

# THE PLANCHET

EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

November 2011  
Volume 58 Issue 9

## D.O.A Tabora Thalers



## Hong Kong Fractional Currency

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November 2011 Volume 58. Issue 9

# THE PLANCHET



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### **The Planchet Team:**

**Editor-In-Chief:** Roger Grove

**Content Editor:** Chris Hale

**Co-Editors:** Pierre Driessen & Marc Bink

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### **ON THE COVER:**

DOA money from the author's collection. German East Africa map from a German Atlas from the 1930's. Photo courtesy of Marc Bink.

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

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# Message from the President

David Peter 2011-12



What another amazing event! I'm proud to say that we had over 1,000 attendees at November's show. It's a tribute to our club and the hard work of our volunteers. I can't thank everyone enough. We have secured dates for the next two years, so we're looking for a long term relationship with the Edmonton Hotel and Convention Centre.

I want to remind everyone to bring a donation for our charity auction at the December meeting. All proceeds will go to a local charity or community organization that will be voted on at that meeting.

On a more numismatic topic, I know that many of our members have heard about Chinese counterfeited coins. Some of these coins have been traded locally in the past few months. It's good to know that our club exists to help protect the collector, as well as inform him. Be sure that you keep vigilant, and if unsure, seek another opinion. Again, it's buyer beware. Buy from reputable people, and as the age old saying goes, if it looks too good to be true...

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks,  
David

## @ The Next Meeting Wednesday, December 14, 2011



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

- club update
- OCC / ONS and ENS memberships
- election update - candidate nominations
- annual Christmas charity auction - worthy cause to be selected by popular vote, please bring your donations and bid generously
- "Go for the Gold" draws and presentations for 2011
- reminder of upcoming membership dues for 2012

For more information regarding these events, or to add an item to the agenda please send an email to [editor\\_ens@yahoo.ca](mailto:editor_ens@yahoo.ca)

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# About Your Society

November 9, 2011 ENS meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by David Peter, President. David thanked everyone for the show. He heard from dealers that it was excellent, with a total attendance of 1,046. He said the staff of the hotel was open to our needs and very friendly. Thanks to the great work of Pierre the executive the hotel has been secured until November 2013. David also commented on the several great displays at the show. Marc Bink emphasized all the great work done by the volunteers and gave special mention to John Callaghan. Howard Gilbey reported that the silent auction went well with sales of \$675.00. Pierre mentioned that at the next show, the back room (where the empty boxes & extra material were stored) will be used for the club table, silent auction and appraisal table.

The membership was reminded of the upcoming elections to be held at the Annual General Meeting in February 2012. Terry Cheesman and Mitch Goudreau volunteered for the Nomination Committee.

Marcus Molenda gave a presentation titled "The Self-Made Tokens of Thomas Church". He was motivated by the recent Torex auction where several of these tokens were for sale. These tokens were made in the late 1880's to around 1900 by Thomas Church (1851-1917). The standard reference on these is still Fred Bowman's October 1959 article in the *CN Journal*, although some new discoveries have been made since then. They have imagery of Canadian symbols such as maple leaves, beavers, trapping, farming, bouquet Sou types of flowers, etc. Thomas Church also minted some merchant tokens, of which, a few

were also catalogued by Breton. The mintage of the most common type of Church token is about 100 pieces, with the second most common about 40 pieces. The average price of the tokens at the recent auction was in the \$150 - \$200 range.

Pierre showed a short video made by Telus TV at our Mar 2011 show titled, "Coin Trading". Pierre also talked about his October trip to Holland including visiting a rediscovered painting from 1812 that's being restored. It depicts Napoleon arriving in Amsterdam in 1811 with his entourage.

A new member was introduced.

Show and tell commenced. Seymour Neumann mentioned that there is a new run of 2011 printing \$5 bills that start with the prefix HAG.

Pierre showed his newly acquired 8 sided token that he had been searching for many years. It's a 1805 piece on the "Founding of the Order of the Iron Crown".

Don Griffiths showed his 1939 dollar with no denticles.

Marc Bink showed a Saxon Thaler and then he spoke about items he saw at the appraisal table including three 1948 dollars in EF and a 1935 MS \$1,000 Bank of Canada note.

The membership was reminded of next month's charity auction to be held during the meeting. All items are donated by members with 100% of the proceeds going to a charity of the membership's choice.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 and several members rendezvoused at the 124 street Boston Pizza.



## ENS Board

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# A Place in the Sun

By Marc Bink



Each year we are asked to remember that November 11th is Armistice Day, and every Remembrance Day we are asked to remember the hundreds of thousands who gave their lives to their country to protect our way of life. On the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the year 1918 the shooting finally stopped, and one of the worst wars in human history ground to a bloody halt. On that day peace started to return to a shattered French countryside for the first time in four years. Or did it? There was one place where war continued on for a few days past the armistice. This happened in a little known theatre of that war, and the story of this campaign doesn't usually appear in any of the popular history books except as a sideline to the slaughter on the Western Front. But it was significant enough to tie up a large portion of Britain's overseas resources. And much like the larger conflagration in Europe, it was a battle that the Allies never really won, and the Germans never really lost.

At the last Edmonton Numismatic Society's "Edmonton Coin Show and Sale", I was looking for something interesting to buy and write about. Since this show is usually held close to the Remembrance Day weekend, there usually is a dealer who has brought along some interesting war memorabilia. But I wasn't having much luck this time. I had just about given up when I came across a box on one of the dealers' tables that looked like it was full of some crude brass tokens. These weren't "tokens", but they were actual minted money. They were 20 Heller pieces from

German East Africa dated 1916 and made at the Tabora mint. Right then I knew I had my article. I had never heard of Tabora, and I had no idea that the Germans even struck coins for Africa that late in the war. The little "teaser" article on the dealer's table cleared up the confusion a bit and gave me a good place to start. So I managed to get a hold of three of the coins, one in copper and two in brass.

## So what was German East Africa?

As has been stated in previous articles, Germany only became unified in 1871 and had pretty





much missed out on the great colonization rush during the mid 1800s. Britain, Spain, Italy, and France had all established large colonies in Africa, and by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Germany's Kaiser, Wilhelm II, wanted his own "place in the sun". He was politely ignored. It was only through the efforts of one Dr. Karl Peters of the "German Colonization Society", who in 1884 managed to secure a few treaties with some local chiefs, that the Kaiser got the foothold he wanted. The German government decided that these few "treaties" were good enough to declare a "protectorate" in the area. The only people who were put out in this exchange were the Sultan of Zanzibar and a few Arab slave traders. The British helped negotiate a payment to the Sultan of £200,000.00 which smoothed things over with him, and the slave traders were driven away. With this deal the Germans gained control of the interior of the country. The German East Africa Company was organized to administer this area which today roughly encompasses modern Tanzania from Mt. Kilimanjaro to Lake Victoria in the north, down to modern Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the south. The capital was established in Dar-es-Salaam. The Germans built railroads throughout the country and soon were exporting rubber and coffee back to Europe which helped establish the economy in the fledgling colony. The natives were pretty receptive to German efforts to eliminate slavery and modernize the country in true Teutonic fashion by establishing an efficient postal system and mandatory education. The Germans began to involve "their Africans" in all facets of the economy and society, even going so far as to treating them as equals, which no other "Great Power" at that time would even consider. They tried to eliminate smallpox and other diseases through ambitious mass-vaccination programs. Even the trains ran on time. Things were starting to look good, and although the colony was a drain on Berlin's finances in the beginning, by 1914 it was a source of pride and almost self-sufficient. Then along came World War I.

At first it seemed that nothing would happen there. Prior to the war, both colonial governors (British and German) had met and discussed what should be done in the event that war did break out. They both decided to adhere to the Congo Act of 1885 which called for overseas colonies to remain neutral in the event of a European war. As such, neither colony had much in the way of a standing army. The Germans had a racially integrated local force called the "Schutztruppe", and the British had their own colonial militias. So the Germans stayed put. The British however, had other ideas. On August 5 1914 they raided German river outposts on Lake Victoria, and Royal Navy ships shelled

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Dar-es-Salaam. The German militia commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, decided to ignore Governor Dr. Heinrich Schnee's<sup>1</sup> orders and organized his forces for battle. He had at his disposal 260 German nationals and 2472 Askari soldiers. He knew right off the bat that he was at a severe disadvantage and would never win a war with what he had. But he could be a major thorn in the side of the British...

Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck was born in an out of the way place called Saarlouis in 1870. He followed what would have been a typical and expected career path for lower Pomeranian nobility at that time, first by being educated at boarding schools in Berlin and then joining the Prussian Army cadet school at Potsdam and Berlin-Lichterfeld. Commissioned as an officer in 1890 (Lieutenant) in the Imperial German Army, he gained his first combat experience when he was sent to China as part of the German contingent of the international alliance forces that went there to put down the

1 Dr. Heinrich Schnee, 1871-1949. Schnee was Governor in German East Africa from 1912 to 1919 when the colony was handed over to the British following the treaty of Versailles. He then went on to advocate for colonial interests as a member of the Reichstag (German parliament) starting in the 1920's. Serving in the Reichstag all throughout the Hitler years, as such he was unemployable after the war. He died as a result of a car accident in 1949.



*15 Rupien in gold, Tabora mint*

Boxer Rebellion. After a stint in China, he was sent to Africa. He took part in putting down a couple of native insurrections in German South-west Africa but didn't participate in the genocide that followed. Injured in combat, he had been evacuated to South Africa for treatment at that time. He returned to Germany in 1907 and took command of the II Seebatallion in Wilhemshaven. In 1913 he was supposed to be sent to Cameroon, but his orders were changed, and he was sent to German East Africa instead. Throughout his career he had seen some action and gained steady promotion as a result, but he probably figured he was being sent to coast out a distinguished military career in the backwoods of Africa. He was 44 in 1914, and as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the middle of nowhere, there wasn't much of a chance of further promotion.

Once the British took the initiative in German East Africa, von Lettow-Vorbeck realized that his little theatre of war was a sideshow to the main one in Europe, and that he essentially didn't have much of a chance to repel any kind of a sizeable force with the small "Schutztruppen" he had at his disposal. There also would be no chance of resupply from Germany, as the German Navy was effectively blockaded in its harbor at Wilhemshaven by the British. He was totally on his own, and his only chance at being able to accomplish anything would be to tie-up as many "Entente"<sup>2</sup> resources as possible. Rather than sit around and wait for the British to do something,

<sup>2</sup> The "Entente" mentioned here refers to the Allied alliance consisting of France, Belgium, Great Britain, and Russia. Loosely formed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to hem in the Germans, the British only joined once the Germans violated Belgian neutrality in the initial invasion of World War I.

he mobilized his forces and repelled a British amphibious assault on the city of Tanga. He clobbered the British again a short while later at Jassin which gave him much-needed supplies like guns and ammunition. This boosted the morale of his tiny force and gave them the impetus to carry on. So he started a long guerrilla warfare campaign against the British; the idea was to strike often, strike quickly, split up the enemy's resources and then get out with as few losses as possible. He concentrated on staying close to and raiding British supply lines, keeping himself and his army fed and stocked as a result.

Von Lettow-Vorbeck is unique in that he was one of the few "Western" commanders who appreciated his Africans' worth as real people. A quick look at most other colonial philosophies would show that most European powers at that time treated their African populations as recalcitrant children and never allowed them any responsibility or influence. Von Lettow-Vorbeck was the exception to the rule. He was fluent in Swahili and earned the respect of the Askaris. He took the unusual move of appointing Black officers and managed to recruit and train upwards of 14,000 men during his time there. This army was no slouch either; they were well trained and highly disciplined. All they needed was supplies and heavy guns, and they would be a force to be reckoned with.

He got his heavy guns when the SMS Koenigsberg was scuttled in the Rufiji River Delta. This ship, a small cruiser of the "Emden"<sup>3</sup> class, had been

<sup>3</sup> The Emden and her sisters were all small, fast cruisers. Most of this class of ships was active in the Indian and South Asian seas at the start of the war. The Royal Navy made it one of its priorities to destroy all of these ships and expended a great deal of manpower and coal to do so. The history of these small





marauding in the Indian Ocean area when the Royal Navy finally caught up with her. Damaged and with no chance of escape, the captain and crew decided to strip the ship, scuttle it and join von Lettow-Vorbeck's band of merry men. These guns were converted to land use and were the largest artillery pieces used during the African campaign.

In March of 1916 the British decided that von Lettow-Vorbeck's little army had to be eradicated. General Jan C. Smuts<sup>4</sup>, with 45,000 men, set off in pursuit of the Germans. The Germans used climate and terrain to their advantage, urging the British into tse-tse fly infested areas (thereby killing horses and men with disease) and fighting on German terms, putting the British at a constant disadvantage. The British committed more and more resources that would have otherwise gone to Europe to try to stop the Germans, but they

ships and their exploits is another overlooked and fascinating story in its own right.

<sup>4</sup> Jan Christiaan Smuts, 1870-1950. Born in South Africa to Afrikaners, Smuts started out as a British educated lawyer. He turned to the Boer cause during the Boer war of 1899-1901. He then had a change of heart and went back to the British, becoming first a general in the British army and then eventually the Prime Minister of South Africa. A complex man, he was instrumental in both South African and international politics. He is pretty much responsible for the League of Nations, and a lot of his work went into the subsequent United Nations after World War II. Even though he is perceived as a liberal and a Zionist supporter, he was an unrepentant segregationist who was responsible for refining the system of Apartheid in South Africa. Retired, after serving his second term as PM in South Africa in 1948, he had a heart attack and died in 1950. Smuts and von Lettow-Vorbeck met in London in 1926 and became lifelong friends. Smuts and a few others helped von Lettow-Vorbeck establish himself again after World War II. So strong was this friendship that von Lettow-Vorbeck also sent a moving letter of condolence and sympathy to Smut's widow.

were never really successful. Von Lettow-Vorbeck's plan was working; he was tying up and diverting resources that could have been better used elsewhere. After one such skirmish, the battle of Mahiwa in 1917, von Lettow-Vorbeck was promoted to Generalmajor after news of his victory finally reached Germany. For the last year of the war, while he did give up real-estate, he was never captured, and his forces were never defeated. Von Lettow-Vorbeck and his small band finally surrendered to the British on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1918, after the British sent a delegate under a white flag to his command post with the news of the Armistice. By this point the German army had been living off the land and out of contact for at least a year, and, judging by the way they were still armed when they surrendered, they could have kept on indefinitely.

### So what's with the coins?

As in most modern societies, people won't work unless they get paid. The Germans and the Askari in East Africa were by this time no exception. Von Lettow-Vorbeck's army needed to get paid. Some type of money was needed, and since the supply of coinage and banknotes from Berlin was effectively cut off by the Royal Navy, a supply fairly was needed quickly. Banknotes were quickly made up in both Dar-es-Salaam and Tabora, all issued as "provisional notes", bearing a promise to pay after the war was over. The varieties and issues of these notes are numerous. There was also a huge counterfeiting problem, as the British decided to try and destabilize the financial system by counterfeiting anything they could find. And since the notes were pretty primitive and simplistic in their design, counterfeiting them was fairly easy.



*One of the SMS Koenigsberg's converted ship's guns being transported through the jungle.*

There were quite a few issues and re-issues made, and as the supply of paper and the availability of printing presses dried up, a lot of progressively more primitive notes were issued. The last ones were actually made from a child's ink-press on what looks like butcher's paper. Coinage, which normally would have been struck in either Berlin or Hamburg, was in short supply. It was pretty clear by 1916 that the coastal cities could no longer be held by the Germans. The Allies had the advantage of numbers and ports with naval support; there was no way the Germans could counter that. So the colonial government along with coinage production was moved inland to Tabora, which is a railway station on the line from Dar-es-Salaam to Lake Tanganyika. The "mint" was set up in a railway car. The whole operation was supervised by Friedrich Schumacher, a mining engineer from the nearby gold mine who had 11 people working for him. These consisted of 2 Indians, 2 Africans and 7 Senegalese goldsmiths. The coins were made mostly from expended shell casings and were struck by a minting press that was made from salvaged parts of scuttled ships and whatever else they could be found in the locomotive shop. The metal used consisted of just about anything that could salvage be salvaged, including a worn out field gun, some household furnishings, as well as the used shell casings. The punch press was a small hand operated unit that punched out the blanks, and these blanks were "struck" using a hand-operated pipe-bender. To say these coins are crude is a bit of an understatement. They are brutally crude and look positively medieval. The German East African Bank, which employed

Schumacher, managed to find a few die-cutters in Dar-es-Salaam who were subsequently moved to Tabora. These were probably the Senegalese goldsmiths. The dies were all made by hand and directly engraved which accounts for the huge numbers of varieties. All coins struck at Tabora are marked with the mintmark "T". The whole procedure was fraught with delays and breakdowns, which can be expected when the "mint" is located in a small box-car and consists of an ingenious collection of spare parts salvaged from scuttled ships and a small railway yard. A total of 300,000 brass 5 Heller and 1,600,000 20 Heller coins were eventually made before the Tabora mint was put out of business by an invading Belgian army.

The first thing I had to do with my coins was stabilize them. They apparently came from a buried horde recently brought out by a missionary working in that area and were covered with dirt and crud. They might have also suffered from an acid dip; I wasn't sure but I knew that something had to be done. As a result (and as the photos show) they had to be cleaned up. Yes, I'm painfully aware that this is a cardinal "no-no", but I had no choice. The condition the coins were in when I received them would have insured that they would have deteriorated very rapidly unless they were chemically stabilized. This meant getting rid of all the verdigris and dirt which was starting to pit them. The brass and bronze they were made of was already of pretty poor quality, so I treated them to a cleaning that I would normally use on ancient "grounders". This involved careful cleaning



with olive oil, followed by soap and water, and in some cases, isolated mechanical cleaning. The way they are now they should tone up nicely over time and not deteriorate any further. Two of them are interesting in that they look like they were struck with the same dies; they have exactly the same weak areas and off-centre strikes, but one is made of brass, and the other is made of copper or bronze, which shows that whatever metal was available was used, and the planchets were struck as they came up. It seems that the metals used were not separated, and it seems no care was taken concerning quality control.

One would think that since bronze has more copper in it, it usually requires less pressure to strike up than brass. Thus the bronze would have been minted separately from the brass. All of my coins are of one type; the small crown obverse with the "pointed L" reverse. The Krause *"Standard Catalog of German Coins"* (2010) assigns these coins with the number KM #15 and 15A respectively. There are six known varieties of them, and my three are not of the rarest type. It would appear that all three combinations of reverse and obverse were struck in both metals.

Surprisingly the Krause catalog lists a value for "BU" (brilliant uncirculated). I can only assume that in this case "BU" means "butt-ugly", because I can't see how any one of them would have survived in uncirculated condition, not to mention, with the nature of the metal and the crudeness



of the press, it would be very difficult to distinguish "mint-bloom" from badly burnished dies. One has to remember that the facilities being used to strike these things were pretty close to what would have existed in medieval times. The pictures used in the catalog depict coins very much like mine; very weakly struck and off-centre. Values for these coins range from \$6.00 in "Fine" to about \$100.00 in "BU". Scarcer varieties obviously trade for much more. The large crown with a curled second "L" variety in bronze can be worth as much as \$350.00 in "XF". Circulation of these coins would have been limited only to the areas that the Germans still occupied. By 1916 and into 1917 the area they occupied was starting to shrink because of an ever increasing Allied presence trying to stop von Lettow-Vorbeck's little guerrilla army.



By far the scarcest coin made and issued by the Germans at Tabora was the 15 Rupien struck in gold. The story behind this coin is interesting too. The main unit of trade in the area was the British Sovereign, and the Germans didn't have anything that was equivalent to it in value. This hindered any kind of trade with the neutral colonies nearby. So it was decided to strike a coin that had the same specifications

as the Sovereign and value it at 15 Rupees. Gold wasn't a problem;

there was actually a mine nearby. This mine apparently still exists today. The ingots produced at the mine were refined and cold rolled into usable strip using a rolling mill initially designed to roll out rubber. The winning design actually was done by a German railroad employee, R. Vogt, and a

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Senegalese goldsmith was found in Zanzibar to prepare the dies. Schumacher oversaw the whole project with his small group of men. Production started on April 15, 1916 using the hand-tools described above until they broke down completely on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Production was then moved to a place called Lulanguru, about 15 miles west of Tabora, where a steam driven oil press was used to strike the remaining 9000 coins. Two varieties of that coin exist; there are only subtle differences on the eagle where it meets with the "T" in "OST". This was a very low production run, numbering only 16,200 pieces, and is very rarely seen in today's market. To make matters even more interesting, apparently Schumacher had the final production batch of 200 coins and the dies buried somewhere just before the Belgians showed up on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and they have yet to be found. Schumacher himself managed to get 40 coins out when he was repatriated as a civilian in 1919, but on the way to Germany there was an unexpected stop-over in London, and apparently while being interrogated by Scotland Yard, 39 of those coins

were taken from him. It seems a lot of Germans buried their loot in Africa expecting to find it when the war was over, but many never made it back, and as such, most of these hordes have never been found and are still "out there" today. One has to be aware that the possibility of counterfeits does exist for this coin, and it apparently has been extensively faked since 1919.

### So what happened in the end?

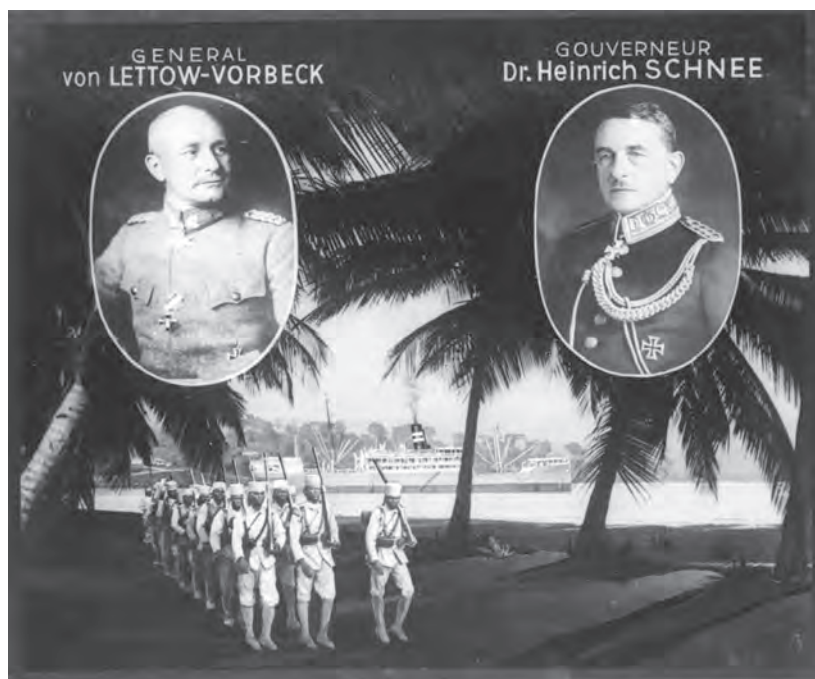
The war finally ended in Africa on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1918 when von Lettow-Vorbeck at last got confirmation that the armistice had been signed. He and his troops turned themselves in to the British, who promptly herded them all into camps. Finally in 1919 von Lettow-Vorbeck and his Germans were repatriated to Germany. Von Lettow-Vorbeck did issue scrip to his African troops promising them back-pay and pensions. Once he was back in Germany he campaigned hard on behalf of his Africans but to no avail. The new German government was broke and had no interest or inclination to pay money out to the old colonies. As far as it was concerned that was now a British problem. The German colonies had passed over to Britain after the treaty of Versailles, and the British set about ruling East Africa with the same disdain and "holier-than-thou" attitude that they did with the rest of their colonies. Tanzania finally got its independence in the 1950's and has been struggling ever since. Pretty soon all the German experiments in social engineering and advances that had been achieved in East Africa were undone, and the country reverted back to tribal warfare and disease.

Von Lettow-Vorbeck remained in the army for exactly 19 months after he returned. He

got involved in the Kapp Putsch<sup>5</sup> which resulted in his getting tossed out of the Reichswehr. Then he married and went on to become a fairly successful import-export manager in Bremen. He also remained active in politics, becoming a Reichstag deputy for the Monarchist Party in 1928-1930. He had nothing good to say about the Nazis either. In fact, when Hitler asked him to become the German Ambassador to Britain in 1935, he brusquely told Hitler to go and commit an un-natural act on himself. Rumour has it he didn't even suggest it that politely either. The official word was that he declined the offer "with frigid hauteur". As a result he had to keep his nose clean while under constant surveillance by the Gestapo. At the start of the war he did take a ceremonial commission in the Wehrmacht but was never called upon for a combat role. After World War II he was left destitute with a bombed out house and both of his sons dead as war casualties. He managed to rebuild yet again, and by the time he died in 1964 he wasn't doing too badly. He visited his old stomping grounds in Africa again in 1953 and was received there with full military honours by the British. As a result of his popularity and

<sup>5</sup> The Kapp Putsch was an ill-timed attempt by some members of the army (Reichswehr) to restore the monarchy. In the period between 1918 and 1920 Germany was essentially in a state of civil war, as communists and monarchists all fought to destabilize an already weak democracy. The putschists managed to drive the government out of Berlin and on to Dresden. This putsch failed within a day or so for want of a competent secretary and a typewriter, and the fact that the public's heart and mind weren't on the side of the monarchists. The working class rallied to the defense of the new republic for the first and only time by staging a general strike which paralyzed the rebels. The supposedly legitimate government, the SPD (Social Democrats), managed to convince some of the army and the "Freikorps" (Free-corps, essentially free-booters) to reinstitute order, but for a while it was unsure whom the Reichswehr would eventually support.





*Vorbeck-Schnee postcard*

his seemingly "clean" record, (militarily and politically) he remains the only German general that still has streets named after him in Germany. He was also accorded a full military burial attended by members of state when he died. The German government even flew a couple of surviving Askaris to attend the funeral.

The Askaris got their pensions in 1964. The West German government finally decided to honour the commitment made by von Lettow-Vorbeck back in 1918. They would have their pensions fully honoured with back-pay. The only problem was that there was no way of positively attributing just who was involved, since many of the Askaris had lost their chits. The banker sent to do the payouts hit upon a novel idea. As each claimant stepped up he was ordered, in German, to perform the "Appel". All 350 surviving claimants passed the test to a man. They got more than a lot of their German compatriots ended up getting, as most German military pensions were eradicated

by the inflation of 1922-23<sup>6</sup> and the eventual economic fallout after the Second World War.

Tabora still exists, though there isn't much there. There is no tourist industry there, nor are there any facilities except for the railway station. Most if not all of the old German buildings are gone, and there are no Germans left. Judging from the picture I saw of the place, even the locals don't want to be there.

So did von Lettow-Vorbeck succeed in his aim of tying up

<sup>6</sup> The great Inflation of 1922-23 was brought on by the government of Germany as a sort of passive-resistance measure protesting the French occupation of the Ruhr. The French, not happy at the prospect of not getting paid their reparations, decided to occupy and remove money from the Ruhr area. To the German government this meant a sizable loss of tax revenue, and as such it effectively had nothing left to back up the ever increasing amounts of banknotes it was forced to churn out. This inflation lasted only one year. The people most affected by it were the middle class and the working class, who had all of their savings and pensions wiped out. The government and the banks did eventually build a solid new currency, the Reichsmark, but the damage done was enough to totally ruin the Weimar government in the eyes of the people.

valuable resources that would have otherwise gone to Europe? It depends on whom you read. Some historians figure that most of the troops sent against the Germans in Africa couldn't have been sent to Europe in the first place. Others contend that von Lettow-Vorbeck's little guerrilla war cost the British a lot more than some sleep. Sending another 45 thousand men into the meat-grinder that was the Western Front probably wouldn't have made much difference in the overall scheme of things anyway. This is considering that the British commander of the Commonwealth forces, General Douglas Haig, was a pompous, intellectual light-weight who never could accept or learn from his mistakes. He had the notion that if one threw enough manpower at the German trenches, a breakthrough would eventually ensue. He tried numerous times and never achieved anything except for littering up a lot of French and Belgian fields with white crosses. He seemed to forget that shells don't cut barbed wire and that the Germans were equipped with some wicked machine guns. The First World War was a bloody stalemate that should have never been allowed to happen. It was quite possibly the only war in history that was started by alliances tripping and not on economic, religious or racial grounds. It also laid the groundwork for a far more devastating war 20 years later which was racially and economically motivated. Realistically, one can make a convincing argument that the First World War didn't really end until the downfall of the Berlin Wall in 1991 when the Germans finally regained full sovereignty again. Indeed the world was a far different place by 1991, but a few things hadn't changed. The Balkans were still a mess of civil wars, Russia was still economically



# Pocket-Sized Paper: British Hong Kong 1-Cent Banknotes

By Ermin Chow



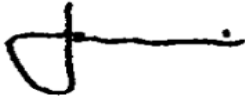
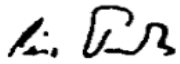
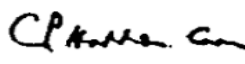


Since many may have seen my exhibit on this subject, we will explore the fascinating series of these tiny notes. Because there are not very many notes in this series, they can be an inexpensive addition to any collection. While 5 and 10-cent notes were issued about the same time as most of the 1-cent issues, the 1-cent note is by far the most interesting denomination. Not only was it the smallest denomination banknote in Hong Kong, it was immensely popular there when it was in circulation. Although all three denominations were emergency issues because of the lack of coinage, the 1-cent had no coin counterpart after 1941, while 5-cent coins were minted until 1988 and 10-cent coins to date.

In terms of size, the notes are only about  $\frac{1}{4}$  that of our current Canadian currency. Even though they are no longer in circulation, they are still readily available. With the exception of the first issue in May 1941, all these notes are single-sided, have no serial number, and are brown in color. They are currently not legal tender and have been withdrawn from circulation. All issues are printed mostly in English with some Chinese on them. Also, printed on these notes is that they are legal tender only for amounts less than a dollar. They are made out of cotton paper.

The 1941 issue of the 1-cent banknote is unique in the series in many respects. It is the only issue in the series with a printed back and a serial number, but it also features no monarch's portrait. This note is also somewhat narrower and slightly taller

than the other issues (42 mm by 75 mm). It, as well as its 5 and 10-cent counterparts, was issued as a solution to the lack of small change in the colony and was printed by Noronha and Company Ltd. in Hong Kong. It was signed by Financial Secretary R.R. Todd.

Many may know that Hong Kong was a British Colony from 1841 to 1997 and is currently a Special Administrative Region of China. For about 4 years, from December 1941 to August 1945, it was occupied by the Japanese military. The occupation resulted in the use of the rapidly inflating Japanese military yen, and the Hong Kong dollar was not used. Shortly after the war ended, 1-cent notes, along with 5 and 10-cent notes bearing the portrait of George VI, were issued for general circulation. There were no coinage supplies from the end of

| SIGNATURE VARIETIES |  |   |  |
|---------------------|--|---|--|
| 1                   | <br>J.J. Cowperthwaite, 1961-71 | 4 | <br>Sir Piers Jacobs, 1986-92   |
| 2                   | <br>C.P. Haddon-Cave, 1971-81   | 5 | <br>Sir Hamish Macleod, 1992-95 |
| 3                   | <br>Sir J.H. Bremridge, 1981-86 |   |  |

Signature Varieties Chart from: Shafer, N / Cuhaj, G (2002). *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, Modern Issues 1961-Date*. 8th ed. Iola, WI: Krause Publications. p402.



the war in 1945 until 1949, which made these small denomination notes essential for circulation in commerce. The issue in 1945 bears the portrait of George VI, and is signed by C.G. Fellows. This is uni-sided and has no serial numbers. The dimensions of this note measure 41 mm by 89 mm. Since the issue bears no date, it is not possible to find out exactly when each note was printed.

Five different signature varieties of notes in the era of Queen Elizabeth have been issued. These include those of Financial Secretaries J.J. Cowperthwaite, C.P. Haddon-Cave, Sir J.H. Bremridge, Sir Piers Jacobs, and Sir Hamish Macleod. The notes are uni-sided and the same color and size as the George VI notes. They are readily available in uncirculated grades. Although like the George VI issues none of them is dated, the dates can be approximated through the signature varieties. This was an extremely popular issue despite having very little value. Approximately \$1 million worth of the notes were printed, with the majority bearing the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. They were often placed in Lucky Packets during Chinese New Year.

Attempting to complete a set of these notes is relatively easy, yet intriguing. It is just so fascinating looking at the history and significance behind them. After the completion of a set of these fun little notes, it may be logical to start collecting the 5 and 10-cent issues. These are slightly more expensive but definitely affordable pieces. For those looking for satisfaction in completing a series of notes or starting to collect world paper money, these pocket-sized notes may be one of the ideal series to start on.

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Signature Varieties Chart from: Shafer, N / Cuhaj, G, *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, Modern Issues 1961-Date*, 8th ed., Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, 2002, p402.







# A Bronze Coin of Antoninus Pius from the Mint of Petra

By Terence Cheesman

I have been fascinated with the coinage of the Roman mint of Petra for many years. Even before I bought my first coin from that mint in 2003 I had an interest in the history and culture of that region. The city of Petra stood astride the great overland trade route which started in the ports of central Arabia and ended at the city of Damascus and of course the great maritime ports of the eastern Mediterranean. Damascus was the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom, and her kings converted a natural fortress into a very important stopover with a massive investment in hydraulic engineering. The control of water in what is otherwise a barren desert made the city extremely wealthy, and the kings spent some of this wealth on monumental architecture.



The Romans annexed the region in 107 A.D. calling it their Province Arabia. There does not seem to have been a military campaign as the Roman coins record that the Province was acquired, not captured or defeated. This might seem odd now, but the ancient world was not imbued with concepts of nationalism so prevalent today. The old royal Nabataean silver coins were overstruck with types honouring the Roman Emperor Trajan, but it was during the reign of his successor Hadrian (117 to 138 A.D.) that the first Roman base metal coins were struck at the mint of Petra. This coinage may have started early in the reign as the image on the coin was that of Trajan, though the legends were for Hadrian. The coinage of Hadrian was quite large and seems to have been based on a system of four denominations, the larger being the double of the

next size smaller. The largest coin was about the same size and weight as the Roman As. The issue minted by Hadrian is quite sizeable. Some of it may have been a response to the Jewish revolt of 132 to 135 A.D. At some point the city acquired the title of  $\Delta\Delta\text{PIANH}$ , thus officially making Petra the city of Hadrian.

The coinage of Antoninus Pius who succeeded Hadrian in 138 A.D. is very much more limited in size than that of Hadrian. While the essential character of the coinage was maintained, the smallest denomination seems to have been abandoned by this time. Another feature of this coinage is that the coins are usually found in a much more worn state than the preceding coins of Hadrian or those minted for Marcus Aurelius,



the successor of Antoninus Pius. There does not seem to be any discernible weight loss between the coins of Hadrian and Pius, however there was a noticeable reduction under Marcus Aurelius along with a change in design, which may have prompted the older heavier coins to remain in circulation. The obverse reads ΑΥΤ. ΚΑΙ. Τ.ΑΙ.Α. ΑΔΡΙΑ. ANTONWINOC CEB. EYCEB. Roughly translated into English this would be "The victorious army commander heir to Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrian Antoninus Emperor loyal to the memory of his predecessor". Though getting good press both among ancient writers and modern historians, Hadrian's last few years as Emperor were marred by treason trials and executions. Antoninus fought hard to preserve a favourable memory of Hadrian and because of this effort earned the title of Pius.

The reverse features a seated city Tyche, her right hand outstretched and her left cradling a military trophy. She is seated on what looks like a large pile of rocks which may symbolize the natural fortifications that surround the city. Tyche or Fortuna is the deity that represents the city's good fortune or luck. The military trophy is extremely unusual. I do not know of any other civic Tyche that has a military trophy. The trophy may allude to the military garrison of the city or its role as one of the gateways to the Roman Empire. It could also be an allusion to the impregnability of

the city. However despite years of archaeological excavations much of the history and culture of that city is still unknown. It is possible that what we are actually looking at is a local goddess whose identity and functions are unknown. The reverse reads ΑΔΡΙΑΝΗ ΠΕΡΤΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ. Loosely translated this would be "Petra city of Hadrian the Metropolis" or "most important city of the province". Just as today cities vied with each other to create resounding titles to reflect civic pride or to advertise their city's importance. The title of Metropolis, literally "mother city" in Greek, was a means to assert superiority over neighbouring towns and cities. It is not clear whether this title would have been given to the city by the Roman administration, such as the provincial governor or even the Emperor, or it was granted to the city by the citizens themselves. In the case of Petra it would seem that the title was granted very soon after the city became a part of the Roman Empire.

It is not surprising that the city of Petra with its dramatic history and setting would be the subject of intense study and exploration. The coinage becomes a pathway to understanding the people, their trade, culture and how they viewed themselves within the context of the Roman world.



### Continued from page 13 - Bink

backwards, and communism, for all its promise, had only ended up exacerbating the problem, not helping it. Africa was still dirt poor but under new local masters. So what did the World Wars eventually accomplish besides some interesting history and some coinage footnotes? Not much, except for the slaughter of a lot of courageous young men for some ideals, good, bad or otherwise. Remember them as individuals next November 11<sup>th</sup> and not the systems they stood for.

And Kaiser Wilhelm's "Place in the Sun"? Well, he never once went to see it. Prior to the war he used his beloved navy a lot for his tours, but he never once went to East Africa. After the war he never left his place of exile in Holland. He never cared "a fig" about those colonies to begin with. And that's his quote, not mine.

### Bibliography

Books: There are very few books exclusively on that subject; besides snippets in other World War I reference books that are in my personal library these are the primary sources that I used:

The First World War, by John Keegan, published by Random House, 1998, Vintage Canada Edition, 2000

Farnsworth Encyclopedia, assorted authors, London, 1908 (background contemporary information)

### Wikipedia articles

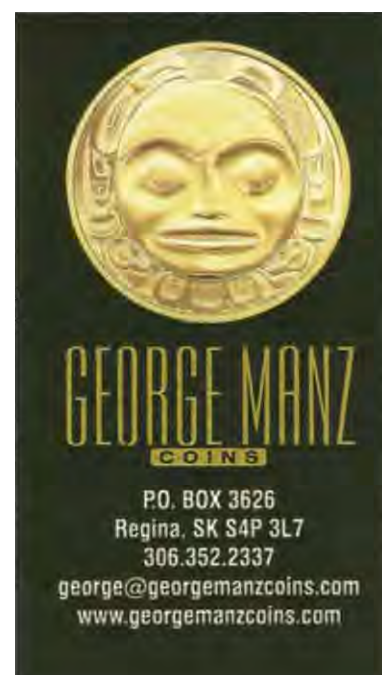
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# Go for the Gold

The second annual Go For the Gold awards will be presented at the December ENS meeting. The award categories are:

- Volunteer
- *The Planchet*
- Executive

## Volunteer

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

Volunteering can come in many forms:

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

## The Planchet

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

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

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

## Executive

All elected Executive members will receive one silver maple leaf at the end of their immediate term, at the February meeting.

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

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

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## WE DO ESTATE APPRAISALS



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

| NAME                | PLANCHET | Mar Show | Nov Show | Presentations | Misc | Total |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|------|-------|
| Marv Berger         |          | 10       | 5        |               |      | 15    |
| Marc Bink           | 20       | 16       | 7        | 2             | 6    | 31    |
| Gillian Budd        |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| John Callaghan      |          | 10       | 11       |               | 20   | 41    |
| Lance Casagrande    |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| Kimberly Casagrande |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| Terry Cheeseman     | 10       | 2        | 3        | 2             |      | 7     |
| Ermin Chow          | 3        | 3        | 3        | 1             |      | 7     |
| Bud Collins         | 1        |          |          |               |      | -     |
| Bill Demontigny     |          | 2        | 2        |               |      | 4     |
| Pierre Driessen     | 30       | 24       | 22       | 2             | 30   | 78    |
| Mirko Dumanovic     |          | 1        | 3        |               |      | 4     |
| Bob Eriksson        |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| Pat Eriksson        |          | 1        | 1        |               |      | 2     |
| Bob Fillman         |          | 3        | 3        |               |      | 6     |
| John Gallupe        |          | 1        | 2        |               |      | 3     |
| Howard Gilbey       | 10       | 6        | 10       | 1             |      | 17    |
| Mitch Goudreau      |          | 5        | 9        |               | 3    | 17    |
| Don Griffith        |          | 5        | 2        |               |      | 7     |
| Roger Grove         | 18       | 2        | 1        |               | 38   | 41    |
| Chris Hale          | 10       | 2        | 1        |               |      | 3     |
| Wayne Hansen        | 3        | 3        | 3        | 2             |      | 8     |
| Bill Hladky         |          | 4        | 2        |               |      | 6     |
| Martin Holzbauer    |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| Joe Kennedy         | 1        |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| Del Keown           |          | 1        | 1        |               |      | 2     |
| Elmer Lupul         |          | 2        | 1        |               |      | 3     |
| Alan Mall           |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| George Manz         |          | 1        |          |               |      | 1     |
| Mike Marshall       | 1        |          |          |               |      | -     |
| Jeremy Martin       |          | 2        | 3        |               | 2    | 7     |
| Zoltan Miholy       |          | 5        | 4        |               |      | 9     |
| Markus Molenda      | 10       |          |          | 2             |      | 2     |
| Ray Neiman          |          | 2        |          |               |      | 2     |
| Seymour Neumann     |          | 2        | 4        |               |      | 6     |
| Doug Oates          |          |          | 2        |               |      | 2     |
| David Peter         |          | 3        | 2        |               |      | 5     |
| Kim Peter           |          | 2        | 1        |               |      | 3     |
| Larry Priestnall    |          | 6        | 3        |               |      | 9     |
| Paul Purdie         |          |          | 4        |               |      | 4     |
| Jules Rach          |          | 2        | 2        |               |      | 4     |
| Dean Silver         | 2        |          |          |               |      | -     |
| Andy Vanderleest    |          | 3        | 2        |               |      | 5     |
| Jim Vanderleest     |          | 2        | 1        |               |      | 3     |
| Greg Wichman        |          | 9        | 10       |               |      | 19    |
| Nick Wickendon      |          |          | 1        |               |      | 1     |
| James Williston     |          | 1        |          |               |      | 1     |
| Isaac Wood          |          | 1        |          |               |      | 1     |

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

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





# Silk Purse or Sow's Ear

By Wayne Hansen



In my last article on "Assessing Ancient Coins" (*The Planchet*, October 2011), I described a series of guidelines that might be considered when purchasing ancient coins. The general rule in this regard is to buy what you like while maximizing quality and minimizing problems, in order to maintain long-term value and collector interest.

I accompanied the article with photos of some of my coins to illustrate positive coin attributes that a collector might reference when hunting for new acquisitions, such as detail, style, metal quality, and centering. At the same time I indicated that very few ancient coins are perfect – in fact they are intrinsically imperfect given the primitive striking conditions and the potential for metal deterioration over the intervening centuries.

The article also mentioned that I have purchased many coins over the years that I would not have selected if I had strictly followed my own guidelines. Although these less-than-optimal coins did have many charming aspects that allowed them to fit within my collection, they also had at least one fairly obvious flaw. One benefit of buying nice coins with one or two flaws is that the price should

be discounted compared to an exceptional example (important in Greek coins since they can become expensive very quickly when the positive points add up). Another reason for buying such coins is that a collector can then assemble a display of interesting coins with interesting problems. Almost all ancient coins (especially Greek) are deficient to some extent – it is a matter of evaluating or weighing the impact of each deficiency in relation to the overall appeal of each coin and the likelihood of finding better one. If you want to emphasize style and detail and if your resources are limited, you may occasionally have to compromise on other considerations in order to keep expanding your collection.

It could be noted at this point that collectors may differ considerably in their approach to collecting and their view of coin imperfections. Some collectors will not want to purchase coins with a significant flaw. Others might accept only coins with certain types of flaws (such as placing a high value on fully struck images rather than condition or style, or insisting on a full legend even if the flan and strike are irregular). Even though most collectors might consider buying a coin with one or more obvious problems, they will also want to determine beforehand how each deficiency affects the basic integrity of the coin. There is a kind of undefined hierarchy of important design elements within each coin image. If too many of the essential elements of the image or legend are missing or otherwise compromised, then most collectors would likely decide against the coin. For example, if an enchanting tetradrachm of Magnesia should appear with a beautiful portrait of Artemis, but the arrow quiver at her shoulder is off the flan, the consensus would likely be that it is not a complete representation of that goddess, and therefore it does not reflect the artistic intent of the celator. Each collector has to choose which image elements are most important in each coin motif, and which prospective coins are ultimately acceptable.

When purchasing coins that have a significant striking or condition problem, I have at least tried to ensure that the most critical design elements of each coin's image were preserved. Following is a

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brief listing of common coin deficiencies for which I have found a comparable example in my collection, together with my rationale for ultimately buying the coin. Perhaps these comments will assist you in evaluating the price of such imperfections, and allow you to see the silk purse rather than the sow's ear.

**Off-Centre Strike - Tetradrachm of Thasos (Obverse – Head of Dionysios – after 146 BC).** There have been many versions of this late tetradrachm offered for sale, some issued by Thasos itself and some issued by imitators. The image on this large coin was boldly struck on reasonably smooth metal, but it is obviously far off-centre (unfortunately the back of the head and usual hair twist are missing). Even with this problem, and with the concern that the style of the wreathed Dionysios head is not very classical, I thought the coin was unusual and attractive enough to purchase.



**Uneven Strike - Double Shekel of Babylon (Reverse – Lion Walking – 323 BC).** The depiction of the walking lion, mimicking the famous tiled lions on the Ishtar Gate, is extraordinarily strong. Moreover the coin was minted about the time that Alexander died in that city (this poorly-produced local coinage was issued in parallel with the Alexander Herakles tetradrachms of similar weight). Although the die was well centered, the angled strike of the reverse die missed the rear leg and tail of the lion. However, the missing parts of the design are non-critical, and the rest of the image is detailed and powerful.



**Under-Strike - Bronze AE27 of Hieron II from Syracuse (Obverse – Head of Hieron – 250 BC).** Portrait coins were uncommon in Sicily, then Hieron issued these large bronzes with a stylish profile of the ruler. Unfortunately, this coin issue was generally under-struck with details of the highest points not formed (sometimes called flat strike). However, this coin was acceptable to me in other respects, with a nice style, crisp details elsewhere, and an impressive trident symbol. It is also fairly heavy which I always appreciate.







**Double-Strike - Stater of Thasos (Obverse – Satyr Abducting Nymph – 500 BC).** Usually, double-struck (or porous) coins should be avoided like the plague since the coin image (or metal quality) is severely compromised. When I bought this coin there were few other examples of this early type available, and this one is reasonably high grade. In my view, the double striking is also mild enough to have minimal impact on the coin's overall presentation.



**Weak or Soft Strike - Billon Tridrachm of Carthage (Obverse – Head of Tanit – 211 BC).** This coin has a soft appearance, showing a full image but with little sharpness. This likely resulted from a weak strike and possibly a bit of a worn die (it may also be an under-strike since the highest points are flat). However I really like this style of Tanit, and the coin is well centered with a pleasing appearance and a nice patina. It also is published in Coin Hoards IX in the Large Head Billon series of Carthage, so it is famous.



**Over-Strike - Tetradrachm of Ptolemy I as Satrap (Obverse - Portrait of Alexander III – 310 BC).** These coins with Alexander in elephant headdress are usually scarce. I bought this one more than ten years ago for a good price without realizing that it showed signs of being clipped and over-struck on a previous issue – note the flat edge and creases in the metal on the face and neck (the earlier Attic weight versions of this coin were re-struck by Ptolemy at a reduced weight). Nonetheless the coin has a good style and nice detail.



**Short Flan - Tetradrachm of Byzantion (Obverse – Heifer Standing on Dolphin – 370 BC).**

Tetradrachms of the important city of Byzantion are fairly rare, and the metal quality of most of these high denomination coins is quite poor (almost all coins of this type you see are drachms). They are also badly struck, usually with a good part of the image off the flan. When I saw this one at auction, with great metal and finish, almost all the obverse image intact, and probably a unique monogram, I couldn't resist. This is one case where the partial loss of a critical design element (the front of the heifer's head) could not be avoided – essentially I determined that having an almost full display of the cow-standing-on-dolphin motif for this large Byzantion coin was a greater priority.



**Die Break - Drachm of Larissa (Obverse – Youth Restraining Bull – 420 BC).**

This is a nice early coin of Larissa (before the nymph series); several of these types appeared on the market a while ago. This one is from a late die showing an extreme level of action and a high level of detail. Unfortunately the flan is small, but the main problem is two globular die breaks between the two figures (on the upper torso of the youth and behind his thigh). The coin is however a good example of the type, and the die breaks blend into the scene to some extent.



**Surface Wear - Tetradrachm of Lysimachos (Obverse - Portrait of Alexander III – 285 BC).**

This is one of my first coin purchases, and I was fortunate to get it. It is a very desirable coin type with a proper Alexander portrait, and this particular coin is struck from one of the most stylish dies of the Pergamon series (similar to the much published British Museum specimen, also with the 'K' signature below the neck). Although the metal is smooth and the relief very sculptural, the level of detail in the hair and Ammon horn is less than desired. Instead the coin has an abundance of visual impact and charm.







**Flan Crack - Stater of Teos (Obverse – Griffin – 510 BC).** Griffins are always popular, and this coin shows a lot of detail. It was struck at the beginning of the early Teos series when coinage itself was a fairly new phenomenon and striking techniques were still evolving. The result was a touch of double striking and two flan cracks visible on the upper right and left of the obverse. It is otherwise an effective design and a great coin.



**Surface Pitting - Dilitron of Timoleon from Syracuse (Reverse – Free Horse – 344 BC).** Timoleon issued these large bronzes in Syracuse almost a century before Hieron (see Under-Strike example above), employing a Zeus head on the obverse and a free running horse on the reverse. They can get expensive so I bought this one with some nice detail but with many reverse surface pits (not as apparent in hand). While the pits do detract from the coin's appearance, the magnificence, style and energy of the horse, together with details of the obverse Zeus, shine through.



**Counter-Stamp - Stater of Aegina (Obverse – Tortoise – 457 BC).** This coin was one featured in my last article on assessment. It is a remarkably complete and detailed coin with high relief and an unusual profile view of the tortoise head. The coin was, however, struck with an ancient counter-stamp in the centre of the shell, which does detract from the coin's value (some people would not have bid on it for that reason). The coin is still exceptional, and the design is basically intact so I have no reservations. Note also the perimeter flan cracks common for this high-relief issue.



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**Test-Cut - Stater of Satrap Balakros (Obverse – Facing Head of Athena – 330 BC).** Test-cuts are fairly common, but this one is spectacular. Not only is the coin itself a fresh and detailed example of the type with facing Athena (struck at Issos soon after Alexander defeated the Persian King Darius), but the test-cut is a marvelous, three dimensional version extending above the coin's surface. Again, many or most people would not want this coin, but I think it is wonderful.



**Encrustation - Triple Unit of Baktria (Obverse – Head of Elephant with Bell – 200 BC).** Elephants are rarely depicted on coins. This Baktrian bronze type from the area of current Afghanistan was more available a few years ago, though hard to find without corrosion and with good detail. This particular coin had everything going for it except it had some hard encrustation on the elephant head (the colors are much more muted on the actual coin). I liked it, so I bought it.

Note: All coins from the author's collection and photographed by the author.



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# Edmonton Coin Show and Sale - Fall 2011

By Roger Grove



Over the last year, the Edmonton Coin Show and Sale saw unprecedented growth in attendance. This resulted in the Edmonton Numismatic Society requiring moving to a larger venue at the Edmonton Hotel and Conference Centre. This new venue proved to be the right move for the show as attendance again topped 1,000 over the two day event.

David Peter, President of the ENS said, "This show was our most successful yet, and we have had a great run over the last year with our last two shows. It was always busy, there were lots of people buying but also a lot of collections were sold to dealers. We even sold out of hotel rooms in our blocked off amount and the hotel had to release more rooms for us." With the success from this show the ENS has been able to enter into a long-term relationship with the hotel, securing the facility for the next two years. "We are very pleased to know we will be coming back here for years to come."

As usual, the ENS sponsored and volunteer run appraisal table was busy. "It was so busy at times", said Marc Bink, ENS Vice-President, "that when I finally had a chance to look up all I could see was a line of 5-10 people waiting to have their coins and paper appraised." Some of the items that were appraised were a 1901 Maundy set, two rare 1945 and three 1948 \$1, a 1935 English Bank of Canada note, and several gold coins (US double eagles including a Saint-Gaudens, and Krugerrands only to name a few).

The next show dates are set for 3 & 4 March 2012 at the Edmonton Hotel and Convention Centre (4520 - 76 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta). We hope to see you all there.



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The ENS appraisal table



The Silent Auction headed by Howard Gilbey

Photos by Mitch Goudreau





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# A Modern Prometheus

By Pierre Driessen



**A**lmost from the very moment Napoléon Bonaparte disembarked from HMS Northumberland and set foot on his island prison of St. Helena, the former ruler of Europe and Emperor of the French began his last and arguably most successful battle – the shaping of his legacy - by dictating and editing his memoirs.

St. Helena, owned by the British East India Company, was a strategically important but forsaken volcanic rock in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of the African continent, more than 2000 kilometers from the nearest major land mass. Napoléon was guarded on land by a British garrison of 3000 troops and at sea by 4 Royal Navy frigates. Despite numerous plots, escape would prove impossible. A wonderful and superbly acted movie, 'The Emperor's New Cloths', released in 2003 tells the story of a successful escape, although things do not exactly workout as planned. It is pure fantasy but well worth seeing. The real Napoléon however, always the pragmatist, concentrated on what was realistic, leaving the plotting to others.

Removed from his family, stripped of his power and with little to do, a lesser man would have gone into a state of depression, not Napoléon. He turned his predicament and imprisonment into the ultimate advantage and revenge on his enemies and captors. It would be his ultimate act of defiance. Napoléon succeeded in a rare feat, changing defeat into victory, by turning the normal course of the writing of history on its head. Instead, as is usually the case, of the victor writing history, it is Napoléon who writes his and that of his era. He succeeded in influencing from the start, and continues to do so to the present, scholarship and popular opinion. By actively shaping the legacy of his persona, government and actions, he single-handedly began the

creation of the cult of Napoléon and his time.

This has given and continues to give rise to more scholarship, research, writing, speculation and conjecture, professional and amateur, than about any other person or period in human history. No other subject has a greater variety and number of books published about it. His efforts were very effectively helped by the disastrous administration of the government of the restored Bourbon dynasty under the 310 pound Louis XVIII. Few governments in the history of mankind can lay claim to having turned its subjects against it more quickly than that of Louis XVIII. It did not take long for the legend of Napoléon to take hold in the popular imagination. French men of every social class began to look back on his reign with nostalgia. Despite the many years of hardship, deprivation and war suffered by the French people from 1789 to 1815, they appeared far better than those suffered under the corrupt, incompetent and humiliating administration of the restored Bourbons.



Louis XVIII, younger brother of the executed Louis XVI, and his government did everything in their power, through sheer arrogance and incompetence, to alienate every segment of French society. The general policy was to turn back time, undo the reforms and nullify the freedoms, rights and privileges the French people had won though many years of struggle. The government acted as if the period between 1789 and 1814-15 had never occurred.



Land, property, religious, political, social and legal reforms were undone. Aristocratic and Church lands and property, nationalized and sold during the Revolution, were seized from their current holders and returned to their pre-1789 owners. The franchise was drastically reduced, limiting the rights of millions of French men to vote and participate in politics to just a few thousand. The feats and sacrifices of French arms between 1789 and 1814 - 15 were discredited – the Bourbon government dissolved the Legion d'Honneur, refused to pay military pensions, disbanded a large part of the army and placed most of the remaining officers on half-pay. As during the pre-Revolutionary regime, within the royal army foreign troops again held prominence of place, emphasizing the mistrust Louis' regime had in the French army and people.

In an attempt to strengthen its hold on the country, the Bourbon government engaged in a systematic policy of removal from administrative, military and political office persons who had served the previous regime. These were replaced with émigrés, aristocrats and sympathizers who had left France and fought against her during the 1789 – 1815 period. Unlike the previous regime, where offices and advancement had largely been achieved through merit, the Bourbon's was based on nepotism and cronyism resulting in many incompetents achieving positions for which they were wholly unsuited.

The above policies were complimented by outright assassination and murder of known or suspected Bonaparte sympathizers or adherents, either through the courts or non-legal means. Marshall Bertier, Napoléon's long serving chief of staff, met his death when he mysteriously fell from the window of his chateau. Many more examples of similar 'accidents' exist. The executions of numerous generals and marshals, such as the popular Ney, further alienated the army and people. This all served to increase mistrust, resentment and hostility toward the Bourbons in all levels of French society. The presence of foreign occupation troops, which had to be paid for with French taxes, did not help matters.

The very essence of Bourbon policy was plain for all to see in the constitution, known as the Charter, which Louis XVIII had granted to his people on 2 May 1814, that nullified the 24 years of French history which had taken place since the Revolution, the Consulate and the Empire. Reinforcing this was the fact that Louis signed it in 'this nineteenth year of our reign'. It meant he reckoned his reign to have started in 1795, following the death of his nephew, the so-called Louis XVII, who had died



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in prison during the Revolutionary era, following the beheading of his father, Louis XVI, in 1793. In light of this new constitution and the Bourbon government's actions, the legal, administrative, fiscal and social reforms undertaken during Napoléon's reign appeared modern, progressive and democratic.

The same can be said when Napoléon's policies are compared to those instituted by the governments of the victorious allied powers throughout Europe. Wherever Napoléon had been, even in lands that had suffered at his hand, the former emperor came to be associated with enlightenment. Bringing people out of darkness. He came to be seen as delivering them from the bondage of feudal privilege and servitude into modern civilization – he had become a modern day Prometheus.

Just as Prometheus had been punished and suffered for his efforts to help humanity, so was Napoléon punished by those who wished to hold mankind in servitude.

One of the earliest medals that perfectly illustrates the power of the medallic arts to help spread the Napoléonic legend is titled "Napoléon á Ste Helene". It is a wonderful marriage between political propaganda and the use of classical mythology and imagery.

### THE MEDAL

Struck in 1816 in Italy, the medal is 76.5 mm in diameter; its composition is bronzed copper, with a smooth raised rim. The design is in high relief.

### OBVERSE:

The obverse of the medal depicts the right facing laureate bust of Napoléon as an ancient Roman emperor or victorious general. This had become the standard manner in which Napoléon was depicted on medals and coins throughout the French Empire and its client states.

Above Napoléon's head are nine stars. A star generally stands for a heavenly omen or divine favour. The number nine can have a variety

of meanings, ranging from - the one who accomplishes the divine will; human immortality; the totality of humanity; eternity; to the perfection of ideas. When combined these can be interpreted to mean Napoléon was the one who set out to accomplish the divine will for all humanity with the blessing of heaven.

To the left of the bust is a broken wheel. In ancient mythology the wheel was one of the attributes of the goddess Fortuna, thus a broken wheel signifies the loss of good fortune. Below the bust are crossed branches of bay (*laurel nobilis*) and palm. The former, sacred to the god Apollo, was used throughout antiquity to honour those victorious in battle or other contests. The latter is also symbolic of victory, but within the context of martyrdom.

Along the edge is found the legend: "**NAPOLEONE IMPERATORE E RE**" - "Napoléon Emperor and King". It can be argued that the term *imperatore* has a double meaning here and is also used in its classical context signifying a victorious commander.

Overall the uses of the terminology and portrait have a deeper meaning, being suggestive of the glory of the unified Italian peninsula under ancient Rome - an illusion to Italian nationalism awakened. During the reign of Napoléon, the newly created Kingdom of Italy, which was comprised of a large portion of northern Italy and the lands of the Papal States, enjoyed a special status within the greater French Empire. This created a renewed sense of what could be called a proto-Italian nationalism, setting in motion the events, which would eventually culminate in the unification of the Italian peninsula in 1861. When the former Austrian Hapsburg rulers tried to re-establish control after 1814-15, Napoléon became the early symbol of the Italians' struggle for independence and unification against their foreign overlords.

#### REVERSE:

Here is found vivid and politically charged imagery depicting a much-loved scene from ancient Greek mythology - namely the punishment and suffering of the Titan Prometheus.

In this myth is expressed the fruit of the wonderfully creative mind of the ancient Greeks trying to explain the origins of man and womankind, and their struggle with the gods for a place in the universe. In Greek the name Prometheus means "forward thinking" or "forethought". This Titan who fought with the gods against the other Titans for supremacy in heaven, according to Greek mythology, was both the creator and benefactor of mankind. He fashioned men from dirt and water. His creation was not as well equipped as the other creatures that roam the earth, lacking large teeth, claws, speed, strength or camouflage, so he brought man the ultimate weapon - fire - smuggling it in a fennel-stalk from Olympus. It allowed mankind to dominate the earth. It was the latest in a series of transgressions against the will of Zeus, which had benefited mankind at the expense of the Olympian gods. This angered Zeus; he wanted to withhold fire from man, and thus he punished Prometheus.

The Titan was chained to a rock or pillar where during the day his liver was eaten by an eagle. In another variation, it was his heart that was eaten by a vulture. Regardless of which, the organ would grow back during the night, and the scene would repeat itself the next day - for eternity. Eventually Zeus' anger mellowed, and Hercules was allowed to kill the bird which daily tormented Prometheus, although the latter remained in bondage. In another version, Prometheus was released from bondage and became immortal by assuming the immortality of the centaur Chiron, so that the latter could finally die in peace from the horrible wound inflicted by Hercules.

Zeus did not stop at punishing Prometheus but also visited his wrath on the Titan's creation. He instructed the god Hephaestus to fashion a beautiful girl named Pandora. Adorned by various goddesses and given a deceitful nature by Hermes, she was sent to Prometheus' brother Epimetheus, meaning "afterthought", who married her against his brother's advice. It was she who famously released from the box named after her, through her curiosity, all the evils into the world. The only thing that remained in the box when she slammed the lid closed, which could have helped humanity, was hope. All mortal women are said to have descended from her.

The importance of fire can not be overstated in the development of mankind and the history of civilization. The harnessing of fire and its power is arguably the most important discovery ever made. It lit the dark nights and allowed for the subjugation of nature, placing man on par with the gods. For Bonapartists and many others it was Napoléon, especially in northern Italy, who helped


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spread the political and social ideas and ideals of the French Revolution. Ideas and ideals which spread the light of freedom against the darkness of the yoke of oppression of the Ancien Regime and its feudal abuses and privileges. All people became citizens, equal at least in theory, under the law; able to elect those who governed them. According to many Bonapartists, this was the gift Napoléon stole from the ruling elites and gave to Europe's masses. The action for which he really was being punished.



The designer's employ of the multifaceted myth of Prometheus is a powerful use of allusion for political propaganda purposes. He has conveyed a complex message in a compact form. The medal is an example of the use of the medallic arts at its best.

Around the edge is the legend: "**NON DI LUI MA DI CHI LO TRADI IMAGO**" which translates as: "Not his [Prometheus'] image but [that] of him who was betrayed."

Here the medal's true meaning is revealed, Prometheus equals Napoléon. Like the Greek civilization god, Napoléon was chained to his rock, by being exiled to the island of St. Helena. The designer has carefully and skillfully crafted the symbolism and allusion under the cloak of classical mythology, avoiding any overt depiction of Christian religious symbolism. The viewer can infer allusion to Golgotha and the betrayal of Christ by Judas and subsequent abandonment by most of his followers, just as Napoléon had been betrayed and abandoned. He suffered for championing his people, against the forces of evil.

In this case for Bonapartists these forces of evil were the old ruling dynasties. The restored Bourbons in France, Spain and southern Italy. In northern Italy it was the Hapsburg dynasty, while in the German lands it was the growing dominance of the Prussian military state under the Hohenzollern.

In the Polish territories it were the Russian Romanovs.

The 'betrayed' in the legend refers to the fact that Napoléon was betrayed both in 1814 and 1815, either through direct action or inaction by men close to him. In 1814 these were his top commanders, the generals and marshals, who tried to protect their wealth and positions when they refused their continued support and forced his abdication.

In 1815 it were the active machinations of Joseph Fouché, Minister of Police, in concert with Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, Minister of Foreign Affairs till 1807, in manipulating the French Senate and Marshal Davout, Minister of War, in wasting time and squandering resources instead of preparing to resist the allied powers, which greatly contributed to the failure of Napoléon's comeback. To Bonapartists these men were the Judas' who sold their master for wealth and position - the proverbial 30 pieces of silver.

At Prometheus' right foot is the date of the medal's striking, 1816.

It is interesting to note that the text and titles used on both faces reveal that this is a medal not of French, as one might have expected, but rather Italian origin. This demonstrates the speed with which the Napoléonic legend took hold in the popular imagination throughout Europe and became a very potent symbol of defiance against the established powers and political, social and economic structures.

The medal is anonymous. Its designer, engraver and issuer are unknown. Its place of issuance is also a mystery. This is strange since generally artists wish their work to be known, unless you take into account the reason for its striking – to promote and reinforce the legacy of a potent symbol against the established order. Those involved in the medal's creation and distribution

took a great risk and could possibly have faced death at the hands of a regime that tried to suppress any sign of resistance, which this medal definitely was.

After Napoléon's final defeat and exile in 1815, the victorious allied powers, just like the Bourbon king of France, attempted to return Europe to a pre-1789 state. The Austrian Hapsburgs tried to re-establish their authority in territories outside their traditional hereditary lands, especially in the north of the Italian peninsula. The Spanish Bourbons attempted the same in Spain and southern Italy. The Russians tried to assert control in the Polish territories, while the Prussians, against the opposition of the other German states, wished to exploit the situation and become dominant in the German sphere. These attempts at reasserting ancient hereditary claims and governmental systems ran counter to the ideas and forces which had been unleashed as a result of Revolutionary and later Napoléonic policies. Through increased censorship, police action and other repressive

and reactionary measures, the victorious allied powers tried to stem the tide of history. This was to no avail, Pandora's box had been opened, and no amount of effort would ultimately get what had been released back in. This became more and more evident as popular discontent continued to increase, erupting into open revolt and revolution in 1830 and 1848 throughout Europe.

In a strange twist of fate, Napoléon became the symbol of democracy, independence and self-determination for people throughout Europe. The fact that his regime had been authoritarian, and in many respects much like the very regimes people were resisting, proved irrelevant. The excesses of his government and actions were largely glanced over and reasoned away by his supporters as having been the result of circumstances forced upon him by his enemies.

Imprisonment on a distant rock added to the romance, tragedy and symbolism. It promoted the legend. Unwittingly, the allied

powers helped make Napoléon into a martyr, who suffered, like Prometheus, for the betterment of humanity.

The debate for and against Napoléon, his motivation, his policies and their effects continue today. This is fuelled and influenced in no small measure by a titanic legacy, the shaping of which was begun by the great man himself as he waged the last and arguably most important battle of his career. Napoléon during his imprisonment and long after his death would continue to give the rulers of Europe sleepless nights, perhaps more so than when he had ruled Europe, for how do you fight a legend, a legacy, an idea, an ideal, a myth, a martyr.

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[taneri9@netscape.ca](mailto:taneri9@netscape.ca)

**Original BU rolls one-cent rolls** from 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987 & 1988, call Bob 780-980-1324

**Classified ads** for ENS club members. To include

an ad, please email it to [editor\\_ens@yahoo.ca](mailto:editor_ens@yahoo.ca)

**All period Napoleonic memorabilia & Militaria.** Contact Bill [wjdy2k@hotmail.com](mailto:wjdy2k@hotmail.com)

**Early English or German hammered coins.** Contact Marc. [mbink@shaw.ca](mailto:mbink@shaw.ca)

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

**Original BU rolls of Loons** for 2003 Old effigy, with crown, call Bob 780 980-1324

## For Sale

**1806 1/2 cent, 1864 IHC, Lincolns, FEC's, Canadian LRG cents.** call (780)933-5159

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

**Early French medals or English/British Coins** dating from 1642-1821. Contact Pierre. [pierre@nancykbrown.com](mailto:pierre@nancykbrown.com)

## New Membership Applications

### No new membership applications

*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

**December 14, 2011** - ENS December Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided. Year-end awards night.

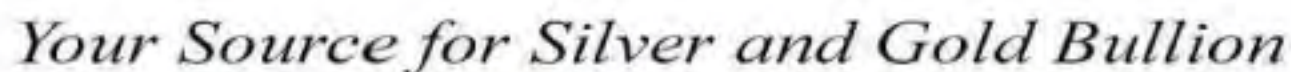
**January 11, 2012** - ENS January Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

**February 8, 2012** - ENS February Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

**March 3 & 4, 2012** - 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. [Click HERE for map.](#)

**March 14, 2012** - ENS March Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Snacks provided.

*To list your coming events - send them to [editor\\_ens@yahoo.com](mailto:editor_ens@yahoo.com).*



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