ideal of a pan-European state, the resurrection of the Roman Empire in the West in cohesion and scale, something Charlemagne did not bring about.

For this reason Napoléon is depicted as Augustus, the founder of the Roman

Empire proper, and his bust is superimposed on that of Charlemagne. Napoléon viewed himself, of the two, the more legitimate heir of Augustus.

Reverse:

For this side of the medal, the designers reached into the mists of the history of the Saxon people, finding powerful parallels. Here are found the busts of Vitikind and Friedrich August I, both styled as R.S. - *Rex Saxonum* (King of the Saxons).

Who was

Vitikind



Reverse of the Alliance with Saxony medal, showing the busts of Vitikind, "King of the Saxons", and Friedrich August I, King of Saxony.

(c.777 - c. 810 A.D.)?

The most difficult task to accomplish when designing medals is choosing the proper subject matter, to provide the viewer with a clear, concise and easy to understand message. The persona of Vitikind does this, fulfilling the political, religious and propaganda purposes perfectly.

Vitikind^d - , like Charlemagne, is a legendary yet real historic figure. He was one of the leaders of the tribal confederation of the

Saxons. During the long struggle against the Franks, to retain their independence, Vitikind emerged as a hero. He became Charlemagne's chief protagonist. The sources, written by the Franks, refer to him as a "rebel" and "traitor".

Although Charlemagne had nominally defeated the Saxons in 772 A.D., they stubbornly refused to acknowledge this fact. Attempts by the Franks to reorganize and Christianize the Saxons met with resistance and frequent revolts. More than any other pagan peoples, the Saxons proved to be the most difficult and costly to subdue. Subsequent to each revolt, Charlemagne's retribution and reparations

became increasingly harsh.

Following the second revolt in 775 A.D., Charlemagne exacted hostages and cattle.

In 777 A.D. he made them swear allegiance on the pain of becoming slaves if they rebelled again and stopped being Christians. It is in

this year that Vitikind is first mentioned in the chronicles for his failure to make an appearance at Charlemagne's court, having instead gone to Sigurd Hring, King of Denmark and his father-in-law.

In 778 A.D. Vitikind rallied the Saxons and defeated a Frankish army, while Charlemagne himself was away dealing with affairs in Spain. Vitikind proved to be a formidable foe, allying with other pagan tribes such as the Frisians against the Franks.

Subsequent annual campaigns by the Franks increased in ferocity. One particularly savage episode in 782 A.D. saw on the orders of Charlemagne the execution of 4,500 Saxons at the Bloody Verdict of Verden for practicing their pagan beliefs. This was despite the fact that they had just accepted Christianity and been baptized.

Finally in 786 A.D. Vitikind surrendered with the understanding that he would not be harmed. Charlemagne, perhaps because he respected his opponent or for the pragmatic reason to conclude what was proving to be an exhaustive struggle for both sides, agreed not to harm him. Vitikind agreed to be baptized, did homage and swore fealty to God and Charlemagne. The latter stood as his godfather.

After this, Vitikind disappears from the chronicles. Historians speculate that Charlemagne had him tonsured and placed in a monastery - his normal practice for dealing with deposed rulers and leaders. Even without Vitikind, active Saxon resistance against the Franks flared up again in 794 A.D. and continued until 804 A.D.

Although one of a number of Saxon tribal leaders, with time Vitikind was transformed into the Duke of Saxony and eventually the King of the Saxons. This transformation may be explained by the need for medieval chroniclers to provide Charlemagne with an opponent of sufficient status, not just a mere tribal leader.

It may also be attributed to the fact that the Ottonian dynasty, which replaced the Frankish kings in East Francia (Germany) in the 10th century, were of Saxon extraction and claimed direct descent from Vitikind. Another interesting metamorphosis is that performed by the Catholic Church which made him her own by creating him a saint - the "Blessed Vitikind". The building of many churches is attributed to him.⁹

This man who had actively resisted the destruction of his people's pagan religion and culture was rehabilitated and drafted into the cause. For others Vitikind came to symbolize the selfless leader who sacrifices all for his people and resists the forces of oppression, both religious and secular.

The second figure on the medal's reverse is that of Friedrich August I (1750- 1827 A.D.), King of Saxony. Born Friedrich Augustus Joseph Maria Anton Johann Nepomuk Aloys Xavier, he succeeded to the ducal throne at the tender age of 13. His unfortunate father, Friedrich Christian (1722 - 63 A.D.), died of smallpox, having been Prince-Elector of Saxony for less than

three months. His wife, the Dowager Electress Maria Antonia Walpurgis of Bavaria (1724 - 80 A.D.) and brother, Prince Franz Xavier (1724 - 1806 A.D.), acted as co-regents during the minority.

They continued the economic, governmental, social and political reforms begun under the previous elector. These reforms were in response to the state the duchy found itself in as a result of the ruinous economic and foreign policies of his grandfather, Elector Friedrich August II (1696 - 1763 A.D.) and his prime-minister Heinrich von Brühl (1700- 63 A.D.), which had dragged Saxony into the Seven Years War (1756 - 63 A.D.), with disastrous consequences.

Saxony was invaded and captured by Friedrich II (the Great) in 1756 A.D., her capital Dresden occupied and her army forced to join that of Prussia. Although the Treaty of Hubertusburg (1763 A.D.) ostensibly restored the status quo antebellum, and Saxony regained her independence, she was greatly weakened and under Prussian domination.

In 1765 A.D., in accordance with the treaty with Prussia and Russia of 1764 and against the



Obverse: showing Napoléon in his campaign uniform facing right. The legend reads: NAPOLEO IMP. GALL. IT. REX HOSPES DRESDAE D. XVIII IUL MDCCCVII "Napoleon France Emperor Italy King Guest at Dresden D^{at}um" 18 July 1807".

Medal commemorating Napoléon's visit to the Saxony capital Dresden in 1807 following Friedrich August's installation as Frydryk August I Duke of Warsaw.

Artist: Hoeckner (German medallist)
Composition: silver
Weight: 24.75g; **diameter:** 41mm.

Note the different styles of dress: Napoléon is dressed in the simple uniform of a colonel of the Grenadiers à pieds de la garde (his Sunday best) with sache and hair cropped short. Friedrich August is shown in the uniform and hair style of the Ancien Regime.



Reverse: showing Frydryk August I Duke of Warsaw, facing left in military uniform with the star of the Legion d'honneur on his left breast. The legend reads: FRID AUGUST. REX SAXONIAE VARSOVIAE DUX "Friedrich August King of Saxony Duke of Warsaw".

wishes of the Dowager Electress, he renounced the Polish crown which his great-grandfather, grandfather and father had held. He was however named the new Polish king's successor, as was the head of the Saxon Electoral house under the newly ratified Polish constitution. Becoming ruler in his own right in 1768 A.D., he was truly loved by his subjects. He is said to have been modest, unassuming and conscientious, interested in and governing for the welfare of his subjects. He became known as "the Just". Napoléon judged him to be "the most honest man who ever held a sceptre."¹⁰

Having learned the lessons from his grandfather's disasters, he tried to keep Saxony out of great power politics. He refused the Polish crown when its holder died in 1798 A.D. for fear of becoming entangled in the never ending dispute between Austria, Prussia and Russia for the Polish provinces. In 1791 he did not sign the Declaration of Pilnitz - aristocratic Europe's response to Revolutionary France - and did not join the Confederation of the Rhine when it was first formed in 1806.

This policy of neutrality was partly successful, but the rough neighbourhood Saxony found herself in, the ambitions of the great powers and the vortex of the changes brought by the fall of the Ancien Regime ultimately caused its failure. She could not avoid becoming a pawn in and victim of events beyond her control.

The watershed moment came in 1806. Prussia declared war on the French Empire, and Saxony followed suit. In truth Saxony had little choice, as Prussia dominated her, moved across her territory at will and essentially controlled her armed forces. As discussed earlier things were concluded at lightening speed in

favor of Napoléon, and Saxony found herself at his mercy. To her surprise and uncharacteristically the French emperor was very generous.

Saxon prisoners of war were released, her capital was spared and her territory was respected. Saxony joined Napoléon's Confederation of the Rhine on 11 December 1806 A.D.

As part of Napoléon's grand reorganization of the political landscape, which saw the redrawing of the map of Europe, especially amongst the German states, Saxony was enlarged at Prussia's expense and transformed into a kingdom. Friedrich August III was elevated from Elector to King Friedrich August I of Saxony on 20 December 1806 and in July 1807 created duke of the newly created Duchy of Warsaw. Saxony and her ruler became staunch allies of the French.

Why did Napoléon do this? Simple, he needed a credible counter to Austrian, Prussian and Russian ambitions in the region. He needed an ally he could control. Prussia was unreliable, Russia was his main rival and Austria had her own agenda, as such Saxony fit the criteria. Furthermore she had a legitimate historic claim to Polish territory, which would prove convenient to legitimize his plans for that region.

As part of the Polish desire for statehood, the Polish parliament by proclamation created him king of the restored Kingdom of Poland in July 1812. Napoléon however protested against this. In addition Saxony furnished the Grande Armée with 20,000 troops and supplies, while the Duchy of Warsaw provided the famous Polish legions, which during the Russian Campaign of 1812 amounted to 95,000 men.

Medal struck by the Paris Medal Mint commemorating Friedrich August's 1809 visit.

***Artist: Andrieu
Composition: bronzed copper
Weight: 38.55g
Diameter: 41mm.***



***Obverse: shows Friedrich August with Ancien Regime head dress facing right.
The legend reads: FREDERIC AUGUSTE ROI DE SAXE.***



***Reverse: has 6 lines of text which read: S.M. LE ROI DE SAXE VISITE LA MONNAIE DES MÉDAILLES EN DÉCEMBRE MDCCCIX
"His Majesty the King of the Saxons visited the Medal Mint in December 1809".***

After the Russian disaster things began to unravel for Napoléon. This placed Saxony and her ruler in an awkward position. When the uprisings against French rule in Germany, known as the War of Liberation, started in 1813 A.D., Saxony was at a disadvantage. Napoléon made her the centre of his operations, concentrated large numbers of troops there

and made it clear that he would treat Saxony as enemy territory if she switched sides.

As the French appeared to be loosing Friedrich August, looking to the future and the well-being of his people, made overtures to the allies. He came to an understanding with Austria and communicated this to Russia and Prussia. Napoléon got wind of this and following several victories over the Prussians and Russians summoned Friedrich August. Left with little choice nor hope of concrete Austrian assistance, the king complied.

Friedrich August was also distrustful of Prussian and Russian intentions, concerns well founded, as these failed to respond to his overtures. In the meantime things went from bad to worse. Napoléon made Dresden the axis for the movement of his armies, and Saxony became the main battleground.

When his troops switched sides in 1813 during the Battle of Nations or Leipzig, Friedrich August remained loyal to Napoléon. He was captured by the Prussians following the battle.

During the peace and future of Europe post-Napoléon talks at the Congress of Vienna 1814-15, unlike other rulers - former allies of Napoléon or not - Friedrich August was treated in a very high-handed manner and against all established protocols. He was completely excluded from participating in the Congress. In fact he was held captive by the Prussians in Berlin.

At the Congress, the Prussians, ever in a vengeful mood and hoping to finally realize their age old dream of gaining Saxony's economically and culturally more advanced territories and cities of Dresden and Leipzig, wanted to exact revenge. Their aim was to depose Friedrich August and annex all of Saxony. In return for the Duchy of Warsaw, and as compensation for Prussian loss of territory in Poland, Russia had agreed to support Prussia's aims. In anticipation of this, Prussian troops had occupied Saxony. Ultimately as the Congress of Vienna dragged on and divisions amongst the allies became more pronounced, Austria, aided by the France of Louis XVIII, both being fearful of the growing strength of Russian and Prussia, but especially the latter, came belatedly to Saxony's aid.

Finally, through mediation by Czar Alexander I (1777 - 1825 A.D.), who feared the Congress might break-up without any resolution, the Saxon question was settled. By treaty on 21 May 1815, Saxony lost 57% of her territory and 42% of her population to Prussia. The following day

Friedrich August abdicated as Duke of Warsaw, which was reconstituted as the Kingdom of Poland in hereditary union with Russia.

When Friedrich August returned to Saxony, he was enthusiastically received by his people, who resented the harsh treatment their country and its ruler had suffered at the hands of Prussia and Russia. He continued to rule, in a conservative manner, what was left of his kingdom until his death on 5 May 1827.

By placing Vitikind and Friedrich August on this medal, Napoléon made a very powerful political statement. By linking the distant mystical heroic past with the present, he legitimized his actions and policies. Like Charlemagne he had been magnanimous in dealing with his defeated Saxon foe.

Like Charlemagne he was an emperor and had conquered a vast empire. Napoléon here made it plain for all to see, especially the German princes, that he claimed the inheritance of Charlemagne - the revival of the Roman Empire in the West. It was also a statement to the Austrian Hapsburgs that he, Napoléon I Emperor of the French, was the legitimate overlord and protector of the German states.^{11, 12}

It was Napoléon who had the power and right by virtue of his military genius to remake the political map of Europe, to create kings and depose rulers as he saw fit.

It must be realized that the portraits on the medal of Charlemagne and Vitikind are pure fantasy. No contemporary depiction of either figure is known to exist. As for the portraits of Napoléon and Friedrich August these are stylized and do not provide truly accurate depictions. Nonetheless the medal is a beautifully executed example of the use of the medallion arts at their height for propaganda purposes.

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Alliance with Saxony:

details: artist: Andrieu; composition: silver;
weight: 37.94g; diameter: 41mm.

references:

- Bramsen 551
- Essling 1149
- Leu 201
- Millin 207
- Slg. Julius 1623
- TN, Empire 15.1
- Laskey 78

References for Napoleon at Dresden medal:

- Bramsen 654
- Essling 1180
- Leu
- Millin 222
- Slg. Julius
- TN, Empire 21.3

References for Paris Medal Mint Visit medal:

- Bramsen 883
- Essling 1259
- Leu
- Millin 250
- Slg. Julius
- TN, Empire 34.6
- Laskey 108

End Notes:

a - the Merovingians were Salian Frankish dynasty ruling in the area of Gaul, present day France;

b - mayor of the palace was at first only a minor position, but by the time of Charles Martel and Pepin it had been transformed into the most powerful office in the Merovingian kingdoms. From here Charlemagne's family was able to consolidate

their hold on power and eventually usurpe the throne;

c - all that is really known of Charlemagne's mother is her name - Berthe or Bertrada;

d - alternately spelled Witekind, Widukind or Wittekind.

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Continued from page 3 - President

will be holding elections for all executive positions at that meeting, so be sure to attend if you'd like your vote to count. If you'd like to nominate anyone, please contact either Terry Cheesman or me before the 9th please.

A quick postscript to something we reported on last fall; the US government has decided to honour Italy's request that importation of certain ancient coinage be restricted. It's possible that the Canadian government has probably received a similar request and could pass something like this without our even knowing it, since there is no real group looking out for the collector's interests here. While this doesn't affect too many of us, the precedent has definitely been established, and this could be the tip of the iceberg. We should really consider forming a lobby group designed to protect the collector, because as we all know, once any particular government gets it that a certain group is easy pickings for regulation and tax, they'll go for it. Just something to consider when you go and pick up your next foreign eBay purchase...it pays to be vigilant.

We look forward seeing you at the next meeting this February 9th. Remember to bring your items for Show and Tell, the Silent Auction and to make your vote counts.

Marc Bink - Vice-President





Classified & Coming Events

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NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Dave Cummings

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.

"Attributed Canadian Maverick Tokens"

ENS member Eric Jensen, Calgary, has compiled a 100 page listing of "Attributed Canadian Maverick Tokens". This is a great reference and research document which readily establishes if a particular token with no town, city or province named, has been previously identified. This reference is in PDF format and can be easily downloaded to any pc computer, which saves printing. The document is very user-friendly and names are easily searchable. This is a "live" document which will be updated as any new tokens are identified that fit into the listing. All Canadian maverick tokens that have been attributed are cross-referenced to the source. Any ENS member may request this document from Eric and it will be emailed to you free of charge. Eric may be contacted direct at egjensen@telus.net.

Coming Events

February 9, 2011 - ENS December Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

March 9, 2011 - ENS October Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

March 12 & 13, 2011 - Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale, Saturday 10:00 - 17:30 hrs, Sunday 10:00 - 16:30 hrs, Century Casino and Hotel, 13103 Fort Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5A 1C3, (780) 643-4000, Admission: \$5.00 (under 16 years of age free), info: www.edmontoncoinclub.com or info_ens@yahoo.ca Dealers wishing to attend please call: (780) 270-6312.

Mar. 25 - 27, 2011 - Spring National Stamp Show (with competitive exhibits). Sponsored by the Edmonton Stamp Club, at Fantasyland Hotel Conference Centre, West Edmonton Mall. More info from www.edmontonstampclub.com.



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