Annual ENS BBQ DATE CHANGE - Page 11

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Edmonton Numismatic Society





NUMISMATIC PROPAGANDA



NUMISMI-APP



"TRIBUTE PENNY"



The Planchet



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The Planchet Team:

Editor-In-Chief: Roger Grove Content Editor: Chris Hale Co-Editors: Pierre Driessen &

Marc Bink

On-Line Distribution: Pierre

Printing and Mailing: Howard

Gilbey

ON THE COVER:

Close up of Meiji 1 Yen, year 26 (1893) Japan. Obverse: Dragon. 416. ONE YEN-900. Reverse: Denomination (in Japanese kanji text) surrounded by wreath and stylized chrysanthemum flower (Imperial Seal of Japan).

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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1806 - a fateful year for the thrones of Europe commemorated.

by Pierre Driessen



Message from the President

David Peter 2011-12



As summer comes up, we do a lot of travelling. We become coin tourists by trying to venture to different coin shops or attending one of the major coin conventions, either the RCNA or the ANA. Every year we offer a bursary to help cover costs, if you are interested in being a club delegate to the RCNA. These events are excellent opportunities to learn and discover numismatics beyond a local setting and to meet a lot of like-minded individuals.

June is upon us now, and we're just coming up to our summer break. Two more events are left - our June meeting and our annual BBQ. Jeremy Martin has graciously volunteered his time and home for this year's BBQ. I hope to see you all there: 8510 -10 Ave, NW, Edmonton (Millwoods).

This year will be a little different, as we'll have a summer issue of *The Planchet*. Those who would still like to write an article can contact Roger Grove. And if you do have the opportunity to visit one of the national events or come across something interesting this summer, we would love to hear about it at the September meeting.

David



Wednesday, June 8, 2011



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

- new ENS brochure
- Sherritt update
- show appraisal training update
- ANA course material update
- annual ENS BBQ
- ENS 60th Anniversary
- show progress update posters and flyers
- silent auction (bring the items you wish to sell)
- show and tell (bring your recent finds and discoveries)
- "Striking for Success" and "The Collector's Choice"

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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The Planchet June 2011

About Your Society

ENS Meeting, May 5, 2011

7:28 pm the meeting was opened by David Peter, President. The first item of discussion was the new venue for the Fall show, the Edmonton Hotel and Convention Centre off of Sherwood Park Freeway. The hotel is newly renovated. Pierre informed members that we are looking at having junior coin clubs do a coat check. The set up is already there for the coat check, and the junior clubs will get to keep all money they generate. Marc said we will require filling 42 volunteer slots for the show. This includes everything from setup, take-down, appraisal table, admissions, etc. See Marc Bink if you are interested in volunteering. This is a bigger show than the previous one, so we will require more volunteers. In the past our volunteers have done a wonderful job, and everything has run very smoothly because of them.

There will be another silent auction at this upcoming show. Howard brought consignment forms for members. You must be a member to consign items. This time the silent auction will run only on the Saturday trying to keep it simple for everyone. There will be a maximum of 5 lots for each consignor with an auction limit of 60 lots. Get your consignments in ASAP, September at the latest, so Howard can have all items in the catalogue in October. Some consignment forms will also be at Ray Neiman's shop (National Pride Coin and Stamp).

David Peter asked for volunteers to host the annual members only BBQ this summer. Jeremy Martin volunteered his house. The BBQ will be on Sunday, June 26th, at 8510 – 10 Ave. NW, Edmonton. Thanks Jeremy for offering to host this year.

Marc Bink gave an update on the Sherritt items. Thirteen boxes of miscellaneous items were identified from the rolling mill as being of interest to the club. We were able to obtain samples of nearly everything that the rolling mill produced, including some world coinage. Sherritt offered to donate the 13 boxes to the ENS. The club will now need to catalogue, display the items and conduct research on them.

Dan Gosling, President of the RCNA, gave a short talk on the status of Canadian clubs and how clubs can help each other out. There are several clubs which are struggling and several that are doing very well. Something being looked at is how the successful clubs can help out the ones that are struggling.

Pierre discussed how the pending Canada Post strike could delay members from receiving their mailed version of The Planchet. He then talked about a new pricing structure that would be implemented for new members who desired to receive The Planchet by mail. They would be required to pay an extra \$25 to cover the costs of printing The Planchet, mailing and envelope. This \$25 would be on top of the normal \$15 membership fee and would only apply to new members. Any existing members who currently receive The Planchet by mail would continue to receive it by mail with no change in cost to them, as long as they keep their membership current.

David discussed a new committee that he had formed – a committee to review methods to take more advantage of all the current technology out there to reach more distant members and spread information about numismatics.

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The Sun Ascendant

By Marc Bink



fter returning home in your car, you'll probably settle down and boot sup your computer to read *The Planchet*, upload some neat photos from your new camera, or watch TV, when you suddenly look at your watch and discover that it's getting pretty late. So what do all of the things mentioned in this sentence have in common? They were probably all made in Japan. Just about everything having to do with modern vehicles and electronics either is entirely made in Japan, has components from that country or was designed there. Considering that over 150 years ago the country exported nothing to anyone and was closed off to the world, this is

quite an achievement.

In recent months, all eyes in the world were again focused on Japan, as a section of that country went through a disaster that is endemic in Japanese history; an earthquake followed by a killer tsunami. It will be interesting to see how this all plays out, but knowing a bit about the Japanese, chances are what they rebuild will be better than what existed there before.

Of course this is supposed to be an article about coins, but as with most of my coin articles, there's quite a bit of history thrown in as well. I've always been fascinated by totalitarian states and transitions (hoping never to live in one or through an upheaval myself), and the Japanese experience of the late 19th through early 20th century is very interesting. Japan was primarily an agrarian culture that suddenly shook off its backwardness and zoomed into the forefront of world technology in a little under 100 years. The Japanese survived earthquakes, tsunamis, wars, and the atom bomb to become one of the world's great economic powerhouses.

Of course this transition didn't come easily or cheaply. It killed off a class of people and bankrupted the country. In a nutshell, here's what happened.

By 1850 Japan was a secluded and closed society. There was almost no foreign trade, the government was stable and so was the culture. Japan was a feudal society and had been one for thousands of years. Everything

> was unfolding like it had for the past 10,000 years. The country was remarkably self-sufficient in supplying its population with everything it needed. There was no reason to trade outside of the country or its immediate

repelled. There was some local trade with Korea and China, but this was very controlled and limited. Western cultures had tried to trade with Japan before but always wound up getting

thrown out or eradicated. The last great upheaval had occurred at the dawn of the Edo period (1603-

1868), when the Portuguese had established a mission in Nagasaki and had attempted to Christianize some of the local population. Once the Tokugawa Shogunate had established itself, the Portuguese were driven out, and the Christians they left behind were either eradicated or driven deep underground. Aside from a few

very light incursions into Japan, western culture and technology remained off-limits to the Japanese public. Anyone with any exposure to the West was considered suspect. But by the 1850s these attitudes were beginning to change, much to the consternation of the shogun and



10 Sen, year 8, (1875) Y #23





50 Sen, Y #4, Early issue, year 4, (1871)

the local daimyos, or lesser families. The shogun was responsible to the Emperor, who was by this point reduced to a mere figurehead and kept in seclusion in Kyoto. The shogun held the real national power and maintained the largest amount of real property and tax revenue. The daimyos controlled their "hans" (districts) and owed their allegiance to the shogun. They too generated revenue and taxes from property under their direct control and paid vassals to run things locally for them. These were for the most part samurai, a warrior class. They could be loosely equated to western knights, they acted as enforcers for the local daimyos, and maintained estates, lording over the local population of peasants. As such, these families of samurai were constantly vying for more control and fortune; Japanese history is rife with conflicts between various families and factions, all supposedly operating in the interests of the Emperor. And so it continued to the point where the Tokugawa family had ruled as shoguns since 1603.

But Japan had not been entirely closed off during the last shogunate. It had been importing some Western ideas and technology, and it did occasionally send people out to get educated in Western ways and learn new technologies. But with the advent of the Industrial Revolution in Europe a gap opened up between what the Japanese had and what the European powers could produce, and this was especially apparent in weaponry and metallurgy.

The Japanese were by culture very xenophobic and did not trust anything foreign, nor did they

want any foreigners meddling with their society or government. Japanese society had very specific rules and codes governing the roles of people within the society, and they had some interesting rules regarding what was supposed to be done with the offenders. They were a very honour based people, centred around the family unit, and the ultimate price for loss of face for the family was death. Each person had a role to fulfill. Western law was considered barbaric and not as civilized as Japanese law. The fact that everything in western law was open to interpretation and discussion was also anathema to Japanese culture. The code of Bushido ruled the land and dictated how one should behave. The fact was if one did someone else wrong, that individual was expected to commit seppuku.1 This was the honourable way out and left the family a chance to continue on. Failure to do so would inevitably result in the family's killing the offender, if only to save face. Needless to say, that didn't fly well with the first westerners who came over preaching Christianity and "love". They saw the Japanese as barbaric and uncivilized. The shogunate was determined not to have a repeat of what had happened in China; western powers basically running amok and treating the locals like they were uncivilized savages. To the Japanese the Europeans and their funny attitudes about life, hygiene and religion made them seem like barbarians, not the other way around. The Japanese were very determined to protect their sovereignty, and if they had to enter world commerce and politics, they had to be recognized 1Seppuku: Japanese form of ritual suicide where the person committing suicide would disembowel himself with the short sword, and then be swiftly beheaded by a "second" (an aide) with the long sword. To be someone's "second" was considered a high honour.



as equals and not beholden to some colonizing power.

It all started to come apart in 1808 when the British frigate "Phaeton" turned up in the Nagasaki harbour looking for Dutch ships. The British with their typical disdain for national sensitivities and borders rolled in and threatened to blow the place apart if the Japanese didn't start talking. This disturbed the shogun who very quickly realized that he possessed no kind of armour or weaponry to repel them. It's tough to kill a cannon or a musketeer with a sword. Japanese metallurgy extended only to making beautiful swords for the samurai, but not much else. These swords were real pieces of art, made by craftsmen trained in centuries old practices involving a combination of heat and cold rolling iron to form steel that would hold an edge. But the shogun had no cannon and no way to make them. So coming up with a workable solution to these pesky western incursions was a problem. By the 1820s, a movement called the "sonno joi" ("revere the Emperor, expel the barbarians") had started up in earnest, and most Europeans or Westerners who had the misfortune of being shipwrecked on Japan were put to death immediately and without trial. Add a couple of famines and a few earthquakes during the 1830s, and there is a lot of discontent amongst the local population. Whole families of samurai were being displaced and reduced to poverty. These would become part of the merchant class and eventually form the great zaibatsu of the 20 century².

2 Zaibatsu were large industrial combines formed by the heads of all the major companies in Japan. Their main purpose was to control pricing and influence government policy by presenting a uniform position on any issue that could affect it. The people who ran most of the large industrial companies in Japan in

The Americans were the first to see some economic potential in Japan, and they had previously tried to make inroads there. It was primarily whaling that attracted westerners to this area and not reverence for the fine craftsmanship of samurai swords. It took Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry and his squadron to get things really rolling. Perry turned up with his 4 ships in Edo (now Tokyo) harbour very suddenly in 1853. This threw the bakufu (government) in turmoil, because it had absolutely no way to deal with this threat. One ship could be dealt with, but not 4 at once. So it was decided it would be best to agree to Perry's demands to open foreign trade and buy some time to prepare for what was seen as the inevitable clash. Some of the daimyos already wanted to go to war to drive the barbarians out. The Emperor wasn't too fond of them either, having been forced to be exposed to someone like Perry. During this period, the Emperor lived a very secluded lifestyle and would never see any "commoners", especially those with a disdain for personal hygiene like that of any seaman of the time would have had. The Emperor was used to people bowing before him and never had to look anyone in the face. That just doesn't jive with our Western approach to things, and Perry wasn't particularly known for his cultural sensitivity. One could say he was the first "ugly American" to grace Japanese shores and make quite a distasteful impression. There would be more, and the Emperor

the early 20th century were descendants of samurai families, and as such, had a natural affinity to socialize and do business together. There was never anything covert about them or immoral; it was an accepted way to do business. Here in the West we have laws against this sort of monopolizing; in Japan there was no need. These zaibatsu were instrumental in influencing Japanese foreign policy throughout the early 20th century until they were broken up by the Allied Occupational Government after World War II. They've never completely gone away either; they are now known as "lobbies" and still wield considerable influence over the Japanese government.

did not want to be subjected to the indignity of any delete of it. He plotted with the bakufu to eventually eradicate the

foreigners.

The bakufu decided to order ships and cannon from the Dutch and set up a naval training school in Nagasaki. They quickly erected some defensive batteries in Edo harbour. To buy more time they concluded trade agreements with the British, Dutch, French and Russians. There were a few skirmishes between local daimyos and the foreign barbarians, but these generally went badly for the Japanese. Some of the southern daimyos realized quite early on that this was going to be the way the world would work from here on in, so instead of fighting the foreigners they made deals with them. To keep the locals at bay the bakufu launched a few defensive campaigns against some of the more progressive daimyos. The whole idea here was that the bakufu did not want to wind up like China, defenseless and subjugated under humiliating terms by foreign powers. It realized the only way to keep these foreigners out was by industrializing and rearming its armies with modern weapons. How this goal was to be arrived at was the major problem, and it resulted in the bakufu being replaced by more progressive elements which definitely felt that things were proceeding too slowly. The old Emperor died in 1867 but not before issuing edicts to have the Westerners evicted and eradicated. His son, Mutsuhito, decided to side with the more progressive factions and open the floodgates to the West in the hope that the Japanese could learn and modify their society along more modern lines and become an equal on the world stage as opposed to a vassal of some colonial power.





1/2 Sen, year 16, (1883) Y # 16.2

This became known as the Meiji Restoration. It set the stage for the next great upheaval in Japan, and this one, unlike the earthquakes that periodically tear through there, was entirely manmade.

The Meiji Restoration

Mutsuhito took the throne on February 3, 1867, and the full imperial restoration took place a year later on January 3, 1868. The first thing to change was the constitution. The shogun was overthrown in favor of a constitutional monarchy. Democratic reforms were sweeping, however suffrage was limited to a small percentage of the population. The "hans" and the daimyos were replaced by prefectures, each ruled by a governor. At first, the old daimyos were placed into these positions. However, they were made elective, and most daimyos wound up unemployed when their first tenures were completed. Taxes were generally kept the same, except that instead of being paid to the daimyos the new federal government would receive them. The system by which they were paid also changed. In the beginning and from time immemorial they had been paid in rice and the ability to forecast rice futures. The peasantry had never seen any real cash and had no use for it. The whole system ran on barter.

The urbanized merchant class had been using a system of money that was essentially borrowed from the Chinese around a thousand years earlier. Brass and iron cast "mon" circulated freely as a medium of exchange where sacks of rice and large goods like cattle could not. These mon coins looked a lot like the ones minted in China. They were cast and only bore information about the issuer and the denomination on them. There were never any portraits. They all had square holes, designed for placing a rod through them and filing down excess flash after they had been removed from the cast. This square hole of course had other uses. One could place many on a string and carry them around. A certain amount or weight of these mon coins could be translated into silver. Silver coinage as we know it was generally unknown to the East Asians until the introduction of the Mexican dollar. The Japanese cast silver and gold into ingots and hammered or painted the weight and purity on them. But these were used more by the government and banks, hardly ever by any member of the general public. The late issue "ichibu" and "nu bu" coins were a mixture of silver and gold, established along the lines of the



1 Yen, Countermarked with Gin mark from the Tokyo mint, year 26. (1893) This is the rarer of the two countermarked issues. The Osaka mint put the gin on the left side of the coin. Krause Y #28a2

1:5 standard. Most of these probably wound up in

western melting pots when Japanese gold and silver was overweight in terms of payment. The middlemen handled cash, and the rate by which silver could be exchanged for gold was set by the bakufu. As previously stated, the system prevalent at the time was a gold to silver exchange rate of 1:5, whereas most of Japan's trading partners were using 1:15. This resulted in a huge outflow of gold from Japan and destroyed its economic system. The Tokugawa system had been in place for thousands of years, and the new government was faced with the prospect of devaluing the "ryo" or

going broke. Here again, the Japanese only had to look to the Chinese mainland to see how they too could wind up if they didn't do something. So the new Japanese government invited the Bank of England to come in and set up its new currency and banking system, which it did. This was the start of a long and fruitful partnership between the Japanese and the British, and it eventually extended into naval treaties and ship-building partnerships.

These reforms involved using a new unit of currency called the yen, which was divided into 100 sen. Denominations included the 1 rin, ½ sen, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 sen, and the 1 yen. Coins from

the 1 rin to the 2 sen were bronze, the rest were made from good silver. The silver yen coin

was the same size as the Mexican silver dollar, and the Japanese also issued a slightly larger trade dollar until 1897.

Gold coins were made in the 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 yen denominations. The introduction of the yen was phased in gradually in 1871 after the "New Currency Act" was officially made law. In Japanese the word "yen" means "round object".

The new yen coin was pegged at the same value and weight as the Spanish Mexican dollar which was the prevailing coin of trade in Southeast Asia at the time. Minting equipment came from Hong Kong after authorities there had attempted unsuccessfully to make Hong

Kong trade dollars to replace the Mexican pieces. In 1870 the first "modern" mint in Japan was established in Osaka. The yen was then tied to the European Congress of Economics standard by being set at 24.26 grams of pure silver or 1.5 grams of pure gold. Thus the the 5 yen coin was equivalent to the Argentine 5 peso coin, effectively putting Japan on a bimetallic standard like most of the European nations at the time. Silver was devalued worldwide in 1873, and the value of the yen compared to the American and the new Canadian dollar dropped, because Japan was essentially on the gold standard. By 1897 Japan officially signed onto the accepted world gold standard, and the yen was pegged at US \$ 0.50. Coinage



Close-up of countermark

ENS Annual BBQ

Free for members in good standing.

Your host for this year's event is Jeremy Martin.

Event details are as follows: Date: Sunday - June 26, 2011 Arrival time: 4:00 pm Address: 8510 - 10 Ave NW (Millwoods)

Food, cuttery, plates and glasses will be provided by the ENS. We ask that you please bring the beverage(s) of your choice and a lawn chair to sit in. If you wish to bring a desert and/or salad to share with fellow members please do so.

Please RSVP to npierre@telusplanet.net by Wednesday, June 15 2011 to confirm you are coming. This will allow Jeremy to plan for the appropriate number of attendees.

Please indicate if you are coming solo, bringing your spouse or a guest.



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Nu Bi, (2 Bu) Pre-Meiji era coinage, this one is also late in the Ansei era, circa 1856-60. Krause C # 21b.

weights followed suit as silver was devalued, making some of the initial strikings of the Meiji yen scarce, as they were essentially overweight. Soon western style money became more coveted than rice as the yen gained currency through all of Japanese society. The older coinage disappeared and was probably melted down.

Other things changed drastically in Japan during this period. The Napoleonic Code of law was adopted in Japan to replace the older feudal legal system and to prevent Westerners from setting up their own system of justice outside of the local structure like they had done in China. Japanese society had been increasingly urbanized throughout the 19th century, and now this process was accelerated due to industrialization. The Japanese embarked on a crash program of industrialization which caused many of the older established samurai families to lose all their wealth. They, in turn, embraced the new society and realized that they had to be better than their foreign competitors to

survive in a world economy. Since a lot of their agrarian livelihood was replaced by huge new factories, the common people suffered too. The education system was overhauled and given a more technical emphasis. When it came to literacy, the Japanese were ahead of the game. Most of the population was at least barely literate, which was better than Victorian England where only 40% could claim the same. By limiting foreign investment and capital in the country, the Japanese government helped local industries. It preferred to maintain full control over the economy to prevent a similar situation from occurring in Japan to that which had happened in China, where foreign companies actually ruled over the government.

The final process by which the new national government consolidated its hold on the country was the abolishing of the old "han" system and returning the domains of the Emperor. Previously, the Emperor had been divorced from the political system and was mainly a figurehead with no real power. The Tokugawa shogunate was the power that most daimyos (and their hans) were beholden to. Once the order came to abolish the shogunate and re-establish the rule of the Emperor, some daimyos and hans held out for obvious reasons.



Koban, (1 Ryo) Pre-Meiji era currency, this one is a later one from about 1859. Krause C # 22c.

They did not want to see their power bases eroded nor their incomes disappear. So the transition was managed in stages, first with the replacement of those daimyos who had supported the shogun during the Boshin War of 1868. Then, the daimyo became the ruler of the new prefecture and gave up his hereditary authority in favour of the Emperor. In order to sweeten the pot these daimyos were permitted to keep 10 percent of the tax revenues of the new prefectures, which was a better deal than what they had under the old shogunate. As it was, only 14 hans refused to submit to the Emperor. These were dealt with in a court of law under threat of military action. The process was more or less wrapped up by 1869, when the "daimyo system" of peerages was abolished, and a new system called "kazoku" was implemented. This created a whole new class of nobles and a bureaucratic system much like that in any European monarchy. The domains, or "hans", were legally abolished by Imperial edict in 1871, and the daimyos were then placed on the government payroll. They had still retained a great deal of fiscal and military autonomy in their areas prior to that date, and this was considered a major threat to the central authority. So in order to sweeten the pot even further, the imperial government promised to absorb the daimyos' debts, reorganize the domain currency at par with the national currency, and pay a generous stipend. Eventually this became unworkable, so the stipend was converted into government bonds with a face value of 5 years' worth of stipends and paid 5% interest per annum. Realizing that deal was about as good as it was going to get, most daimyos took the money and ran. There were a few holdouts that had to be dealt with in a traditionally barbarous Japanese fashion, or they brutally took care of themselves. This process was completed by 1874 and marks the close of the political turmoil in Japan.

Finally, the coins

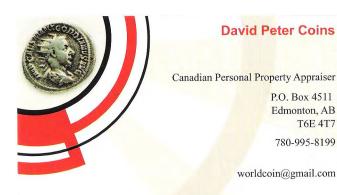
The first issues to circulate freely in Japan were countermarked Mexican 8 reales pieces imported by westerners. The Japanese values attributed to these coins were countermarked on the obverse sides. The practice of countermarking coins with "chop" marks was common in East Asia. These marks were signatures of assayers, who could attest to the weight and purity of the coin. After the countermark was issued, the coin would freely circulate for the value expressed in the countermark. These generally date to around 1859. Empire coinage started appearing in 1873. Coinage designs were fairly elaborate and modern. On Meiji era coins a curled dragon dominated the obverse with the denomination surrounded by a wreath on the reverse. Dates and





20 Sen, Y #3, Early issue, year 3. (1870)

denominations were usually written in Japanese, and the denomination was also written in English on the obverse. Following age old tradition, no portraits of anyone were ever struck on Japanese coinage. This is still true today. The silver yen coin also has its fineness and weight in grains written on it, that being .900 silver and 416 respectively. Note that the very first Meiji issues generally did not have an English legend, but it became standard with the second issue. The reverse side always featured the Chrysanthemum as part of the legend, reflecting the supremacy of the Emperor. The weight of the silver coinage was reduced after the 1873 devaluation to better reflect its true value. The older issues, being overweight, no doubt disappeared rapidly which accounts for their higher values to collectors. Gold and silver freely circulated together, and all of these early issues are fairly rare and very expensive now. Base metal coinage changed little throughout the Meiji era. However, there are two distinct precious metal issues, the earlier one being more valuable to collectors. There are variations on the 10 sen coin, mostly in how the characters in the legend were struck. Some, like the 1880 (year 13) 10 and 20 sen pieces command huge prices. The 1 yen in silver and the Trade Dollar issue were demonetized in 1897. There was a certain amount of 1 yen silver coins that wound up getting countermarked and sent off to new Japanese possessions in Korea, China, and Taiwan. These coins at first were thought to be defaced Japanese coinage, but it was realized that they were countermarked to prevent them from re-entering Japan and being used as regular coinage. Placement of the "gin" mintmark indicates which Japanese mint marked them. Osaka placed its mark on the left, and Tokyo placed its on the right. The Tokyo issue is much rarer than the Osaka issue. Of course, the gold issues are rare. Many probably wound up in the melting pot for whatever reason. Early silver yens are quite pricey too. Mintage figures for all Japanese coins are fairly high, but as stated before, many were hoarded, collected or melted



down over the years.

Dates on Japanese coins can be confusing, as a western style dating system is not used. The Japanese prefer instead to date coins from when the current Emperor took the throne. The dates are usually expressed in Japanese characters and only recently have appeared in western-style numbers. Characters are read from right to left, with the name of the reign appearing before the date on the right. A good guide such as the Krause Standard Catalog of World Coins is indispensable for deciphering these dates and reigns. These books have a good chart with most of the popular Japanese characters and era names in them. While the Meiji era coins are quite straightforward, the later Taisho and early Showa coins can be quite misleading, because they share some of the same designs and have to be deciphered correctly.

Collecting nineteenth century Japanese coins can be fairly rewarding when one considers the history they represent. Here was a society in transition from a feudal agrarian economy into a modern industrial one. The Japanese desire for self protection, with the resulting self-inflicted inferiority complex, drove them to be bigger and better than all of their competitors. Their desire for equal treatment among nations eventually culminated with the Second World War and their defeat. By this time Japanese society had a certain elasticity to it that didn't exist before. It was able to recover economically without compromising its sovereignty too much and realized that it is easier to buy the world than try to take it over militarily. As such, the little country with a backward economy has grown into one of the world's economic superpowers in a little over 100 years quite an achievement!

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FID-MAR

Render Unto Caesar

By Terence Cheesman

Afew weeks ago I went to Calgary to attend a lecture on the coinage of Marc Antony delivered by Andrew Meadows who is a scholar currently working in the American Numismatic Society in New York City. Because of the snow, the trip to and from Calgary was entertaining, but the lecture was well worth the trip. Perhaps the most important thing I learned was that the interplay among the players, which included the Roman administration of Marc Antony, the administration of Cleopatra, and the administrations of the various smaller kingdoms as well as autonomous city states was quite complex and worthy of attention. Perhaps the only downside, apart from the weather, was that the lecture was on the same day as "Bermuda Shorts Day" which is held at the University of Calgary on the last day of classes. It is a day when many of the students get drunk, and I got my fill of really ugly shorts, blinding white skinny legs, loud talk, and as young people have trouble holding their liquor, you really did not want to go to anywhere near the toilets.

However another reason for the trip was that Robert Kokotailo was coming back from the Chicago International Coin Fair and was bringing back with him the coins he had bought. It is



not often that I am first up to see what is new, and it was worth it to me to stay in Calgary just to see the new coins. It was also going to be interesting to see how the current extremely competitive market was going to impact his buying trip. I made my way to his shop early in the afternoon and found his partner, Tom Preston, being run off his feet by people trying to sell silver and gold. With silver at \$40 an ounce and gold somewhere around \$1480 an ounce the store was very reminiscent of the great boom back in the early nineties. Despite rather pessimistic theories as to when he might make it back from the show, he did show up at about 3 PM, and I got to look at the coins.

The type of coins he brought back was a little different from what I normally see from him.



Usually he has a group of more expensive coins that is complimented by a group of coins picked from hoard lots. The hoard lots were absent this time, though there was a nice group of coins of

Maximinus II from about 313 A.D. It is possible that the large hoard lots were absent from the show, or the offerings were of poor quality. The overall number of coins seemed to be rather small as well. The ancient coin market is extremely hot, especially for coins of high quality, and it is very hard for smaller dealers to find stock that they can sell at a competitive rate. Some of the larger coin companies simply take all their coins and place them straight into auctions. However I did managed to find one coin that I liked.

The coin in question is a silver denarius of Tiberius who ruled from 14 to 37 A.D. On the obverse is TI. CAESAR DIVI AVG. F. AVGVSTVS. In full this would read TIBERIUS CAESAR DIVI AUGUSTUS FILIUS AUGUSTUS. Loosely translated it means "Tiberius, descendant of Julius Caesar and son of the divine

Augustus, the Magnificent." The reverse features Pax or Peace seated facing right holding a sceptre in her right hand and an olive branch in her left. The legend is PONTIF MAXIM. In full this would read PONTIFEX MAXIMUS. Loosely translated this means "greatest bridge builder." At the beginning of the Roman Republic the title was literal, as the need to maintain the bridges over the Tiber River was very important, since the tolls over these bridges was a vital source of revenue for the state. However later the meaning referred to the priests who bridged the gap between men and the gods. The Popes still use that title. Tiberius on this coin advertises his title of chief priest as well as his care for the Empire by promoting peace.

Unlike most Emperors Tiberius minted very few types. In fact this type had been minted by his predecessor Augustus from about 11 A.D. For approximately the last 15 years of the reign of Augustus Tiberius was in effective charge of the Empire. Tiberius seemed to have cared very little for using coinage for propaganda purposes, and the types became very static. This denarius was minted soon after the death of Augustus, as the reverse shows unornamented legs of the chair similar to those on the coins of Augustus. At some time later the legs of the chair become very ornate, and a footstool was added. Sometimes the figure of Pax is described as being Livia, the mother of Tiberius. Thus in some books the reverse can be described as Livia as Pax seated. To my mind this is simply a convention unsupported by any real evidence, but it is so firmly entrenched that it would be almost impossible to overturn.

Perhaps this coin is best known as being the "Tribute Penny". The term comes from one of the most popular stories in the New Testament. In this story Jesus was confronted by individuals who wanted to trap him into discussing the thorny relationship between loyalty to God and loyalty to the state. Christ's answer was elegant. He asked to see a silver coin which would have been used to pay the taxes owed to Rome. When he asked whose image and titles were on the coin they replied "Caesar's". He then responded, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and the things that are God's to God." The coin given to Jesus is generally considered to have been one of these, because the type on the denarii of Tiberius is so static. There is absolutely no proof of this, and the evidence is very slim. The only grounds for favouring a coin of Tiberius is that the reply was simply Caesar and not Caesar Augustus which would indicate that the coin was one of those minted for Augustus. Furthermore not a single specimen of this coin has been found in a hoard or in an archaeological context within the modern state of Israel. This is surprising, as these coins have been found as far away as India, but it would not be impossible that these coins did not circulate in Judea or Galilee during this period. Again the term is so ingrained that it would very difficult for it to be eliminated.

This coin would have been minted in the city of Lugdunum, modern Lyons, France. The denarii at this time were struck in France, as most of the military effort made by the Roman Empire was on the Rhine frontier against the Germans. It has been thought that this mint was moved to Rome during the reign of Caligula, but it seem more likely that the mint was moved to Rome by the Emperor Nero, perhaps as a response to the great fire of Rome in 64 A.D. which necessitated a massive rebuilding program.





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PCGS Photograde



http://bindapple.com/what-is-an-iphone/

By Roger Grove

The Internet has changed the face of coin collecting into a rather faceless hobby. With the expanded availability of coins for purchase and countless new potential buyers and markets, there is less need for face-to-face interaction. Some numismatists think that the Internet will lead to the downfall of coin shops and bourses, but others believe it is actually helping to stimulate new and varying interests and it therefore will help local coin shops and shows in the long run. One way the Internet can help is by allowing dealers to solicit customers from around the world who had not been able to purchase from them. The other way it aids is by the incredible machine of information it has become. Now the average collector has more information at their disposal than ever before and can be fevered to buy new and exciting items they just learned about.

A relatively new addition within the Worldwide Web is the introduction of 'Apps'. With the Internet available on smart-phones, now the power of the Internet is portable and at everyone's fingertips. The App market has grown into a huge billion-dollar industry, and the numismatic market is just starting to enter into it.

First, what is an "App'? An App is an executable file, otherwise known as an 'application'. Downloaded over the Internet from an 'App Store', an App can be installed on a computer or portable smart-phone. The most well known 'App Store' belongs to Apple and

is designed for the IPhone, IPad and IPod. App Stores are also available to all other smart-phones, but for the purposes of this article I will only discuss applications found in the Apple App Store.

¹ When it comes to Apps, there are thousands of free Apps and thousands more that the user must pay for. When paying for an App, it is a good idea to review the description in detail as well as the feedback from other users prior to purchasing. Once an App is purchased there are no refunds.

Over a series of articles I intend to provide readers with a detailed 'App review' of numismatic Apps. The types of Apps and their uses are limited only by the imagination of the people who develop them. Some will prove to be excellent resources, while others will be deleted as fast as you download them. There are hundreds of numismatic



related Apps out there so I can't get to them all, but I will review select ones as time and space allow. When it comes to App hunting, there will be something there for many, but not necessarily for everyone. We all have different collecting wants, needs and niches: and so do those who create the Apps. The App scene seems to be lacking in Canadian content, so if your collecting focus is in Canadian decimal, Canadian tokens or paper money, you may not find what you want in all of the available Apps. BUT ... this doesn't mean they don't exist; it may mean I have yet to find them. After all, there are hundreds of thousands of Apps available.

Types of Apps

There are two main types of Apps – 'free' and those that the user must pay for. Many free ones are excellent tools for the collector and researcher, but many free ones are also free for a reason. The same can be said for Apps which must be paid for, just like any other consumer purchase – buyer beware. Some are excellent and some are not. Many free Apps will be a teaser of the paid version, providing limited access or only a few tidbits so the user can be enticed enough to buy the full product. Some free Apps may give full access to the program but only allow a limited number of accesses until the full version is purchased: more information to be aware of in the world of Apps.

When it comes to numismatics, there are hundreds of Apps out there that might interest the user. The first thing most collectors will enter into the App

1 The Apps available in one App Store are usually available in others.

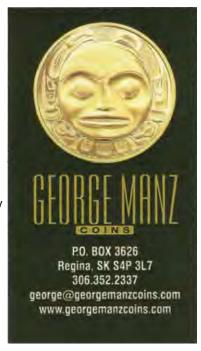
Store search is 'coin'. It seems reasonable. but the when the word 'coin' is searched the user will find a plethora of coin-flip Apps (in case you don't have a coin to flip when you need it2). Also 'coin dozer' Apps will appear. You remember them ... go to any amusement park and you will see a machine with coins piled high just waiting for you to drop one more in and they all will drop for you to take. Well, the App stores are full of these too. Simply adding a letter after the word coin will bring you to a world of neat numismatic things to explore. "Coin c" will bring up many coin collecting Apps etc. If you really want to find something useful, use search terms that mean something to our industry, such as 'numismatic'.

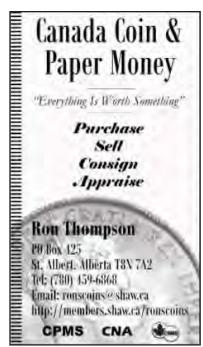
PCGS Photograde – Free App

The first App I will discuss is an App by PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Services) out of the USA. This site will be most useful to those who collect US coins. The App is called "PCGS Photograde". It lists all regular issued US coins, and shows detailed high-resolution pictures of grades ranging from Poor-1 to MS-69. It shows full-colour details of the obverse and reverse of everything from ½ cents to \$20 gold coins, from the US first minted coins in the late 1700's to modern current issues. Imagine having the power of this App in your hands when you are buying or selling a US coin: you will always have a grading book with you. On Apple products, you can also zoom in on the image to get a closer look at the fine details. Another benefit is that this app not only shows you all normally used grades, but it also provides the less frequently used grades, such as VG-10, F-15, VF-35, XF-45, all the AU grades (AU-50, 53, 55, and 58) and every grade in mintstate as high as PCGS has a graded sample for. It's an incredibly handy resource if you need to grade a coin on the go. This App also has a link to the commentary of what constitutes each grade. There is also a link to the PCGS Price Guide, which details the current market prices for PCGS coins in all grades including major varieties. If there is any drawback to this App, it is that the commentary for each grade is generic and not specific to the coin type.

Recommendation: Get it

2 Many Apps like this are free and have contests to see who can have the most flips (the user jerks the smart-phone to flip the coin). One coin-flip site had a user with well over 200,000 flips - and these are not the 'flips' that coin collectors use. Plus you can reach bonus stages and get different coins to use ... if you purchase them.









Rating: 5 coins















Coin Collecting in Elementary School

By James

The Planchet will be featuring a series of reports by children in grade 2 - 6 enrolled at The Progressive Academy in Edmonton, who share their views on coin collecting and on their school coin club.

Why I Love coin club.
By. James

Every month I get so excited when it's coin club. Coin club gives me a good opprutunity to learn about history and different culters. I get to learn about important dates in history, important leaders and the significance of different symbols. I get the opprutunity to experiance trade and I get excited watching my collection grow over time.

I enjoy the teachers, they help make learning fun. We enjoy different activities and sometimes we get to watch movies, and win prizes. I get to make new friends.

The best part about my coin collection is when my dad takes me shopping. We go to an antic mall on wyte ave. They have lot's of cool stuff, but most of all they sell lot's of different kinds of coins. Some of the coins are old and some are new. Lot's of the coins come from other countries and have awsome pictures on them. Some times they are sold in fancy cases and come with certificates.

One last thing ... The number one reason to be in coin club. The girls dig guys with coin !

22

My Finds

By the ENS Membership



This month's My Finds are provided by ENS member Dean Silver. Photos by Dean Silver.

These dot coins are from 1943 tombac nickels. The dot is thought that it could be a mint marker to identify these coins being minted in 1944, where mint reports indicate that 8,000 1944 nickels were minted for general circulation. It is not known if they all carried the date of 1944.

The 1943 dot nickels were first identifed by Hans Zoell (B173n), with the dot in the 4. The dot between C and A in Canada and to the right of the torch varieties have yet to be catalogued.











GAME of CROWNS

By Pierre Driessen



1806 was a tumultuous year for the crowned heads of Europe, great and small alike. This year marked the start of a policy by Napoléon I, Emperor of the French, which struck fear into the hearts of the old ruling houses of Europe, shaking them to their very foundations.

When in 1815, following the Battle of Waterloo, the dust had finally settled, the political and dynastic landscape of Europe had changed radically. Those rulers who remained breathed a collective sigh of relief. Unlike a great many ancient dynasties and states, which had vanished, they had survived and in some instances even prospered. What had occurred could rightly be termed the "Game of Crowns". The implications and consequences of this political policy continued to reverberate in European politics and relations long after Napoleon's second and final abdication in 1815. Some historians will argue that even today the dust has not truly settled.

Following his coronation on 2 December 1804 as Emperor of the French in Paris and as King of Italy on 26 May 1805 in Milan, Napoléon set upon a course which he hoped would consolidate his power and secure the future of his dynasty. Within France he revived many of the Ancien Regime's features, the most important of which was his creation of a new aristocracy. By bestowing titles, incomes and granting estates he hoped to bind France's powerful to him.

Outside France he sought allies. Through a mixed policy of intimidation, flattery and outright bribery he co-opted many of Europe's rulers to his side. Those who proved willing, however reluctantly, he generally left in place. The rulers he thought of special importance he elevated in status and expanded their territories. When and where expedient he deposed and created new states.

Napoléon's brilliant victory at the Battle of Austerlitz on 2 December 1805 over the powers of the Third Coalition - composed of Austria, Russia and Great Britain - solidified his position domestically and internationally, in both the military and political spheres. Napoléon took the opportunity to begin redistributing the crowns of numerous states to his relatives, trusted subordinates and allies.

This, together with his coronations in France and Italy, managed to offend almost everyone.

To those in power the shock was one of disbelief at the drastic departure from the centuries old dynastic and political game, which essentially was an ebb and flow of power but kept more or less an uneasy balance. For others who had seen Napoléon as the embodiment of the revolution, such as Ludwig van Beethoven, it shattered all illusions that a new democratic order had been established. The old rulers saw Napoléon as a parvenu, a usurper, while to liberals he became a tyrant.

For propaganda purposes, to advertise French and Napoleon's power, a commemorative medal was struck. It is filled with not so subtle symbolism and makes plain Napoléon's ability to reorder Europe to his ends.

THE MEDAL

SOUVERAINETÉS DONNÉES / SOVEREINTIES GIVEN

OBVERSE:



The obverse features the iconic, strong-featured truncated right facing portrait bust of Napoléon as a Roman imperator or victorious general, the laurel wreath or crown of victory on his head.

This design was executed by Jean Pierre Droz (1746 - 1823), one of the Paris Medal Mint's most talented engravers, responsible for the early medal portraits of the new emperor. The legend proclaims: "NAPOLEON EMP. ET ROI." (Napoléon Emperor and King). Below the trunk is found DENON DIREX - which stands for Vivant Denon director (of the Paris Medal Mint) - and MDCCCVI for 1806.

REVERSE:

The reverse was designed by Benjamin Zix (1772 - 1811), for which he was paid 24 francs. Zix entered the service of Vivan Denon, Paris Medal Mint director and Napoléon's minister of cultural and the arts, in 1805 as a sketch artist. He accompanied Denon on his extensive travels throughout Europe, functioning as official graphic historiographer of Napoleonic ceremonies, battles and important events. Zix passed away in 1811 at Perugia while in Denon's entourage on the return trip from Florence and Rome.

The engraving was done by Bertrand Andrieu (1761 - 1822), the Paris Medal Mint's most prolific and arguably its best medal engraver and designer. Andrieu was paid 1200 francs for his work on this medal, which was displayed at the Salon - a yearly exhibition of the works of France's most talented artists - of 1806.

This face of the medal is filled with symbolism. On the right is the imperial throne. Forming its sides and arms are eagles with their wings in such a position as if taking off for flight. The throne's uprights are surmounted with globes, and the sides are decorated with bees. The bee was Napoléon's personal emblem, an ancient French royal symbol that dates back to the very beginnings of the Frankish people. It was associated with Clovis (b 466 - d 511 A.D.), the first King of the Franks.

The imperial mantle is draped over the seat and back of the throne, while a sceptre leans against one of the uprights. Exactly which sceptre is depicted varies amongst the sources.

nation and people, legitimizing his role as Emperor of the French. It also links Napoléon with the two European rulers whose domains had extended across the greater part of the European continent. It signifies his claim on their heritage and the realization of the dream of a pan-European state, while the eagles, the symbol of the First French Empire, link all to the heritage of Ancient Rome.

To the left is a ceremonial table or rather a platform not unlike those carried during Roman triumphal processions laden with



According to Laskey it is the sceptre of Charlemagne (b 742 - d 814 A.D.), while Zeits claims it is that of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (b 1500 - d 58). The throne, mantle and sceptre bring together the ancient and contemporary symbols of the French people and links Napoléon, his rule and dynasty with the beginnings of the French

treasure - the spoils of war. If you look closely at the legs you can see the eyes of the metal loops through which poles could be fed.

On the table are placed, rather haphazardly, crowns and sceptres. The crowns shown are those of kingdoms, principalities and duchies, representing the

states, which had been granted, created or elevated by Napoléon.

Gifts to Napoléon's relatives:

It is to his family and relatives that Napoléon was most generous when he began to divide the spoils of his victories. He hoped that this would create a strong foundation for his empire and dynasty. It proved to be a double edged sword and more often created resentment, divided loyalties and conflict amongst his avaricious family. Forgetting that it was their brother's efforts, which had raised them from very humble provincial origins to their exulted positions, they believed themselves entitled. It was especially his sisters who felt slighted and schemed against, often contrary to their brother's interests, to increase their share.

Vice Regency of Italy:
On 16 February 1806 Napoléon adopted as his son Eugene
Beauharnais, the son of his wife and empress Joséphine by her first marriage. He created him Viceroy of Italy and Heir Presumptive to the Kingdom if Napoléon himself failed to produce a male heir.

Grand Duchy of Baden:
On 4 March 1806 Napoléon
adopted Stéphanie, niece of
Empress Joséphine, and married
her to Louis the Electoral
Prince of Baden. At the same
time he elevated Baden from a
margraviate to a grand duchy.

Grand Duchy of Berg-Cleves:
On 20 March 1806 Napoléon's brother-in-law Joachim Murat, married to Caroline Bonaparte, was created the Grand Duke of Cleves and Berg, located in present-day southwestern Germany.

Kingdom of Naples: On 30 March 1806 Joseph Napoléon was created King of Naples. His kingdom was comprised of the southern part of the Italian peninsula. The previous Bourbon occupant fled to Sicily, the part of his kingdom not under French control, but rather under British protection.

Kingdom of Holland: Louis, Napoléon's younger brother, was created King of Holland on 5 June 1806. This kingdom was created from the Seven Provinces, which had comprised the Batavian Republic.

Duchy of Guastalla:
Given to another of Napoléon's sisters, Pauline and her husband Camillo, the Prince Borghese, this Duchy of Guastalla was located in north central Italy. Pauline quickly sold the duchy to the commune of Parma for six million francs but kept the title.

Principality of Lucca & Piombino:
Piombino and Lucca, located
on the west coast of the Italian
peninsula near present day
Tuscany, were given to Élise,
Napoléon's eldest sister, and
her husband Felice Pasquale
Baciocchi on 19 March and 14
July 1805 respectively. They were
combined into one principality.

Gifts to Napoléon's officials:

To bind his high officials to him and to show that loyalty would be richly rewarded, Napoléon throughout his reign created and gave states, however small, to numerous of his officials, some of which are commemorated with this medal.

Duchy of Valengin and Principality of Neuchâtel:
Napoléon's chief of staff Marshall Berthier was made Duke of Valengin and Prince of Neuchâtel, both located in the northwestern part of present day Switzerland.

Principality of Benevento: Benevento, a papal possession in southern Italy, was granted to Charles de Talleyrand-Périgord, Napoléon's foreign minister, with the title of Sovereign Prince.

Principality of Ponte Corvo:
A tiny principality in southwestern Italy was created in
1806 by Napoléon from lands
taken from the Papal States, as
a gift for Marshall Bernadotte.
It was granted in 1812 to
Prince Napoleon Lucien Charles
Murat, Napoléon's nephew, after
Bernadotte had became crown
prince of Sweden in 1810.

Gifts to Napoléon's allies:

1805 was an annus horribilis for Austria. It suffered humiliating defeats at Ulm, the battle being fought from 25 September to 20 October, and was dealt a near coup de grâce at the Battle of Austerlitz on 2 December. As a result she was forced to sign the humiliating Treaty of Pressburg on 26 December. The terms involved substantial losses of territories in Germany, Italy and Switzerland, acknowledgement of France's primacy in Germany and the payment of an indemnity of 40 million francs.

As a result of this treaty, Napoléon elevated his allies, the Electorates of Bavaria and Württemberg, to the status of kingdoms. Furthermore their territorial size was increased at the expense of Austria.

Taking advantage of his new dominance, Napoléon began the reorganization of areas under French control. In the German territories he created the Confederation of the Rhine. With Napoléon as Protector, its members would eventually include all German rulers. with the exception of those of Austria, Prussia, Brunswick and the Elector of Hesse. Together with the Treaty of Pressburg, this spelled the death of the 1000-year-old Holy Roman Empire.

At the foot of the table, as if fallen off, are the crowns of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont and the Electorate of Hannover, next to which lies the cap of the Dodge of the Serene Republic of Venice.

On 12 May 1797 Venice lost its independence after more than 1100 years, when Napoléon conquered the territory during the War of the First Coalition - France against Austria and Prussia. In the Treaty of Campo Formio, 12 October 1797, Venice was ceded to Austria, which took control on 18 January 1798. As a result of the 1805 Treaty of Pressburg Austria lost Venice, which in turn was incorporated into the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy.

Following Napoléon's reorganization of northern Italy into the Italian and Ligurian Republics, the territories of the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia were annexed, together with the island of Elba, by France in 1802. This was a defensive move, to prevent the British from establishing naval bases in the region. The kingdom was re-established at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and became the springboard for the ultimate unification of the Italian peninsula under King Victor Emmanuel II in 1861.

The other crown on the around is that of the Electorate of Hanover, ruled in personal union with the United Kingdom by George III, which had been a prize for both France and Prussia. Each power captured and occupied it between 1801 and 1806, with Britain briefly regaining control in late 1805, losing it again when France ceded it to Prussia, which seized it in early 1806. Then when Prussia foolishly declared war on France in mid-1806 and was soundly and humiliatingly defeated on 11 November 1806 at the Battles of



Jena and Auerstädt, the French again occupied Hannover. This time the state was to form part of the newly created Kingdom of Westphalia, granted to Napoléon's youngest brother Jerôme. French control lasted until 1813. In 1814 the House of Hannover was restored, and its ruler George III declared it the Kingdom of Hannover in 1814.

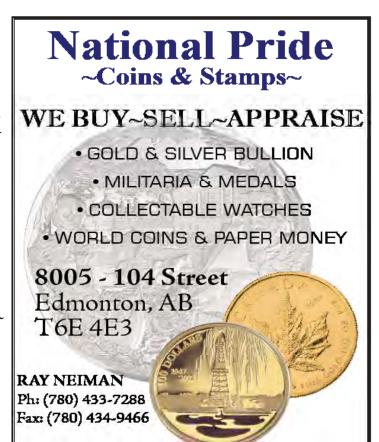
In addition to commemorating the bestowal of crowns following Napoléon's coronations, the medal also includes one, which he had bestowed while First Consul of the French Republic. This is the crown of the Kingdom of Etruria, placed furthest to the right on the table and clearly identifiable by its fleur-de-lis. The Kingdom of Etruria, the larger part of what is today Tuscany, was created in 1801 by Napoléon, as part of an agreement with Spain. It compensated the Bourbons of Parma for loss of their territories in northern Italy. The previous ruler of this territory, the Habsburg Grand Duke of Tuscany Ferdinand III, was in turn compensated with the secularized lands of the Archbishopric of Salzburg.

Above the throne and table, with outstretched wings, is the symbol of the First French Empire - the imperial eagle. Here this majestic bird holds a fasces in its talons, rather than the traditional thunderbolt. Within the fasces is a sceptre. This symbolizes and makes plain to all who see the medal that the crowns on the table are distributed by and held through French largess. It is France and her emperor who are dominant, and the rulers hold their states as fiefs of the French Empire.

The eagle is emblematic of the fact that throughout his reign Napoleon continued to reshape the dynastic and political landscape of Europe of the regions he controlled directly and those over which he exercised influence.

The most important subsequent distributions of crowns and shuffling of states, although not commemorated by this medal, were:

- the elevation of the Electorate of Saxony to the status of a kingdom in 1807;
- the creation of the Duchy of



Warsaw in 1807;

- the 5 May 1808 Abdications of Bayonne whereby the Spanish Bourbon royal house was forced to abdicate, and Napoléon's brother Joseph traded, very reluctantly, the throne of Naples for that of Spain;

AGENT FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

- in 1808 Murat succeeded Joseph as King of Naples;
- the annexation of the Kingdom of Holland into the French Empire in 1810 after its king, Louis Napoléon, fled the kingdom during the night.

Despite the fact that the rulers of these states were nominally sovereign, Napoléon viewed them as vassals and actively interfered with their domestic and external affairs. He viewed all states, especially those ruled by his relatives and officials, as subordinate to the interests of the French Empire. He saw himself as the maker and breaker of kings, moving rulers around, almost like musical thrones. The most obvious example occurred when he forced his brother Joseph to exchange the Kingdom of Naples for that of Spain. Joseph, perfectly content with Naples, tried to refuse but was forced to relent.

Napoléon interfered directly in internal affairs. He forced upon rulers policies, which were contrary to the interests of their subjects. He determined

their legal and governmental structures and often placed officials directly answerable to himself in places of importance. These actions had the result of undermining the ability of individual rulers to govern their states effectively and set them up for failure.

With regard to the domestic affairs of the larger states such as Bavaria, Württemberg and later Saxony, which he needed as allies and bulwarks against Austria, Prussia and Russia, Napoleon left them to their own devices. He judged this to be the best method to gain the cooperation of their subjects. From these states he exacted troops and supplies for his armies. They were also obliged, at their expense, to billet and equip on a rotating basis French troops.

In the sphere of external policy these states were not independent of action, and adherence to unified and empire-wide policies was strictly enforced. The most onerous and damaging, economically and socially, was the enforcement of the economic blockade of Great Britain - the Continental System.

Napoléon went to great lengths to cripple Britain economically, judging correctly that this was his archenemy's Achilles heel. He failed to see or was unwilling to sympathize with the fact that the consequences were actually even more damaging for the economic and social well-being of his own subjects and those of his vassals and allies.

This policy caused him to directly annex the Kingdom of Holland and large parts of the Kingdom of Westphalia, ruled by his brothers, to the French Empire. It also caused unrest in vassal and allied states, requiring direct intervention with French troops.

Regardless of Napoléon's motivations, his policy of treating the crowns of Europe as the spoils of war to be used as he saw fit had far reaching consequences, which outlasted his reign. The dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire and consolidation of the states in Germany set the stage for the eventual unification of Germany, with Prussia, which had almost been removed from the face of the map as its dominant power.

The same policy of consolidation in the Italian peninsula started the process, which ultimately resulted in the unified state of the Kingdom of Italy.

His interference in the affairs of the Iberian Peninsula accelerated the process by which the colonies of Portugal and Spain sought their independence. In the Low Countries his policies led to the creation of the Kingdom of Holland, which ultimately split into the Kingdoms of the Netherlands and Belgium.

In central Europe his repeated humiliation of Habsburg Austria began her slow but steady disintegration. Due to the unique nature of the Habsburg state, this created problems in the Balkans and Eastern Europe with which Europe is still coming to grips. While further east Russia had been strengthened, most notably with the addition of Poland.

Whatever you may think of Napoléon Bonaparte, enlightened ruler, visionary, military genius or tyrant and warmonger, it is difficult to deny his role in and effect on the course of history. The medal SOUVERAINETÉS DONNÉES / SOVEREINTIES GIVEN is a beautiful and highly symbolic visual representation of the policy which set many of the changes in the political geographic landscape in motion, changing and in many instances destroying the political and dynastic system of Europe's ruling families forever. The consequences of which we are still dealing with today.

Medal specifications:

references: Bramsen 553; d'Essling 1154; Julius 1625; Laskey LXIX; Millin 121; Zeitz 69.

struck in: gold, silver & bronzed copper.

diameter: 40.1 mm weight: 37.88 g. edge: smooth and plain

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- Sammlung Julius. <u>Französische Revolution</u>, <u>Napoleon I. und seine Zeit. I. Teil 1789-1808</u>. (<u>II. Teil 1809-1815</u>) Auction 66, 21.--23. April 1959 (14.--16. September 1959). Richard Gaettens jun., Heidelberg. Folio, iv+VI+70 pp.+30 halftone plates (IV+66 pp.+29 halftone plates).
- <u>Sammlung Dieter Schwering Napoleon I. und seine Zeit.</u> Műnzen & Medaillen Gmbh. Auktion 24. Stuttgart, 2007.



Continued from page 5 - About Your Society

The committee will review the website, possibilities for U-Tube videos, webinars, etc. Members of the committee are David Peter, Marc Bink, Pierre Driessen, Roger Grove, Ermin Chow and Jeremy Martin. The committee will also look into whether technology might assist the club in reaching younger members.

Break

Movie - The Ascent of Money, Part III

Tickets for door prizes were drawn.

Show and Tell:

Marv Berger - \$2 trade token from Claresholm

- Pierre Driessen 1806 medal of Napoleon with picture of his sister commemorating his visit to the Paris Mint; 1805 medal of Napoleon from when he assumed personal control over the armies and was ready to invade England
- Marc Bink Japanese coin, unidentified
- Ray Neiman 1937 MN \$1 bill in MS condition; Unc \$1 devil's face; *m/y Unc 3 in sequence bills; \$20 error bill long cut oversize; and Governor General's medal, Ray Matheson.

Silent auction commenced and meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

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annual membership application / renewal form

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Recylable used plastic coin flips. Any Qty. Bring to next club meeting, See Howard. taneri9@netscape.ca

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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

June 8, 2011 - ENS June Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

June 25, 2011 - ENS Members Only BBQ - 8510-10 Ave. SW, Edmonton. Thanks to Jeremy Martin for hosting this year's event.

July, 2011 - No Meeting

August, 2011 - No Meeting

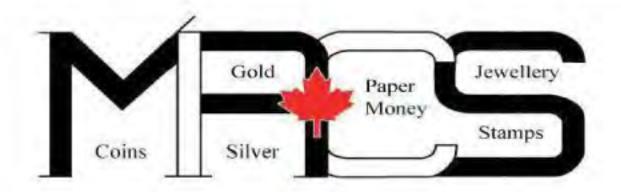
September 10, 2011 - ENS September Meeting - Pizza Night - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided. Free pizza for all ENS members attending.

October 12, 2011 - ENS October Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided

November 5 & 6, 2011 - 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.

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

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



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