

THE PLANCHET

EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Sept/Oct 2012
Volume 59 Issue 6

Around the World

40 More Coins to Collect

Byzantium's "First Lady"
The First Byzantine Empress





2012 - 1st Place
ANA Outstanding Local
Club Publication Award



2011 - 2nd Place
ANA Outstanding Local
Club Publication Award



2010 - 1st Place
RCNA Best Local
Newsletter



THE PLANCHET

Sept/Oct 2012 Volume 59. Issue 6

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ON THE COVER:

Rising coin - Israel New Sheqel commemorative 1993.
Byzantine Empire. Irene, 797-802. Gold Solidus (4.31g), Constantinople. Crowned bust of Irene facing, wearing loros and holding gl. cr. and cruciform scepter. Rev. Same as obverse, but with X at end of legend. DOC 1c; Sear 1599.

Background photo:
<http://www.stockfreeimages.com/>

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Message from the President

David Peter 2010-13



Summer is officially over and so are the summer Olympics. Once again, the Olympics played a big part in the increased numismatic interest by the general public. However, the Royal Mint took this one step further, using an idea similar to one that Canada had used for the 1992 - 125th anniversary and 1999-2000 Millennium circulating coin sets.

The Royal Mint allowed the general public to design the 29 coins commemorating this year's Olympics, with over 30,000 entrants received in 2009 after the announcement. The introduction of these coins into circulation was a huge success. The Royal Mint estimated that almost 70% of all 50p coins issued will be saved.

This goes to show that global mints are doing their part to provide for the next generation of coin collectors. It looks like other mints are following Canada's lead as far as making a wide variety of artistic circulating coins to encourage numismatics.

Also, with the end of summer, we start thinking of the upcoming fall show in November. We encourage you to attend and volunteer for it. This year, we are encouraging a remembrance theme for our displays, as our show will be held Remembrance Day weekend. Hope to see you all there.

David

@ The Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2012



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

- Club matters
- November 2012 Edmonton Coin Show and Sale report
- **Presentation:**
"Collecting the fakes and fantasies of the 1880s can be expensive!", by Markus Molenda
- show and tell, bring your discoveries and finds to share with fellow members.
- silent auction
- door prize draw

For more information regarding these events, or to add an item to the agenda please send an email to editor_ens@yahoo.ca

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About Your Society

Minutes from ENS Monthly Meeting on Sept 12, 2012

David Peter, ENS President, opened the meeting at 1932 hrs. He welcomed everybody back and hoped that everyone had a good summer and that they were well fed after eating all that pizza before the start of the meeting.

He mentioned that our November 10-11 Coin Show is going to be sold out and asked us to start generating a buzz about the show to keep the momentum going.

Sign-up sheets for the show volunteers were then passed around. Merits of volunteering such as meeting new people, good fellowship and fun was emphasized. David then explained the Go-for-the-Gold program that was put in place to reward our volunteers. This consists of the presentation of a Silver Maple Leaf, with a minimum of 3 hours of time donated, as well as chances to win a gold coin at our December, meeting based on the amount of assistance provided over the year. There is also a separate *The Planchet* category with the same awards to encourage members to contribute articles to our award winning publication.

Awards

It was a great summer for the ENS and its members as proven by the plethora of awards received.

Dan Gosling was awarded the J. Douglas Ferguson Award (Canada's highest numismatic achievement). Along with his wife Judi, he also received a Presidential Award from the RCNA.

Joe Kennedy – Guy Potter Literary Award. It's given annually

for the article chosen as the best original contribution to *The CN Journal*.

Ermin Chow – 1st Place, Category G – Junior Exhibits by Persons Age 16 & 17 for "Twenty-Five Cent Type Coins of Newfoundland" at the 2012 RCNA Convention.

Ermin Chow -2nd Place, Category D – Non-Canadian Coins and Tokens for "Three Cent Type Coins of the United States" at the 2012 RCNA.

Ermin Chow – He won 2nd place in the ANA's competition for the Q. David Bowers Young Numismatist Literary Award for his "Canada Enters A World of Polymer" article.

Terence Cheesman received a certificate from Henry Nienhuis for having given a presentation called *From Dictatorship to Principate: Roman Coinage – 40 BCE to 14 CE* at the 2012 RCNA Convention's Educational Symposium.

Last but not the least, the ENS and Roger Grove our editor for having the *The Planchet* take first place in the ANA's Outstanding Local Club Publications contest.

Other Awards

David Peter presented **Ray Neiman** a lifetime membership to the ENS for his outstanding support over the years.

Doug Oates received his Silver Maple Leaf for 2011.

Report on 2012 RCNA Convention at Calgary

Ermin Chow, our Club Delegate at the RCNA Convention gave a detailed presentation on his experiences and observances of the 2012 RCNA Convention. He

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Around the World in 80 Coins (part 2)

By Marc Bink



Last month, we stopped our hypothetical 80-coin trip around the world in Sweden, on the way to Denmark. So let's cross the Malmo Bridge and head off into Denmark. Danish coins look a bit like the Norwegian ones. This should be no surprise, considering that Norway was once part of the Danish empire. In fact, most if not all of Scandinavia was part of the Danish empire, as well as parts of Northern Europe and France, and of course England. The Danes, who were once referred to as Vikings, went everywhere, and when they were not looting and pillaging, they managed to colonize some of these areas. Before they were Christianized and settled down in around 900 AD, they were possibly the most feared group in all of Europe. But not today; the Danes are still proud and fiercely independent, even going so far as to avoid joining the Euro-zone. Denmark still enjoys its own currency, the krone (crown), which has been in circulation since 1874.

Denmark is one of the few countries that still employ a series of privy marks and mint marks. Mintmasters and moneyers have their initials placed on the coins, and a heart-shaped mintmark indicates the coin was struck at Copenhagen. Danish coins generally are fairly cheap and easy to acquire, but of course there are some rarities which can get quite expensive. Like most other Scandinavian countries, it seems that the Danish mint isn't into issuing commemoratives. There are very few listed, and those that are listed are evidently not circulating coins and have fairly low mintages. The Danish **1 Krone** coin will be coin #41. The older designs remained fairly constant from 1947 until 1992. The older coins were made from aluminum bronze, and the subsequent issue of Frederik IX was made from cupro-nickel. In 1992, the coin was reduced in size, and the whole design was changed. The older coins do feature the Regent's portraits on them and are in my opinion more interesting than a set of titles.

From Denmark we proceed to Germany. Here is where I have a problem, considering I collect German coins and figure that everyone is interesting or noteworthy. I'll have to suppress that urge and remind myself that there are only

38 coins left, and I'll have to keep it brief. So for the stereotypical German, coin I'll have to go with the **1 Deutsche Mark** coin made from 1950 until 1995. This will be coin #42. The D-Mark was probably one of the most successful and stable currencies in all of Europe, when it was phased out in 2001. As most who have read any of my previous articles can probably attest to, the Germans had a pretty steep learning curve on how not to manage a currency in the early part of the 20th century and finally got it right in the later half.

However, there was a group of Germans who still didn't get it right, and through bad currency management, they ground the East German economy to ruin in 1989, which contributed to the downfall of the "Iron Curtain". The coin that best exemplifies the East German economy is the **1 Deutsche Mark** of



1956-57. It was made out of aluminum, and the obverse looks similar to the western mark. So similar in fact is it, that the West Germans sued the East Germans and forced the GDR regime to drop "Deutsche" from the name of its currency. So the subsequent issue of the 1 mark coin made in the seventies had the word "Deutsche" omitted. Either issue will be coin #43. Collectors take note; most of the lower denomination East German "alu-chips" are still readily available, but the higher denominations are getting scarce. In a previous article, I wrote that the German government destroyed most of the old East German currency reserves in the late 90s. The only exclusion to that rule was the lower denomination coins, the 1 pfennig, 5 pfennig and the 10 pfennig coins, which were legislated to remain in circulation alongside their western counterparts, due to a small change shortage in the eastern provinces. Coins larger than 1 east-mark were withdrawn and destroyed.

Proceeding south out of Germany, we arrive in Austria. The 20th century was not kind to Austria; it ended the century a lot smaller and poorer than it had been 100 years earlier. By losing most of its industrial capacity at the end of the First World War, the Austrians lost control of their currency and never really learned how to manage the subsequent ones. The Austrians made a lot of coins and a huge number of commemoratives. The post-World War II schilling is the most numerous and easiest to obtain. This unit of currency was based on the old reichsmark and was assessed at the same value, in other words, essentially worthless. So the first issues of post-war Austrian



coins were made in base metal. The **1 Schilling** coin made from 1959 until 2000 is perhaps the most common and has a uniquely Austrian character about it by being both cheap and pretty. This will be coin #44. The Austrian mint has released countless commemoratives in a whole variety of denominations and metals, but these fall outside the scope of this article. Recently I started collecting Austrian commemoratives. Why? See the reason stated above. There isn't a rare one in the whole lot, and it's a cheap way to collect and hide bullion.

Next, we go to Switzerland. Swiss coins haven't changed much since the 1880s and are therefore plentiful and cheap. The Swiss have the distinction of being the first to issue an all-nickel coin with the introduction of the 20 rappen piece of 1881. The funny thing about these early coins is that they are possibly the only Swiss issue that has been legally declared as "retired" in 2004 and withdrawn from circulation. The later issues that were made in cupro-nickel, however, are not retired. So the 20 rappen coin made from 1881 until 1938 will be coin #45. Coin #46

will be the **1 Franc**, issued in either silver from 1880 until 1967 or the cupro-nickel one issued from 1968 to date. Note that all Swiss coinage is devoid of any legends, except for the word "Helvetica", which is what the Swiss call the country in Latin. There are a lot of Swiss commemorative coin issues, some of them conventional, and the famous "shooting thalers" in precious metals. The shooting festival coinage does differ from the conventional coinage in that since 1934 it is not tied to the legal tender issues and is only redeemable during the festival.



From Switzerland, let's jump into France. The French have a nasty habit of devaluing coinage or replacing republics and rendering earlier currency issues null and void. Currently, they are on their fifth republic. Previous to the introduction of the Euro in 2000, the French used a system of francs and centimes. The French also used privy marks and mint marks, so a whole collection could be built on the differences in marks and mints alone. Some of the pre-war issues are the prettiest, done in an "art-nouveau" or "art-deco" style. By far the most common is the fifth Republic material, issued from 1959 until 2000. Unlike most other euro countries, France abandoned its currency and rendered it completely worthless upon the introduction of the euro, so there is a lot of it around, and it's all fairly cheap. So coin #46 will be the **1 Franc**, issued between 1959 and 2000, which is a copy of an earlier issue, KM #844.1 & 2, issued between 1898 and 1920. The French mints have been pretty prolific as well. The number of French commemorative issues is staggering. A lot of pieforts in various metals were also made. Anyone wanting to collect French material could conceivably collect for a lifetime and still not get all of the issues.

Now for a side-trip into Belgium. Belgium is known for its good beer and exquisite chocolates, and not for coinage. That's not to say that Belgian coinage isn't interesting, because it is. The Belgian crown issued coins in two languages, French and Flemish. Each has rarities and varieties, and some are fairly expensive. Add to this the fact that Belgian coins are also collected by edge position in relation to the monarch's portrait. I like the pre-war coinage better than the post-war issues. However, the post-war material is readily available, while the pre-war coins are not. So in this case, coin #47 will be



the **1 Franc/Frank** in either language. This coin isn't as pretty as earlier issues and has a tendency to appear softly struck. The euro coinage is even more boring; it all features the King's portrait on the obverse or "country of origin" side. Belgium may also have the displeasure of being the first Western European country to come apart. It's been without a government for over a year, and the king is essentially ruling by fiat. There is a parliament, but it generally is only involved in maintenance, and there is no clear majority ruler there. So it'll be interesting to see what shakes out in the next few years, as the regional differences between the Walloons and the Flemish speakers become more acute.

From Belgium, we'll head off into the Netherlands. Here we find the euro as well. These are generally not as interesting as the previous Dutch coinage. I have a small attachment to the older nickel issues though; I helped make them. Sherritt supplied all the nickel blanks for the Dutch mint. The Dutch also use a system of mint and privy marks which can make collecting a bit of a challenge. It seems that whenever a mintmaster was replaced, his successor placed a star before the privy mark until he selected his own. I'm not sure if this would make some issues more collectible than others, but all I know is I'm going to be looking for "star" issues from here on in. It would seem

that all circulating coinage was struck at the mint in Utrecht. There are a few modern rarities but not too many. The Dutch have also issued a few circulating commemoratives. The style of Dutch coinage has gone from fairly conservative and "traditional" to fairly avant garde in the recent issues. For coin #48, I'll select a recent **1 Guilder**, either KM #184a or #205. We made the blanks for those at Sherritt) and these same blanks used to work in cigarette vending machines. (Don't ask me



how I know...) For coin #49, I'll select one of the more interesting issues, KM #153 and 172, the **5 Cent** pieces made between 1913 and 1943. Only one of this set is rare, and that is the 1933 issue. These are just cute little square coins, done in an Art-Deco style.

From the Netherlands, we'll head south to Portugal. I know a bit about Portugal's medieval history but not much about its modern history. All I know is this country has been broke far more times than I care to know and has undergone many currency reorganizations over the past few hundred years. Recently, prior to the introduction of the euro, the escudo was the unit of currency in Portugal. Over time, this was debased to the point where the centavo (small change to the escudo) denominations were stopped being issued in the late seventies. The size and weight of the escudo coin went from a 50 cent sized silver coin at its introduction to a penny-sized nickel-brass coin at its withdrawal. The Portuguese were very prolific with commemoratives too, so collecting these can become quite a challenge. One theme resonates across the denominations though. This is of the ships used to chart the way around the Cape of Good Hope in Africa to the Orient. So with that in mind, coin #50 becomes the **5 Escudos**, issued from 1963 until 1986 (KM# 591).

From Portugal, it's a quick jump into Spain. Here's another old empire that is definitely past its "best before" date. Spain is currently a country in turmoil, teetering on the edge of bankruptcy again. As with the previous bankruptcies, it was all the Spanish people's own doing again too. This time the they elected a socialist government on a "green" platform. What no one realized, until it was too late, is that the technologies didn't exist and that for every new "green" job created, five old ones disappeared forever. So the Spaniards went from having potentially the most vibrant and affordable economy to having one of the most moribund pretty much overnight. Like Greece,



Spain is also looking for a hand-out to pay the bills. And like the Greek situation, improvement doesn't seem possible, unless some very hard choices are made. The Spanish government has started, but who knows what the suffering populace will bear. Given its recent history of civil wars, I would wager it won't be much, and then there is still the Basque separatist movement in the north. But I digress...

Spanish coinage is interesting. The early material is all over the world, and for a time, it was used much like the US dollar is today, as the currency of commerce around the world. This lasted until the first part of the 19th century. Then came the British and the pound, and after them, came the Americans with their dollars, so by 1900, Spain was reduced to just its European properties again. By this time, the whole regal edifice had started to show some serious rot and was finally finished in 1931. The fun really started in 1936 with the Spanish Civil War and didn't really end again until the end of the Second World War. By this time, Spain had a stable but fascist government. The king was allowed to return again in 1949, but Franco's effigy was still the one displayed. The king didn't get his place back until 1976 after Franco died. Some early Republican stuff looks neat and is surprisingly affordable. The earlier regal issues aren't too expensive either. The Nationalist or fascist issues after 1939 are pretty cheap. As a further austerity measure, the Spanish coded the date of issue on their coins inside

a star. The date in the legend usually was that of the original issue. So be sure to bring a loupe when looking for recent Spanish coins.

One of the most common coins among the recent Spanish issues would have to be KM #797, the **25 Peseta** issue of 1957. It was struck in huge numbers until 1975 and will be coin #51.



Next, we move on to Italy. Italy is a country that prior to 1867 was more or less a geographic expression.

After unification though, the government started issuing a decimal coinage and replaced all the various states' coins. Most of these

issues were pretty conventional in design. This lasted until the 1920s and into the 1930s, when the coinage was treated to a romantic revival, as the Fascists tried to put their stamp on the country. However distasteful one might find the fascists, they did make some nice looking coins. Some of these coins can be worth quite a bit in high grades, so it's worth checking out that cigar box of tokens that Grandpa brought back from the war. Luckily, Mussolini's effigy was never placed on a coin; Vittorio Emanuele was ugly enough, and he was on everything until the end in 1943. After he was deposed, the Italian Republic was formed, and this republic started issuing inflated lire coins, as the currency went into free-fall. Unlike most of their European counterparts, the Italians never did revalue the lira and allowed it to remain worthless. I guess they liked the idea that everyone in Italy was to be a millionaire. So the most common coin, or at least the easiest one to get, would have to be the **100 Lire** coin, struck between 1955 and 1989 (KM #96.1). It was made of stainless steel, so in theory, most of these coins will probably be around longer than their Roman predecessors were. But be careful. These coins are worth some money in MS grades. Once in circulation though, they were and are very quickly rendered worthless. This will be coin # 52. For those seeking commemoratives, prepare to be inundated. The Italians made tons of them, not including the Vatican issues, which were technically still separate from those of the Italian Republic but were denominated in lire.

From Italy, we will head into Eastern Europe. First stop, Yugoslavia. Well, except that it's not called "Yugoslavia" anymore. It's a hotchpotch of small independent states that absolutely hate each other. I won't begin to go into the regional conflicts that exist there except to say that they are extensive, and they stretch back



generations. Rather than collect a coin from each new state, it may be better to still treat it as a whole (hopefully I didn't incur my death sentence) and collect a Tito issued dinar. This would be coin #53 on our trip (KM #59), **1 Dinar**, issued from 1973 until 1981. The subsequent Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian issues are all interesting too but are too numerous to be included here. For those of you with an interest in Bosnia Herzegovina, note that the old German deutschmark and the current German euro are the units of currency there.

Let's be off to Hungary then and another Sherritt sourced coin. Sherritt made the blanks for the **5** and **10 Forint** issues of 1971-1972 (KM #594 or 595). Either one of these will be coin #54. Hungary has a long history of being suppressed or compromised by a foreign power. It seems that Europe has had it in for Hungary for being the home base to a guy named Attila in the 14th century. In the past century it was "occupied" by the Austrians first and then by the Russians with a nasty Nazi interlude. Hungarians always seem to have backed the wrong horse in their recent wars and have ended up paying for it. However, they were the first crack in the iron curtain and were eventually instrumental in starting the revolution of 1989. From Hungary, we head into Slovakia, a state created when Czechoslovakia split apart peacefully in 1993. Coins made at the

Kremnica mint are still current and should be easy to get. The small change seems to be cheaper and easier to find. However, as with Yugoslav issues, I think it's more prudent to go with the earlier state and pick up a coin from Czechoslovakia. Some of the early Republic issues from 1919 -1938 are actually quite pretty. The subsequent People's Republic and Socialist Republic issues are quite interesting. The Czechoslovaks struck a lot of commemoratives, and through the course of recent history the griffin



(featured in the coat of arms on the obverse) lost its balls. I guess this was the Russian way of reminding the people just who the boss was. So coin #55 will be a Czechoslovak **1 Koruna**, from 1960 until 1989 (KM# 50). And yes, for those who'd like to know, it looks like the Griffin re-grew a set on the subsequent Czech Republic issues. No word if Viagra had something to do with it and no one's talking.

From the Czech Republic, it's a quick hop across the border into Poland. Poland issued a lot of commemorative coins but its circulation grade stuff is actually quite boring and didn't change much. The pre-war issues are quite in keeping with the day; very "Art-Deco" in design. The problem then became what the Germans did with these dies during the war. They managed to turn the whole of Poland into a ghetto and clearing house for their undesirables and re-issued the same coins as the Republic did except in different metals. Needless to say, this left a lot of bad memories for people, once the war and most of the killing was over. The subsequent "socialist" regime issued typically bland communist inspired coins for circulation in base metal. Where the Polish mint really demonstrated what it could do was with commemorative issues, and it made hundreds of them. One needs a working knowledge of Polish and Polish history to make any sense of them though, but one gets the impression that they could be arranged into a history textbook, because just about every facet of Polish history is explained on them somewhere. But for now, we'll only consider one coin, and that will be a **1 Zloty** coin made between 1957 and 1985 (KM # 49.1 or 49.2). This boring little aluminum coin will be coin # 56, and with any amount of luck, will inspire some to look a little more closely at the vast

amount of coins issued by the various governments in Poland.



From Poland, we now venture into the former Soviet Union. Prior to 1990, the USSR was a vast network of states and different ethnicities, all united under Russian domination. Russian was the main language, and Moscow was the capital. After the Soviet Union imploded in 1990, a lot of these states regained some form of independence. The Baltic States, consisting of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, were "free" for the first time since 1940, and the Ukraine for the first time since the 13th century. What's

interesting about Ukrainian coinage is just how much has been made since independence. The Ukrainians have been through one monetary reform, replacing a "karbovanets" with an equally unpronounceable "hryvnia". There's no word if this tongue-twister has something to do with the currency's downhill slide or not, but it certainly couldn't have helped. In all seriousness though, Ukrainian coins are quite pretty and the mint there quite prolific, so there is a lot to choose from, if so desired. Coin # 57 is the **1 Hryvnia** (KM# 8a). Next stop, Moscow...

The Soviet Union was one of the most feared and reviled empires ever created. Formed in a blood bath in 1917, the killing didn't end until the whole thing collapsed in on itself in 1990. The whole state was founded on the idea of replacing an autocratic regime with a state run by peasants and workers, according to the teachings of Karl Marx. What no one realized was that, like most philosophers, Marx really had no idea of what he was talking about, and he had no understanding of basic human nature. So for over 70 years, this social experiment tottered on killing those who were supposed to be its beneficiaries. For a while, it

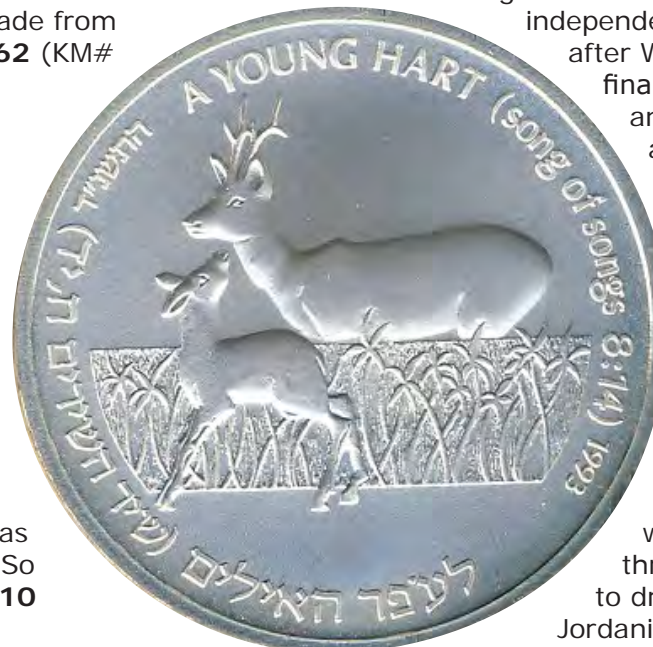


looked like it would all work, and the Soviets were the most feared and somewhat grudgingly respected empire on earth. Then the economic realities set in, and the whole thing began to collapse. Soviet coinage looks like how life in that state must have felt, oppressive, stifled and ultimately phony. For coin #58, I'll pick the **1 Rouble** coin from 1967, which features Lenin in an iconic pose. I would have picked the subsequent undated issue from 1970, featuring Lenin's head facing right, but he looks positively satanic, and I don't like the coin.



Now, we've gone through much of Europe and are heading into the Middle East. First, we'll hit Romania, and coin #59, **1 Leu** (either KM# 90 or 95), and then we'll head off into Bulgaria, while trying not to get lost in Transylvania. Coin #60 will be any **1 Lev** coin, socialist or modern. Proceeding on to Greece, the **20 Drachmai** coin is fairly common and will be #61. It tries to recapture the spirit of Greek history. One might be wise to collect drachmas again. If the current bail-out by the EU fails, the Greeks may be reverting back to using them again. Speeding on through Turkey, one can pick up some old Ottoman material which is undecipherable to most of us who don't read Arabic. The post 1922 issues are a little better, but it seems like the Turks started making coins with Latin letters in the 1930s. To this end the Turkish **1 Lira** coin, made from 1959-1980, will be coin #62 (KM# 889a-889a.2).

Next, we enter the Middle East. The first stop is Lebanon. Some of the early French Protectorate material was pretty ornate. Most of it isn't too expensive either. The Republican issues that followed the Second World War are a little plainer, and as civil war wrecked the country, the currency was devalued to the point where coinage was pretty much unnecessary. So coin #63 will be KM #35, **10 Livres** from 1981.



From Lebanon, we go into Israel. Israeli coins are quite unique. Some of the early issues had both Hebrew and Arabic legends on them. By the first currency reform in 1960, the Arabic was quietly dropped, and the names of the monetary units were changed. Note that all Israeli coins are inscribed in Hebrew, and the dating follows the Hebrew calendar. Collecting these coins requires a good chart of the dates, which the recent Krause World Coin catalog has built into the Israeli section. The next currency reform occurred in 1980 and ran until 1985. Thereafter, followed a new sheqel, which is still in use today. Israel issued a lot of

commemoratives as well. So coin #64 will be a **New Sheqel** issued after 1986. The funny thing is that there is a whole issue of commemorative new sheqels that are made in silver, insuring that they'll never see circulation and more or less consigning them to a melting pot. This is a shame, because some of them are actually quite pretty. For those of you who may still refuse to accept Israel's legitimacy, there were some Palestinian coins made during the British Mandate. All of these coins are quite rare and fairly expensive. Since many of these issues have holes in them, I assume they would have served as fairly good washers after 1948.

From Israel, we go to Jordan. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan only got its full independence back from the British after World War II, once Britain finally realized that it was broke and couldn't support an empire anymore. Since then, it has tried to beat up on Israel but afterward decided to live in peace with the Israelis, when it realized that it wasn't going to get rid of them any time soon. Since that time, Jordan has been stable and relatively prosperous, even though it is surrounded by states hostile to Israel, who would think nothing of going through Jordan on their way to drive the Israelis into the sea. Jordanian coinage features the king



on the obverse and whatever else on the reverse. Some issues are rather pretty, but most follow a set routine. So coin **#65** will be a **Qirsh** from 2000 or so.

Now, here's where there is going to be a problem with this tour. By rights, we should head into Africa. I just don't know enough about African coinage to make it worthwhile. I would collect something from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa. That would put us up to **#70**, and we still have quite a bit of the Far East to go, before we get back to Australia. So the next stop will be Iraq. Recent Iraqi coinage has quite a few funny shapes. The octagonal **250 Fils** from 1982 would be coin **#71**. If this doesn't do it for you, then the issue prior which is still round has Saddam Hussein on it. These are listed in Krause as KM # 146 and 147 respectively. The Iraqi series is worth a look, because some very interesting and pretty coins were made.

Iranian coinage probably warrants a book in itself. Looking at what was made prior to the Islamic Republic, one can see that Iran has issued a lot of coinage. Some of it is rather pretty, and some is not. There were numerous coinages and reforms prior to the Islamic Republic. Since then, the currency has been rather lackluster and boring, much like anything out of Iran these days. Coin **#72** will be the bimetallic **250 Rials**, issued from 1993 to date. Next stop, Afghanistan. Not a very nice place to be right now, particularly if one is a Westerner. I'm not sure what passes for money there at this time, but some of the older hammered issues are available and interesting, but very tough to decipher. So we'll move on to Pakistan.

The recent rupee is pretty indicative of anything Pakistani. So this will be coin **#73, 1 Rupee**, issued from 1998 to 2000 and probably later.

Then, off to India, and it's a good thing this trip is hypothetical, because if we were actually traveling it, we would probably have some difficulty crossing over into India from Pakistan. Both countries tend to despise each other and have technically been at war since they both received their independence from Britain in 1948. British India made a lot of coins that are still plentiful and cheap. The subsequent republic makes coins that are also cheap, and they look cheaply made too. The main identifying motif seems to be the Asoka Lion pedestal, and each modern issue carries it. The **1 Rupee** coin hasn't changed too much since its initial release in 1962. The coin has been modernized and made smaller over the years. It will be coin **#74**.

Then then we travel up through the Himalayas and into China. Yes, we've skipped Nepal and Tibet. Nepal issues coins, but Tibet doesn't. China however does, and a lot of them. The People's Republic of China has issued tons of the stuff since its inception in 1949, most of it commemoratives. The standard coinage is pretty boring and hasn't changed since it was released. It's only with the yuan that things start to get interesting. There must be a hundred or so issues of the yuan coin alone. So just to keep thing simple, coin **#75** will be **1 Yuan** (KM # 337), issued between 1991 and 2005. Collecting Chinese coins can be rewarding, if one knows how to spot fakes. As with anything made in China these days, just about everything has been copied or faked for whatever reason, including

previous issues of Chinese coins from the Republican era. I don't think I would trust any one that I see, simply because I don't know anything about them, and the fakes are very good nowadays. So be warned!

From China, we go to the Koreans. Korea has had a turbulent 20th century, and the strife continues to this day. Prior to 1945, the country was under Japanese domination. Currency issued then looked quite a bit like the Japanese home coinages. After the war, the country was split up at the Potsdam agreement between the Americans and the Russians. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to predict what happened next. Yup, the North split off into a Stalinist regime, and the South went USA all the way. A brief but bloody war ensued that really hasn't quite ended yet. It's probably the last place on earth where a Stalinist regime faces off against a pro-western one. And this is one country where going for a leak beside a tree may have disastrous consequences, depending upon where it lands.

North Korean coins have patriotic scenes on them or one of the Kims performing some superhuman feat, like greeting a foreign diplomat. Any North Korean coins would be difficult to get, seeing as how it is illegal to export them. Personally, I've never seen one. It looks like a ton of commemoratives were issued, and I'm pretty sure they were made for export only and were never issued inside the country. Possession of one of these things in the country will probably land you in a camp. Then again, nothing is issued inside North Korea, not even food, so it isn't surprising. Like most communist or Stalinist regimes, the entire foreign policy and economics is a sham; the country is made to appear prosperous from a distance, but in reality, it is dirt poor and its people near starvation, with the military getting all the perks.



South Korea is pro-western and marginally a democracy. To be honest, it's more or less a benevolent dictatorship that embraces free-enterprise capitalism. But there are no real freedoms there, because of the state of war that has existed between the two Koreas since 1950. But they do make some good cars and electronics nowadays, so we here in the west put up with their petty dictatorship. Like the Japanese and the Italians, the South Koreans have allowed their currency to devalue and just kept issuing larger denominations, while letting inflation render smaller ones useless. It appears that the currency has been pretty stable for the past 20 years though. So coin **#76** will be **100 Won**, issued from 1984 to date. I got one in my change the other day.

From Korea, we go to Japan. I like Japanese coins, so selecting one will be difficult. The Taisho and the early Showa period stuff is particularly beautiful. This is the period from 1912 until the end of the Second World War. English legends vanish from Japanese coins around the turn of the 20th century, so knowledge of Japanese characters and how the numbering system works is crucial. To add to the confusion, some coins were dated from left to right while others from right to left. Personally, I think the 10 Sen coins issued in the 20s and

30s were some of the most beautiful and complex one's ever made. But, for the purposes of this little trip, I guess

I'll have to select a modern coin. So I'll pick a **100 Yen** as coin **#77**, made starting in 1967 and continuing on to this day. It's nowhere nearly as pretty as the old 10 Sen coins were though.



From Japan we'll drop down to the Philippines. I have a collection of these things too, having lived in the Philippines for a few years. The earlier issues were made in the US and bear US titles on them. The post 1947 Republic started issuing coins in the early 60s, as the supply of the older ones ran



out or were worn out to uselessness. To find any high-grade US issued coins "in-country" is next to impossible; I've tried and failed. My Philippine collection really took off once I got back to Canada. I've always had a soft spot for those huge Rizal **1 Peso** coins, issued in the early 1970s though, and one of those will be coin **#78**.

Coin **#79** will come from Hong Kong, and it should be the 2 Dollar coin issued in the 70's as well. This coin captures the colonial feel that the place had up until 1997. Afterward, things just weren't the same anymore.

And now finally, we've come to the last coin. To be sure, we've missed a lot of countries in between, particularly Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia and New Guinea. Each of these areas have interesting coinages and are steeped in history as well. For the last coin, I'm going to select another city state, Singapore. Singapore is unique in that it is separate from Malaysia, and it is a mix of all East Asian cultures rolled into one. Singapore has been an important port longer than Hong Kong has. Prior to 1960, the British held sway there. Afterward, Singapore broke out on its own and became an economic powerhouse in its own right. It also has a fantastic airline. So coin **#80** will be the **Singapore Dollar**, issued from 1967 until 1985.

So there you have it; a hypothetical trip around the world in 80 coins. Of course, we missed a few. In fact, I know we've missed a lot, and I hope

that some of our readers will be able to add to or detract from this list. Because I'd like to see a complete list of all the coins described here, I hope someone puts a set together. I've got quite a few of them but by no means all of them. Deliberately, I've kept most of the coins listed as modern circulating coins and avoided any "tough to get" commemoratives in the hopes that some kids would get interested and put together a set and display it at one of our shows...it might be worth a year's subscription to *The Planchet* to the first young collector who can.

Wishful thinking? Let's wait and see ...



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The 2012 RCNA Convention:

A Club Delegate's Perspective

By Ermin Chow



As I began my 5 day journey south to Calgary for this year's RCNA convention, the excitement of this annual numismatic event truly overwhelmed me. I drove down to Calgary in the afternoon of Wednesday, July 18th to attend the welcome reception for the convention. This was quite a delight, since I got to meet many numismatists and rekindled many old friendships there. The next day held much more excitement, since I got the opportunity to participate in the youth activities and the symposium.

Youth Activities and Tours

I had a blast going to the two complimentary tours offered to the youth. These events allowed me to meet and interact with younger collectors. The first tour was to the new TELUS Spark Science Center, which featured mostly interactive activities geared towards younger children. The second was to Heritage Park, a historical village similar to Edmonton's Fort Edmonton Park. Our special tour had several interpreters scattered throughout the park showing our group items of numismatic interest. We also went on many midway style rides and squished pennies on the railroad tracks. An added bonus was that limousines were rented for transportation to these two tours. Despite having to miss parts of the symposium and the bourse, there is no question I do not regret going on the tours.

On Friday night, the youth program organizers ordered pizza for us and put on the cartoon movie *Despicable Me*. It was an excellent social event with many other young numismatists in attendance. Saturday was the highlight of the week for many, since there was the youth auction. Kids were given over \$1000 in play money to bid on numismatic treasures. Although I did not participate, I had an a great experience assisting with running the auction and auctioning off the occasional lot. In addition to these events, all the youth were given special items in their registration kits, which included a coin folder for

collecting special convention woods. These woods were specifically issued for youth and given for participation in a variety of activities, such as the opening ceremonies and the youth auction. I am one of the only people to have obtained the complete set of these youth convention woods, since not many people received the exhibiting wood.

Club Delegates' Breakfast

Despite being somewhat disappointed, since I had to miss the Royal Canadian Mint Youth Roundtable event, I thoroughly enjoyed the Club Delegates' Breakfast. I was informed that the youth were given a free continental breakfast and valuable silver coins. At the Mint event was also a guest speaker, a mint engraver who gave insight into coin designing and engraving at the Royal Canadian Mint. Although not quite as exciting as the Mint event, I still enjoyed my time at the Club Delegates' Breakfast. The food was premium quality, and the people I met there made it worth attending. Brett Irick and Jody Filiault of the Windsor Coin Club gave an informative presentation titled "Building Your Club", which contained some good ideas that can be applied in our club.

Mint Reception

The mint reception on Thursday was extremely fancy, compared to the welcome and pre/post-banquet receptions, which were good as well. As tradition dictates, mint officials, including Mint Master Ian Bennett and Chairman James Love were in attendance



2012 RCNA limited edition (500) commemorative coin and medal set, only available at the convention.

and gave reports. Unlike previous years, there was no collectable drink token given out this year, and only drink tickets were handed out instead. The finger foods and appetizers that they served were delicious and gourmet. This reception, like all others, was a great place for socializing.

Bourse

Although the bourse is generally the main attraction of the RCNA conventions, it was not as spectacular as at previous conventions and other coin shows. The dealer and table count were fairly low. As well, by Sunday morning, half the dealers had left. Nevertheless, I picked up many exciting and hard-to-find additions to my collection, including an 1876-CC Quarter from the US. There was the mint booth as usual, which sold the limited edition convention sets with a mintage of 500. Though there were a couple of dealers which I do not see regularly, the majority do come to our semi-annual Edmonton Coin Show and Sale. Our shows have been much bigger and busier than the RCNA bourse this year. Regardless of the poor attendance and absence of dealers, I had a good time looking at coins and currency and enjoyed the slower pace due to the smaller crowds.

Exhibiting

The exhibit count was surprisingly much lower than last year, though there were many high quality ones. I enjoyed spending time admiring those created by exhibitors of all skill levels. This year, I have invested much more time and effort in creating a couple premium quality exhibits, titled *Three Cent Type Coins of the United States* and *Twenty-Five Cent Type Coins of Newfoundland*. The first exhibit won 2nd place in the Foreign Coins (Category D) Category, while the other won 3rd in the Junior (Category G)

Category. I thoroughly enjoyed the process of researching and creating an award winning exhibit, as I have learned much more about these topics from this firsthand experience than I could have elsewhere. Talking with other experienced exhibitors and viewing their exhibits helps me to a great extent when considering my next ones. Exhibiting a personal collection is one of the things that makes our hobby and my numismatic journey much more rewarding and fascinating.

Other Events

As mentioned, since I attended a tour on Thursday, I was unfortunately only able to attend the first hour of the symposium, which was presented by Barrie Renwick on the topic of medals. There were many other presentations I would have loved to attend, with topics ranging from polymer notes to Victorian cent varieties. I also had to miss much of the Newfoundland Numismatics Enthusiasts meeting for the same reason.

Another informative and fun event was the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC) Breakfast. During the breakfast, many personal woods were being given out by wooden money collectors. After the formal business, there was an auction of wooden money items, donated or consigned by CAWMC members. It was quite amusing to see the insanely high prices some people were willing to pay for a chunk of wood. The banquet on Saturday night was another memorable event. There was a delectable buffet, followed by the presentation of significant awards traditionally given out at the banquet, such as the JD Ferguson Award. A comical part of the evening was during the auctioning of an encased penny for fundraising. Michael Turrini was pressured into placing a bid of \$300 on

the penny and subsequently complained about being broke. There was also a guest speaker presenting the history of the Calgary Stampede. Afterwards, there was a post-banquet reception in the hospitality suite, compliments of Big Rock Breweries. There were also many promotional items distributed throughout the convention, including a license plate that I was given.

Conclusion

The convention was, as anticipated, one of the main highlights of my numismatic year. It was almost on par with the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, which I had attended a couple weeks before. I loved the companionship of all the numismatists I knew beforehand and those I met for the first time. All the tours, receptions, activities, and events at the convention made time pass too quickly, as I felt this convention was over too soon. It was a truly amazing experience, and I encourage everyone to be in Winnipeg next year for the 2013 RCNA Convention. Please visit www.rcna.ca for more information.



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Irene

By Terence Cheesman

It is perhaps a coincidence that at about the same time a massive hurricane named Irene was wreaking havoc on the American east coast, a large number of rare coins featuring the image of Irene, the first woman to rule the Byzantine Empire, should happen to enter the market. The Byzantine Empire was the continuation of the Roman Empire after the fall of Rome. The term "Byzantine" is a modern convention used by modern historians to divide the ancient pagan state centred in Rome, which they admired, from the medieval Christian state centred in Constantinople, which in general they did not. Powerful women have often been a presence in Roman politics, however usually they were forced to act behind the scenes through a male relative. These women generally do not get good press. Invariably the contemporary Roman historians were hostile to them, a thread that has been picked up by modern historians as well. However it has to be said that some of them have attempted to rehabilitate the reputations of a number of these women, though not without controversy.



Irene seems to have been born in Athens, and her parents were part of the local nobility. In 769 she was married to the son of Constantine V, the future Leo IV. The reasons for this match are unknown, and it has been suggested that she won the position as a result of some form of beauty pageant. In 771 A.D. she gave birth to a child, the future Constantine VI. Constantine V died in 775, and Leo IV succeeded to the throne. Unfortunately the marriage suffered as a result of the great religious debate that racked the Empire at that time. Both Leo and his father were iconoclasts.



The Greek Orthodox Church placed great value upon holy images and holy relics. Holy images or icons were often venerated, as some were thought to have been heaven sent. However the rapid expansion of Islam with its total prohibition against images of Allah and other holy men brought the veneration of icons into question. The Emperors began to ban the creation of holy images and destroyed many that already existed. However many people, including Irene, still venerated icons, this devotion ruining her marriage in all but name.



In 780 A.D. Leo died, leaving Irene as regent of the nine year old Constantine VI. The initial issue of gold solidii did something to advertise the relative weakness of the new administration. Constantine VI is depicted as the smaller individual on the left and Irene the larger, wearing her trademark spiky crown, on the right. The reverse features Leo III, the father of Constantine V, Constantine V and Leo IV. It is clear that this issue is trying to emphasise the legitimacy of the new boy emperor. What is unusual is the presence of the regent Irene. Though not without precedent, the first issues of the Emperor Nero featured the image of his mother Agrippina Minor in a dominate position, this is rare, especially as Irene does not appear to have any imperial connection outside of her marriage to Leo IV. Though she does appear on the right and usually is somewhat larger, thus in a dominate position, her legend is on the reverse, a position of inferiority.

The next issue, starting in 793 A.D., seems to place Irene in a more dominate position. On this coin she appears alone along with her titles, including "Augusta", which means "Empress". This is a title of Imperial women since the early days of the Roman Empire. Constantine appears on the reverse of the coin, though he has the title of "Basileus" which would mean "Emperor" or "King". Irene is depicted holding a globus cruciger in her right hand and a cross in her left. Her crown is made up of a central cross and a series of triangular pinnacles. Her image is slightly larger than that of her son. Constantine is depicted in imperial robes with the same globus cruciger in his right hand and an akakia in his left. The akakia was a cylinder



covered with purple cloth and containing dust. This is designed to remind the emperor of his own mortality and that he will have to give an account of his actions to God. Constantine is also depicted beardless, emphasising his youth, though at the end of this coinage in 797 A.D. he was in his late teens.

In that year Constantine, tired of his mother's control, rebelled. He was unsuccessful and died. Irene then began to mint coins featuring her image on both sides of the coins. This is very unusual and may have been prompted by the coinage that preceded her sole reign coinage. One of the features of the iconoclastic movement was the removal of the image of Christ from the reverse of the coinage. In many cases this image was replaced by the image of an imperial colleague. Irene reigned without a colleague, but despite her veneration of icons, may have felt uncomfortable in restoring religious imagery on the reverse of the coins. She also adopted the title "Basilissa" which would mean "Empress" or "Queen". Irene reigned alone until 802 A.D. when she was overthrown by Nikephoros I. She was exiled to Lesbos where she soon died. However she did manage to restore the veneration of icons and ended the iconoclast controversy, but perhaps her most famous legacy is her role in the creation of the Holy Roman Empire. In 800 A.D. Pope Leo III, needing help from his enemies, declared that the throne of the

Roman Empire was vacant, because no male was sitting on it and crowned Charlemagne as Roman Emperor. Needless to say this was not well received by Irene and her court, but the title stuck and remained in place until ended by Napoleon.



Edmonton's Coin Show and Sale

November 10 & 11, 2012

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- 3 & 4. Andy McKaig / CCGS
5. David Peter Coins
6. Diverse Equities
- 8, 9 & 10. Newcan Coins and Currency
- 11, 12 & 13. Calgary Coin and Antiques
- 14 & 15. Classic Cash
16. Loose Change
- 17 & 18. Clyde Vincett Inc.
- 19 Geoffrey Bell Auctions
- 20 Canada Coin and Paper Money
- 21, 22 & 23 Hub City Collectables
- 24 & 25. MRCS
- 26, 27 & 28. George Manz Coins
29. Canada Gem Coin
- 30 & 31. Northgate Stamp and Coin
32. KAmerican Coin
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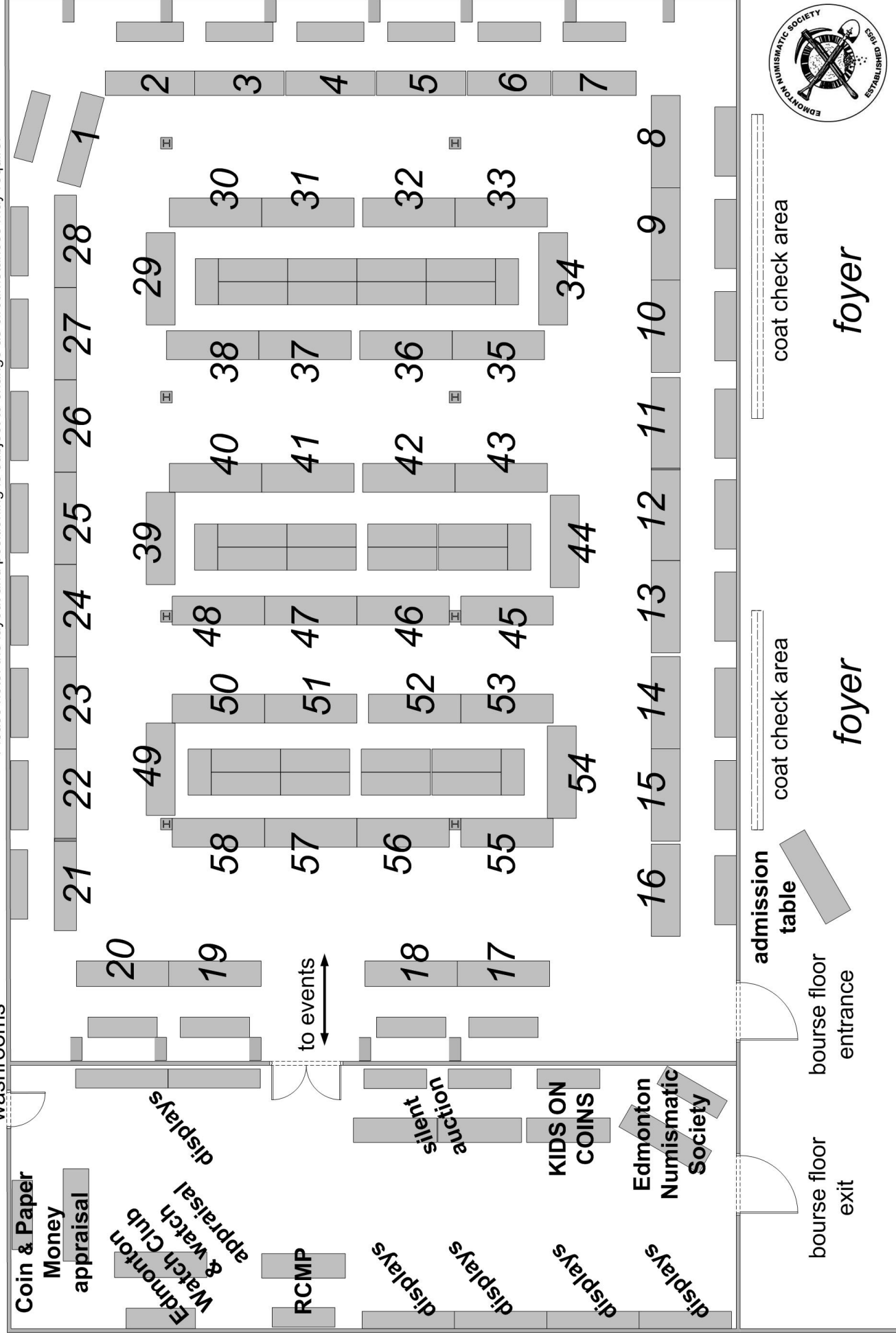
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- 40 & 41. Certified Coins of Canada
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Floor plan for November 10 & 11, 2012 Edmonton Coin Show and Sale

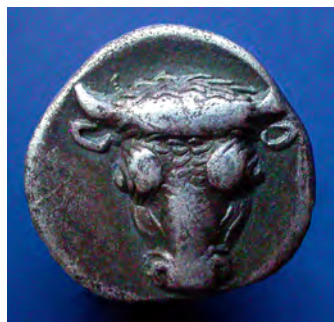
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Treasure from the Third Sacred War

By Wayne Hansen



*"You talkin' to me?"
(Taxi Driver, 1976)*

"There are eight million stories in the Naked City. This has been one of them". When I'm about to do another article, I sometimes think of these lines (spoken at the end of the avant-garde 1948 New York crime movie "The Naked City"). It is amazing how each ancient coin can tell a story. Just as with crime stories, some coin stories are big, and some are small, and many are worth telling. This happens to be one of those stories.

On an extensive driving trip through southern Italy and Sicily this past May, my wife and I had a chance to revisit some of the finest Greek temples in the world. During that trip, I was able to check occasionally on a mail-bid auction that was closing. One of my two bids was soon surpassed (the usual pattern quickly established), but surprisingly I won a small silver triobol of Phokis that finished just below its sale estimate. I am not generally enamored by small coins, although I have picked up a few interesting ones lately. The triobol that I won depicted a full frontal view of a bull's head complete with curly hair and bulging eyes. This simple, iconic obverse image fit perfectly within my preference for early Greek city-state coins. I had seen coins from Phokis previously, and I may have even bid on one or two of them in the BCD Locris and Phokis sale that was published in 2010. They are similar to the unpretentious denominations of nearby Argos, in that they are small, bold, relatively rare and usually well struck. Because of their smallness, I had previously seen them as a lower priority (perhaps this could be called 'small coin syndrome').

Even though I knew that the high points of my new Phokis triobol were worn and possibly under-struck, and even though I didn't know a lot about the Phokis issues at the time, I of course thought that the coin was attractive enough, in a bull-headed sort of way, to make a bid. The darker background toning helped. It was only after I won the coin that other interesting things started to happen. As I mentioned in my article about "Assessing Ancient Coins" (*The Planchet*, October 2011), it is important to research your coins before and after purchase. I discovered a lot of facts about the coin in my post-sale research that added considerably to its appeal – not only things about the circumstances of its production but also things about the provenance of the actual coin that I had bought.

A. Historical Perspective:

Phokis and the Third Sacred War

As noted in Figure 1, the territory of Phokis was surrounded by powerful city-states. It was about 1,600 sq kilometers in area, although much of this was mountainous, including the fabled Mt Parnassos adjacent to Delphi. The Phokian soil was generally poor, and the populace was similarly inclined. The district did not have enough resources to develop its own city-state or otherwise become strategically important. Phokis enclosed the very important national Greek religious Sanctuary of Delphi, and Delphi operated as a kind of city-state (when it wasn't occupied by outside military forces), but its governing synod, the Amphictyonic League, ruled separately from Phokian authorities. This synod of was composed of representatives from surrounding states (much like worldwide delegates are sent to the modern-day, autonomous Vatican City).

Although Phokis was not wealthy and did not have a strong central administrative structure, it could raise a few military contingents when required. During the 5th century BC, the federated towns of Phokis joined both the Greek side (helping to lose the Battle of Thermopylae) and then joined the Persian side at the Battle of Plataea. They sparred with Sparta for territory, later gained control of Delphi with the help of Athens, then lost control again during the Peloponnesian War when Phokis became a reluctant ally and dependency of Sparta.

In the early 4th century, Phokis helped Sparta invade Boeotia, only to become a target for Boeotian hostility later in the century when Boeotia's main city-state, Thebes, became very powerful and demanded monetary and military support. When Phokis didn't fully comply, Thebes initiated a religious edict and a fine against the Phokian Confederation in 357, endorsed by the

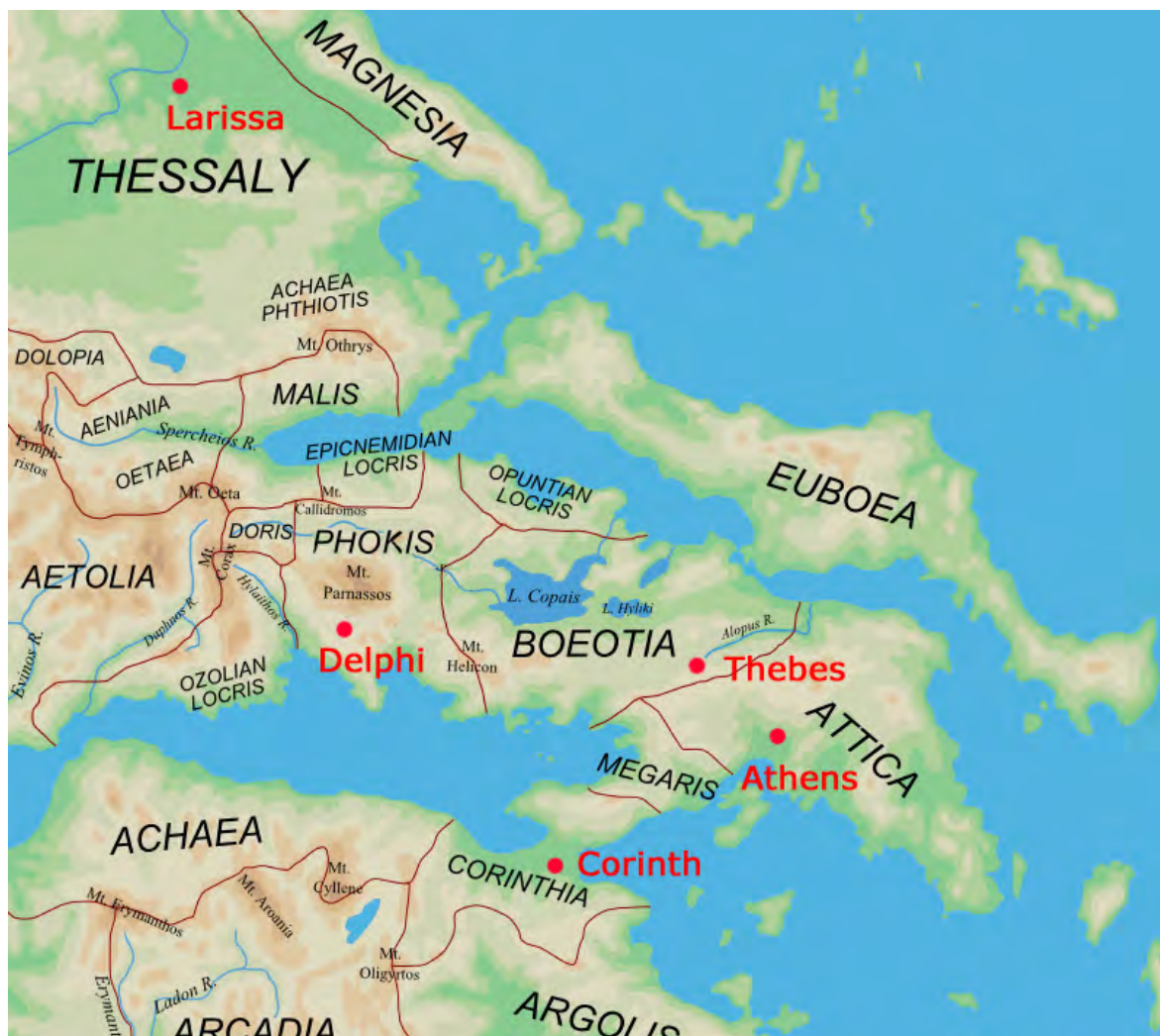



Figure 1 - Map: Phokis and the Sanctuary of Delphi

Ancient Phokis was fairly close geographically to the powerful cities of Thebes in Boeotia and Athens in Attica, and it was only slightly more distant from the other well-known cities of Corinth in Corinthia and Larissa in Thessaly. These surrounding cities produced large quantities of well-known ancient coinages, but the decentralized towns of Phokis produced only limited numbers of coins in small denominations. Mount Parnassos was located within Phokian territory, and the important pan-Hellenic religious sanctuary of Delphi was located at its southern base. The temple treasure of Delphi was used in the production of the new Apollo style of bull-headed triobols that ultimately prolonged the Third Sacred War.



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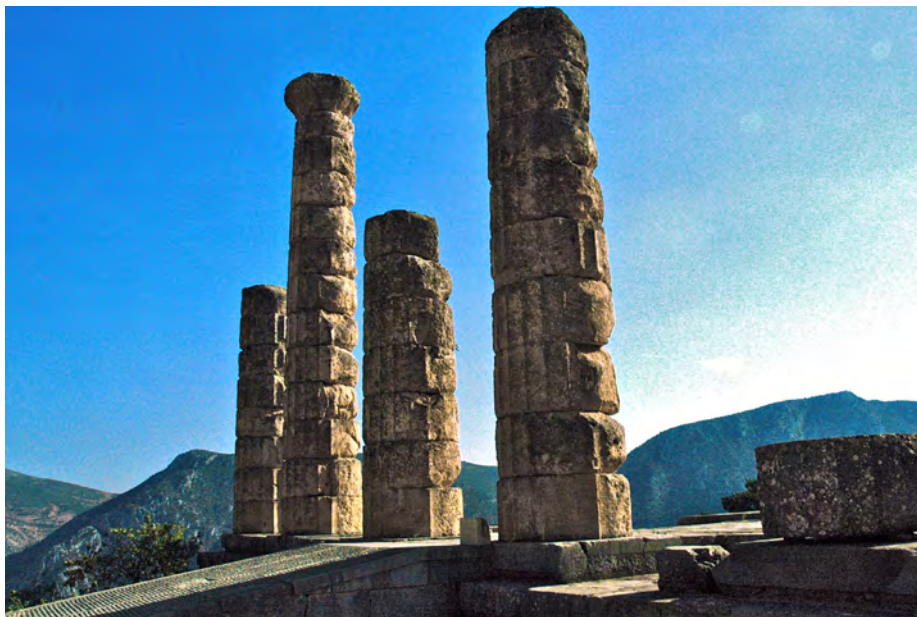


Figure 2 - Site of Ancient Delphi and the Temple of Apollo Delphinios



View of the amphitheatre of Delphi with the Temple of Apollo below left and the Treasury of Athens below center (Athens dedicated the treasury after its victory at Marathon). Though it was most famous as a religious precinct, Delphi also hosted the Pythian Games, which was an important festival of arts and athletics.

Ruins of the Temple of Apollo Delphinios, with part of Mt Parnassos visible as a backdrop in the middle photo. The Temple of Apollo was the most sacred worship site in the religious precinct of Delphi, functioning both as an oracle of prophecy and a treasury for donations to Apollo. Other precious donations were kept in various treasury buildings along the Sacred Way below the Temple, buildings that had been dedicated by specific city-states or rulers to commemorate victories or to thank the oracle. The Temple was first constructed in the 7th century BC but rebuilt as late as the 4th century BC after damage from fire and earthquakes. The Temple housed an eternal flame and



was built according to the Doric order in a six by fifteen column pattern. Rulers from around the Greek world consulted with Apollo before they embarked on major undertakings, but for obvious reasons, the god spoke through an oracle or high priestess. The entire sanctuary of Delphi was destroyed in 390 BC by Theodosius I, the first Roman emperor who was Christian, to rid the area of pagan influences - although pagan Romans had carefully looted most of the valuable offerings and artworks centuries before. With the complete loss of the treasuries and the destruction of the precinct by Theodosius (he was equally hard on Olympia and other Greek sanctuaries), the Greek 'nation' and identity began a severe decline.

Amphictyonic League at Delphi. Phokis was fined ostensibly for farming religious lands, which by itself could result in the Phokians becoming outcasts and having a religious war declared against them. The Phokians responded by seizing Delphi in 356 BC, fortifying the site, and securing its treasures to wage war against its League neighbors – thus initiating the Third Sacred War.

The prime target of Phokis in the Third Sacred War was Thebes, although several other Amphictyonic League states were allied against it. During war, the Phokians were led by their highest military commander, who was called a strategos (equivalent to the highest ranking general). The Third Sacred War began under the strategos Philomelos (357-354), who first attacked Lokris trying to eliminate opponents one by one, but he failed. Philomelos



3a Early Period: Pre-Federal Archaic Quarter - Stater - (late 6th century BC) – 3.41g

3b Early Period: Archaic Triobol - (500-490 BC) - 2.98g/9h



3c Early Period: Early Classic Triobol - (445-420 BC) - 2.88g/2h

3d Early Period: Classic Triobol - (418 BC) - 2.99g/9h.



3e Early Period: Obol - (500-490 BC) - 0.92g/3h

3f Early Period: Hemiobol - (510-500 BC) - 0.52g/6h.

Figure 3 – Typical Pre-Federal and Early Federal Coinage of Phokis (510-356 BC)

Although the style of the facing bull-head triobols changed slightly over this period, it is the style of the Artemis head that was most affected, moving from an archaic pose to a classical rendition. Three examples of the early period triobol are therefore included to show the differences. The hemiobol above shows its normal profile view of the bull head, but the profile view also appeared occasionally on the obol and triobol. (Photos courtesy of Numismatica Ars Classica, Auction 55)

was defeated and died while being pursued on Mt Parnassos. His second in charge, Onymarchos (354-352), assumed command and convinced the Phokians to fight on, recruiting twice as many soldiers and cavalry as his predecessor (20,000 and 500 respectively). Interestingly, he had time to reorganize his forces, since his opponents thought Phokis had already been defeated. Onymarchos then marched into Thessaly and defeated Philip II of Macedon in 354, with Onymarchos's brother Phayllos (352-351) starting to assume some of the command. After Philip retreated and assembled a new Macedonian army in 353, the two forces fought again in Thessaly, and Philip trounced the Phokians. Onymarchos was killed at the Battle of Crocus Field – reportedly the bloodiest battle in Greek history (6,000 Phokians were killed and 3,000 taken prisoner then drowned as prescribed for temple-robbers). While the other states were distracted by the ongoing war, Philip consolidated his strong position in Thessaly, thereby beginning the Macedonian domination of Greek affairs. Phayllos regrouped Phokian forces in 352 and solicited more support from Phokian allies in order to widen the conflict. Athens was particularly anxious to help Phokis, since it was already battling with Macedon in other northern territories, and it wanted to increase resistance to Macedonian expansion under Philip. Phayllos was later succeeded by strategos Phalaecos (351-347), who may have been replaced by a triumvirate near the end of the war.

By using the wealth of Delphi's Sanctuary, the Phokians were able to continue the Third Sacred War for a total of ten years, from 356-346 BC, fighting battles in Lokris, Doris, Thessaly, Boeotia, Euboia, and also within Phokis itself. The Phokians suffered many defeats over that period, and yet the final outcome was not decisive. Phokis eventually occupied several Boeotian cities, but by 346, it realized that its army could no longer be paid, and it wanted to negotiate a settlement. The temple treasures of Delphi were exhausted by that time, and all participants were tired of the conflict. Philip II used his new power to impose a peace settlement on the warring parties. In the end, the Phokians were estimated to have spent 10,000 talents of Apollo's treasure on the war, having to pay the mercenaries at least half as much again as the going rate to engage in such a sacrilegious cause.

B. Coins of Ancient Phokis

Early Pre-Federal and Federal Coins

The origin of Phokis is unclear, although the inhabitants seemingly had some contact with areas of Asia Minor, since they minted rare, one-quarter stater coins in the mid-to-late 6th century BC based on the Milesian weight standard of 3.3-3.5 grams (see Figure 3a). The obverse of these crude initial coins included a forepart of a boar (similar to early Lycian dynast coins) with a punch on the reverse. After liberating themselves from Thessalian domination around 510 BC, Phokian towns quickly formed a federation and authorized a new series of standardized Phokian League hemidrachms, obols and hemiobols based on the Aeginetan standard, with the hemidrachm weighing 2.8-3.0 grams (examples of the early Phokian federal coinages can be seen in Figures 3b-f). The use of the hemidrachm as the main unit was similar to other smaller states in central Greece, such as the Achaeans; however other confederated leagues like Boeotia chose the didrachm for their primary denomination, while Thessaly chose the drachm.

An interesting side-note is that the Phokian 'hemidrachm', as cited by Colin Kraay and even the anonymous collector BCD in some of his commentary, is usually described as a 'triobol' by Barclay Head and most contemporary auction catalogues (including BCD auctions). I will use the 'triobol' terminology.

Phokis maintained this standard pattern of federal silver triobol-obol-hemiobol issues right through the 5th century to the mid-4th century, although actual mintages were sporadic (one source notes that issues were tied to major national assemblies where fairs and markets encouraged the trading of goods). The early series of federal coins produced from 510 BC to the start of the Third Sacred War in 356 BC generally used the following types:

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4a Sacred War Period: Classic Triobol - Philomelos (357-354 BC) - 2.77g/12h

4b Sacred War Period: Classic Triobol - Onymarchos (354-352 BC) - 2.83g/10h.



4c Sacred War Period: Classic Triobol - Phayllos (352-351 BC) - 2.81g/12h

Figure 4 – New Federal Phokis Triobols, Apollo-Reverse Type, Issued During the Third Sacred War - Delphi Mint

These are examples of the new Apollo triobol reverse type issued at Delphi by the first three Phokian strategoi (Philomelos Onymarchos and Phayllos) during the Third Sacred War. The Delphi Mint was active throughout the war from 356 to 346 BC. The Apollo device would have provided religious and political motivation to the Phokian combatants, but it also recognized that Apollo's temple treasure from the sacred sanctuary of Delphi was used to mint the coins. The style of the new Apollo reverse type was rather refined compared with the simple, early style of the obverse. (Photos courtesy of Numismatica Ars Classica, Auction 55)

Triobol: 2.9 g	Obverse – Frontal Bull Head
	Reverse – Head of Artemis
Obol: 1.0g	Obverse – Frontal Bull Head
	Reverse – Forepart of Boar
Hemiobol: 0.5g	Obverse – Profile of Bull Head
	Reverse - Helmet

The boar was seen as the companion of Artemis. There were some exceptions to the die types in this period, such as triobols and obols that featured either a profile bull or a frontal bull, but the designs otherwise stayed much the same until the Third Sacred War started. However, the style

of the Artemis head on the triobol reverse changed significantly, becoming very stylish in the late 5th century (see Figures 3c and 3d) – please note, however, that style comes at a high price since these featured coins sold recently for \$17,000 and \$20,000, respectively. Not much silver coinage was produced in the early 4th century especially since Thessaly again became dominant. A series of small Phokian bronze coins of 2.0-2.25 grams began to be minted about that time, and they also became plentiful later in the century.

(It is worth noting that the Sanctuary of Delphi occasionally issued its own independent coinage, both concurrently with the early issues of Phokis and after the demise of Phokis in the Third Sacred War. These mintages were probably related to

special events or surplus bullion but were not related to its "Games" activities as occurred at Olympia. Most of Delphi's coins were struck in small denominations, although after the Battle of Plataea in the early 5th century it produced a spectacular and rare silver tridrachm with opposing ram's-head drinking cups on the obverse. No such independent coinage was of course issued by Delphi while occupied by Phokis for short periods in the mid-5th century and the mid-4th century).

Coins of the Third Sacred War: Triobols and Temple

At the start of the Third Sacred War in 356 BC, Phokis obviously needed a lot of cash to pay large numbers of mercenaries. Perhaps it was the ready availability of the Delphi treasures within its territory that encouraged Phokis to initiate a rebellion against the punitive Amphictyonic League edict; nonetheless it captured the religious precinct of Delphi and used Apollo's temple treasure as a source of precious metal for production of the coins needed for its mercenary payments. The Phokians literally transformed the accumulated temple treasure of Delphi into both armaments and coinage - bronze and iron were melted for weapons, while gold and silver were used for coins (the gold coins are extremely rare). There is no doubt that the ability to produce these new coinages substantially prolonged the conflict.

The fabric and design of the new war coinages followed the traditional Phokian small-denomination pattern, as noted in the previous section, including new issues of the bronze fractions, with the exception that the reverse deity on the silver triobols was changed from an Artemis head to a laureate head of Apollo. The revised triobol type is described as follows (see Figures 4a-c for an examples of the new triobol type):

Triobol: 2.8 g

Obverse – Frontal Bull Head

Reverse – Head of Apollo

The main Phokian Third Sacred War issues minted at Delphi continued to be triobols, including my new acquisition, with some variations in Apollo styles (see next article section for comments on my coin). The weight of the coins continued in the 2.8 to 2.9 gram range until the very end of the conflict, when it suddenly dipped closer to 2.3 grams. I have emphasized the change in military leadership of the Phokians during the War in the discussion above (see Historical Perspective), since most of these Phokis coinage issues are assigned sequentially to individual strategoi, based on the style of the obverse bull-head and the Apollo portrait. The style of the reverse Apollo portraits changed somewhat over this short 10-year period, whether it was related to the arrival of new carvers, new styles adopted from other city-states, change of leadership, or perhaps serendipity. Nonetheless, the dies seem to be very well executed. The simple image of the facing-bull on the triobol obverse contrasts nicely with the more elaborate carvings of both the Artemis and the Apollo reverses.

Since the silver triobol was a relatively low-value coin and the rate of mercenary pay was likely higher than normal, and since the conflict went on for so long, we can conclude that there must have been a lot of treasure in Delphi and that vast numbers of triobols must have been struck. This is somewhat curious, since few of these coins appear on the market (most seem to have been garnered by BCD for his monumental collection). The answer may lie in what happened after the Third Sacred War. Peace was declared, but King Philip II of Macedon then devastated the Phokian lands and towns. Phokian coinage production ceased for some time of course, and then it ceased forever a bit later. Moreover, *Historia Numorum* reports that the Locrians gathered and melted any surviving Phokian precious metal items to make a hydria as a new offering to the Delphian Apollo, thereby restoring some of the purloined treasure to the precinct. We can also surmise that other surrounding powers might have deliberately reissued any captured Phokian coinage using their own types.

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My Phokis Triobol

My newly acquired triobol (see Figure 5) can be placed in the period of the Third Sacred War based on its reverse type - the laureate head of Apollo. It can be further identified as an issue of strategos Phayllos by the ebullient style of the Apollo. Previous issues under strategoi Philomelos and Onymarchos, and even some by Phayllos, show finely-delineated, but more restrained, renditions of Apollo's portrait in classical style. By comparison, my coin seems to have a rather casual demeanor (these differences can be seen by examining the other Apollo triobols in Figure 4 and by examining those shown in NAC Auction 55, the 'BCD Lokris-Phokis' sale of 2010).

My Phokian triobol looks good even when it is enlarged. That says a lot when it is such a tiny coin. Immediately noticeable is the darker toning in the fields and lower parts of the carved images, compared to the brighter, rounded highpoints of the obverse and reverse figures. The mixed toning could be a result of a find-patina rubbed after excavation, but it could also be a sign of old collection toning. The rounded highpoints probably indicate ancient wear, although it is possible that the coin was somewhat under-struck. Otherwise, the images are sharp with considerable detail, and the coin is reasonably well centered. The

Apollo head on the reverse is very nicely carved in a classical style (again the coin is only 14 mm in diameter). The 'ΦΩ' ethnic lettering under the Apollo portrait translates from Greek as 'PH-O', which is of course the start of PHOKIS, the name of the federal union issuing the coin.

Both sides of the coin project a great deal of character. The obverse image is a facing bull's head in high relief. Its eyes are quite prominent, and the carver has also made some attempt to show the bull's hair and skin-fold detail. The bull represented strength in ancient societies, as it does today. Sometimes the head was displayed on coins in live form, as in this case, or in the form of a 'bucranium' or T-shaped skull (common on sculpted temple friezes and as a mint symbol on coins). *Historia Numorum* notes that special sacrifices were often made to the national hero, Archagetas, at the main temple in Phokis. Perhaps the bull on the coin represents the great sacrifice of a prize bull on behalf of the people. Another source mentions that after such sacrifices, the bull's head might be hung on the outside of the chosen temple, which would then present the type of full-frontal pose shown on this coin.

The concave reverse of the coin displays a right-facing profile of Apollo, confirmed by his crowning wreath and the lyre symbol behind his



Figure 5 – My Federal Phokis Triobol – Sacred War Period: Issued by Strategos Phayllos, Delphi Mint (352-351 BC)

14.5 x 14.0 mm, 2.80g. Obv: Facing Bull's Head. Rev: ΦΩ ; Laureate head of Apollo Delphinios right; behind, chelys or lyre. Ref: RT Williams 390 (O263/R231), *Silver Coinage of the Phokians*, RNS#7 (1972), Period V, pl 14; Lockett 1709 (same dies); BCD Phokis 310.1 (this coin); Boston MFA 972 (same dies).

Ex: Spink July 1958 to D Bersi-Mangakis (DBM) Collection; sold by DBM Collection to BCD Collection 1977; NAC 55 (BCD Lokris-Phokis) Oct 2010, lot 310.1; Lanz 150 Dec 2010; G&M 199 Oct 2011. Purchased from CNG Auction 90, May 2012. (Collection of the author).

head. Apollo's facial features are generous and finely carved, seeming to communicate a sense of carefree confidence and joy, which is rather unexpected since the coin was minted in an extended time of war. This Apollo is specifically named Apollo Delphinios (Apollo of Delphi, as opposed to some other specifically venerated Apollo from another city), since we know the coin was minted in the great religious precinct of Delphi. The main temple in Delphi and its precious metal treasures were dedicated to Apollo Delphinios (photos of temple ruin in Figure 2), so it is easy to imagine that the coin was issued in order to link the revered god to the Phokian cause and to project his commandeered authority to mercenaries and combatants around the various battlefields of the war. It would be hard to mistake this intent: not only was Apollo's image incorporated into the coin design, but Apollo's own treasure was used to manufacture it.

C. Provenance - A Lesson

As noted in the introduction, I won this Phokis triobol in a recent CNG auction. Compared to other fancy coins in the mail bid sale, perhaps the Phokis was unexceptional, and so the coin description was very basic – only the usual obv/rev particulars and references. There were three factors relating to the basic description that may have worked in my favor in terms of winning the bid. First, the cataloguer noted correctly that there was a "light scratch" under the tone on the obverse (I judged this to be inconsequential and wouldn't be noticed on a small coin, which turned out to be true as it is apparent only on some digital photos). Second, the cataloguer indicated that the coin had the same reverse die as a coin in the BCD Lokris sale. This was a fortunate error, since the correct attribution would indicate that this coin not only had the same reverse die as the coin mentioned, but that this very coin was in that sale under a different lot number, which is much more significant. The third factor was the reference to "Lokris" sale: the BCD sale was in two conjoined parts, being "*BCD Lokris and Phokis*", so it may have helped when it was noted that it was in the BCD Lokris sale instead of Phokis sale).

So I come back to the point about doing research before and after each acquisition. When I had a chance to do more research, initially going back over auction records and relevant references, I discovered that the coin had been in several other auction sales. Not only does this provide a provenance record of the coin's recent existence, but it also provides an interesting insight into what auction houses thought the coin was worth (even if it didn't always sell). Additional research into printed and online sources also provides further background on the history of the ancient mint entity, which I have tried to relate in the article above for the subject coin.

The most informative part of the provenance investigation came when I was checking the CNG sale reference for my coin's reverse die in the *BCD Lokris and Phokis* sale. I discovered that NAC (Numismatica Ars Classica) had sent the specific BCD sale catalogue to me in 2010, wherein I not only found my actual coin under a different lot number, but BCD himself had added an invaluable comment on his purchase of the coin in the catalogue description:

"310.1: From the collection of D Bersi-Mangakis, acquired March 1977 for CHF 1'350. Originally from Spink's July 1958 for £10/10/-."

D Bersi-Mangakis was also a prolific collector who presumably bought my coin at Spink's in 1958 then sold it to BCD in 1977. BCD held it until 2010, when that part of his vast collection was dispersed. In another BCD sale that was included in Triton XV, BCD provided further insight into his relationship with Bersi-Mangakis. The comments were made in the description of a special coin from Thebai that he had bought from Bersi-Mangakis (DBM) in 1977, the same year as he bought my coin. BCD wrote in Triton XV:

"This writer has the fondest memories of "evenings out" with Dimi (or DBM as he appears on his coin tickets), talking coins. Dimi started by collecting English pennies as a young man; his stories about visiting Lockett and having tea with him in his "Winter Garden" while the butler would fetch "Cabinet 23" that contained the pennies to be discussed, would always leave the listener with that vague feeling of nostalgia mixed with the regret that he would never live moments like these - they happened before his time and belonged to a different world".

This sort of information is like gold to a collector, and it is rarely available. It confirms ownership, authenticity, and a perspective on the coin's collection credentials. My point is that this information adds value to a coin, just as other background information on the mint site and site's historical connections add value. People will pay more for a coin with an interesting history and a lengthy provenance, especially if the provenance is published. Often auction houses don't bother to assemble or print much background information on individual coins being offered for sale, given space and manpower restrictions. Many collectors also don't do a lot of research, perhaps satisfied with the acquisition and its general importance. However, I encourage all collectors to do some level of research to find what the auction houses usually miss, which might then add a new level of value and interest to their purchases. Simply put, my new Phokis triobol would probably have sold for a higher price, if the references and provenance had been properly noted.

In Closing...

My bold little triobol of Phokis looks good and tells an interesting story – a fascinating tale about ancient conflict, power, and dramatic changes in the political and cultural domination of the Greek-Macedonian world. It also tells a story about the unusual circumstances of the coin's sacrilegious production and its more recent numismatic travels. Both parts of this story are important to any acquisition, since they provide valuable background information that creates interest in the item and to some extent bolsters authenticity. The first part concerning the historical context is at least generally known from available references. The second part about provenance might need more work, but it is important - otherwise the coin just becomes a pretty face with a dollar sign written on its flip – a simple commercial transaction. Unfortunately, most ancient coin vendors don't care about the provenance, have no reliable source data, or they want to restrict information for legal reasons. However, where there is a 'knowable' ownership/sales trail, the provenance part of the story should be established by doing some research, asking questions at the time of purchase, recording the appropriate information, and then passing on the information when the coin is resold. Such details are the life-blood of ancient coin collecting.

Photo & Map Credits:

- Figure 1 - Map heavily adapted from "Ancient Regions Mainland Greece", Wikipedia website.
- Figure 2 - Courtesy of the author.
- Figures 3 & 4 - Photos courtesy of Numismatica Ars Classica AG.
- Figure 5 - Photo by the author and coin from Author's Collection.

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1. Head, Barclay. *Historia Numorum – A Manual of Greek Numismatics* (Digital H.N. Project at <http://www.snible.org/coins/hn/> - original publication Oxford: 1911), Phokis, pp. 338-339.
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3. Numismatic Auction Catalogue – Classical Numismatic Group – *Triton Auction XV, The BCD Collection of the Coinage of Thessaly* (Lancaster Pennsylvania: 3 January 2012), pp 305, Lot 758.
4. Numismatic Auction Catalogue - Numismatica Ars Classica AG – *Auction 55, The BCD Collection Lokris-Phokis* (Zurich & London: 8 October 2010), pp 68-130.
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***PREVIOUS ARTICLE UPDATE ***

"Encounters with Ancient Coin Displays in Europe"

(*The Planchet*, September 2011).

By Wayne Hansen

In my first article for *The Planchet*, I surveyed several European museums for the quantity and quality of ancient coins displayed. One of the most important Greek coin displays was in Syracuse, Sicily, but as I reported, I hadn't visited the museum for 10 years. However, on our recent drive around Southern Italy and Sicily, I was able to revisit the collection and can now report that it has moved to a new facility that is tied to a much broader provincial archeological complex. Previously, the coins were literally housed in a series of connected bank vaults in a government office building in the ancient centre of Syracuse (on the island of Ortygia). The new museum is located in the main part of the city, closer to its primary archeological site (containing the Greek theatre, amphitheatre, Altar of Hieron II, and quarries).

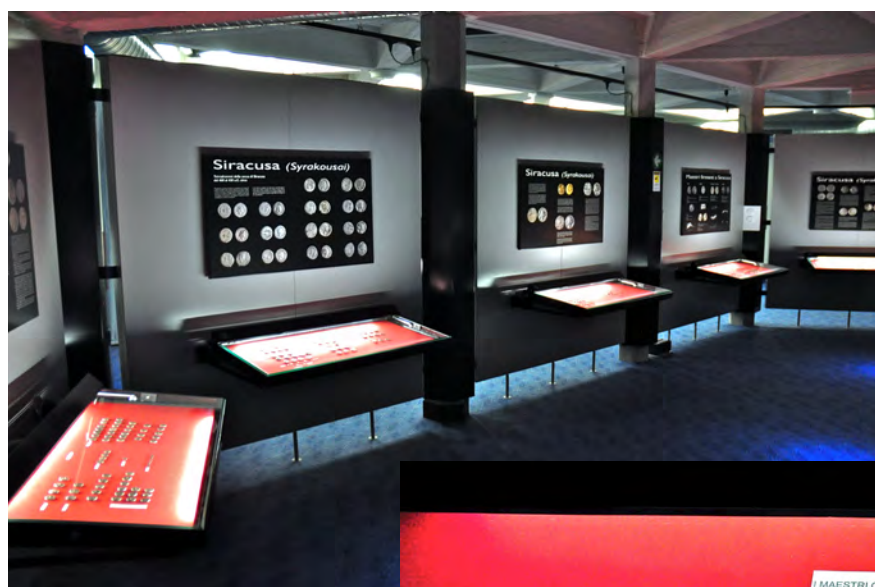
It took two tries to get into the collection, which is in a secure basement level of the museum. The coins are some of the highest quality Greek Sicilian coins you can find, so you know that they are impressive. However, almost all of them were un-toned, so either they have been cleaned and treated, or the cases in which they are housed are environmentally controlled. All the coins are displayed in independent, wall-mounted cases grouped into sections. One section showed coins of individual Sicilian city-states, while other sections showed individual coins or coin hoards that were found at various ancient sites, or coin collections that were acquired from wealthy benefactors. As you can guess, many duplicate examples of rare and expensive coins can be found in the different sections. In the Syracuse section alone, one "master engraver" case contained 25 decadrachms by Euainetos, 6 decadrachms by Eukleidas, 4 decadrachms by Kimon, 2 decadrachms by Eumenes, plus 4 gold decadrachms by Euainetos and Kimon (see photo of case). Because of their condition, the average street value of each of the 37 silver decadrachms in this case would likely approach \$60-80,000, with the Kimon's perhaps double that. The director of the coin museum and her assistant spoke some English and they were obviously proud of

the coins. They appreciated my great interest in the displays and they allowed me to photograph anything I wanted.

Again, I would encourage any coin enthusiasts traveling in the area to stop at this new museum.

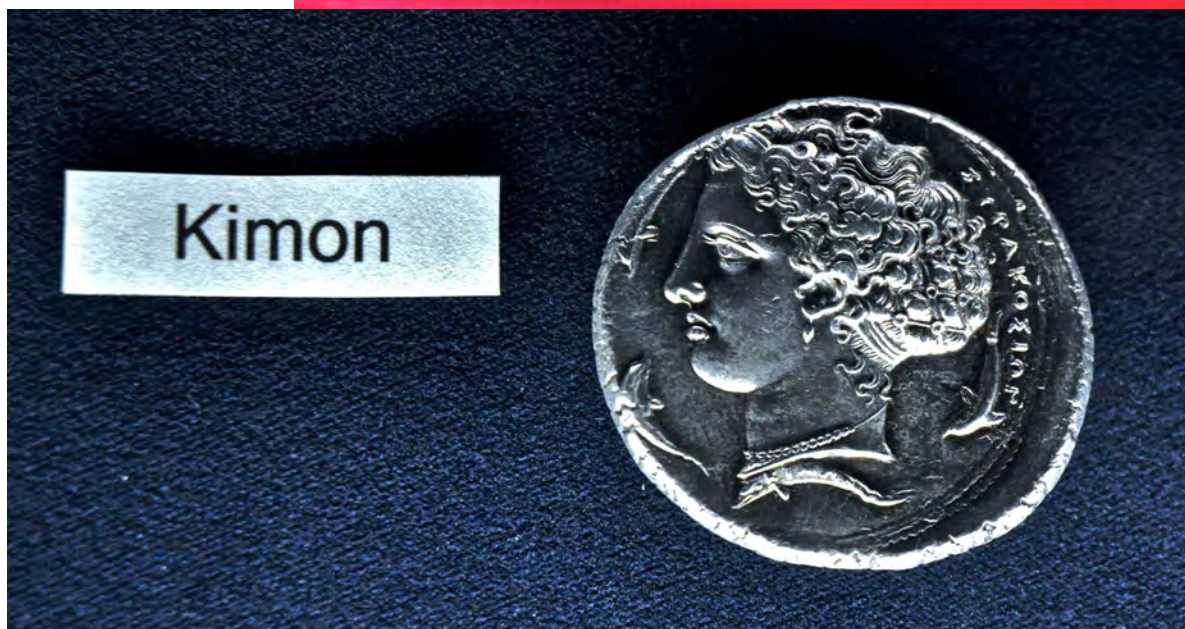
Unfortunately, however, they do not give away any samples.

(Photos by the Author)



The Syracuse Numismatic Museum

Case of Syracuse Decadrachms in gold and silver, grouped by Master Engraver



Silver Syracuse Decadrachm signed by 'Kimon'



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Neat Notes

By Roger Grove



Collecting notes presents a whole new world of opportunity to a coin collector. I personally don't collect notes (at least not that many) mainly because I just don't know a thing about collecting them. But every now and then one catches my eye (actually many do because the artistry and variety in them is astounding) and I have to take a second look. But all I do is look. For the next couple of minutes I will attempt to touch on a few interesting notes or type of notes to see if you too are inspired.

Jackass the Note, not the Movie.

Have you ever heard of the "Jackass Note"? Well ... it is the beautiful US \$10 note issued in 1869, 1875, 1878 and 1880. Where does moniker of "jackass" come from? When this note is turned upside down the eagle resembles the head of a jackass. Still can't see it? Take a step back from your computer ... do you see it now? If you need help go to page 36.



[http://usrarecurrency.com/1869\\$10.legalTenderNotePCGS63PPQSnH4265250.htm](http://usrarecurrency.com/1869$10.legalTenderNotePCGS63PPQSnH4265250.htm)

Depression Scrip

The 1930's saw the closure of many banks resulting in the need for municipalities to develop their own currency to keep the depressed economy from spiraling farther into the dirty darkness. Thanks to their hard times we now have some great historical pieces to collect from communities throughout Canada and the US. In Alberta the most famous would be the "Prosperity Certificate", but don't limit yourself to these.



Fractional Currency

Most of you will be familiar with Canadian fractional currency, but have you ever looked at our neighbors to the south? The hoarding of coins during the US Civil War prompted the US government to find alternatives to coins, hence the move to fractional currency in 1863. For a few short lived years paper circulated in denominations of 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50-cents. It was printed in four issues and ended in 1876. They are very popularly collected items and heavily counterfeited.



was an excellent representative of the ENS, taking part in as many activities as possible.

Nov 10-11 Silent Auction

Howard Gilbey will be in charge of the silent auction once again. He reported that all but 3 lots of the March 2012 auction sold. He's aiming to have 60 lots for the upcoming auction. Only members of the ENS are eligible to submit lots, with a maximum of 5 per person for now. The forms will be sent electronically with the October edition of *The Planchet* and are also available at the ENS web site. Submissions prior to the October monthly meeting can be dropped off at National Pride Coin & Stamp or at Northgate Coin & Stamp. The 1st deadline will be the October monthly meeting. A second but shorter deadline will be set then if the 60 lots haven't been received. The maximum lot requirements will then be removed if required.

Report on 2012 ANA Convention at Philadelphia

Roger Grove started his presentation by thanking the ENS for helping out with the costs of sending him to Philadelphia to receive the Outstanding Local Club Publication Award for *The Planchet*. The floor of the convention covered 225,000 square feet. For comparison our show comes in at 15,000 square feet which is only a bit more than 6% of the Philadelphia floor! All the big name dealers, writers and experts were there, along with the major grading companies and auction houses. The official auction conducted by Stack's & Bowers brought in a whopping \$42 million! There was a promenade of 14 World Mints including the RCM. The ANA's museum showcase had extreme rarities on display such as The Simpson Complete \$4 Stella Set, The Idler/Beebe Class III Specimen

1804 Dollar and The Walton Specimen 1913 Liberty Head "V" Nickel. The Bureau of Engraving had their Billion Dollar Display and Rosie Rios, the Treasurer of the United States, was autographing \$1 notes. The bourse was of course, heavily focused on numismatics of the USA, there was however something for everyone, including 13 ancient dealers and sections devoted to errors, currency, clubs etc. The dealers had high end certified offerings and it was actually difficult to find circulated coins of a lower caliber.

Displays for November Coin Show

David Peter brought up the subject of displays for the November coin show. The topic will be 'Remembrance', and he called on members to put forth displays. He mentioned that it would be desirable to have something on the War of 1812 because of the 200th Anniversary this year. Terry Chessman is the chairman of displays. This will also qualify for the Go-for-the- Gold program.

Show and Tell

Items passed around included sizzle, an elongated quarter from the ANA convention, RCM Special Edition Sets from both the RCNA and ANA conventions. A British silver medal dating to the Napoleon era was a special highlight. It commemorated Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

Conclusion

Door prizes were drawn and the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM

Mitch Goudreau

ENS Secretary



Jackass Note - How to Spot It - From Page 34



The head of the eagle appears to be the mouth of the ass, with the body making up the remainder of the head. The wings form the back of the head and neck.

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Napoleonic Greek Medal

- a mystery solved !

By Pierre Driessen



Amongst the medals of the official Napoleonic series struck by the Paris Medal Mint under the direction of Vivan Denon, there is a mysterious subset celebrating females of the Bonaparte family as personages in their own right. Rarely seen at auction and scarcely dealt with in catalogues or Napoleonic numismatic sources, they are often misattributed, erroneously described and their imagery incorrectly interpreted.

Few official French medals of Bonaparte females as important figures in their own right were struck. If a Bonaparte female was shown on a medal at all, she was displayed with her husband to celebrate his achievement or action. This is the first reason why this series, featuring the Imperial Princesses Caroline, Elise and Pauline, sisters of Napoléon, and Hortense de Beauharnaise, the adopted daughter of the French emperor, is unique.

The second reason is the series character. Unlike other official French medals, the theme and symbolism are almost entirely Greek; of particular interest is the fact that the legends are in ancient Greek.

The medals, measuring 22mm in diameter, were struck in bronzed copper, silver and gold. Their edges are plain and smooth. Original First Empire strikes in any of the metal types are difficult to obtain, particularly in AU or higher grades due to their exceptionally high relief, especially the obverse. Restrikes are more plentiful, easier to collect, but even these can be pricey. Within the series the two medals dedicated to Caroline Bonaparte carry this Greek theme the furthest, as can be seen from Images 1 and 2.

The references and sources are silent as to the inspiration for the design of this medal. Entries are limited to descriptions of what can be seen.



Images 1 and 2: obverse of the medal celebrating Caroline Murat as Queen of the Kingdom of Naples (the Two Sicilies).

Reverse of medal celebrating Caroline Murat as Queen of the Kingdom of Naples

Medal characteristics: diameter: 22mm; weight: 6.91 grams; metal type: silver; die axis: medal; edge: plain, smooth, not mint marked; strike: original First Empire.

References: Bramsen 772; d'Essling

Interpretation is largely absent. If it is attempted, it is erroneous. It is known that the Paris Medal Mint possessed a vast collection of ancient Greek and Roman coins from which ideas could be drawn. Vivian Denon, the mint director and Napoleon's chief cultural arbiter, a learned classicist, possessed a substantial personal collection of ancient artefacts and coins from which additional inspiration could be drawn.

Sadly during the ensuing chaos of the collapse of Napoléon's empire and the return of the Bourbon dynasty, many of the dies and records concerning medals and jetons struck during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic period by the Paris Medal Mint disappeared. These were sold, stolen or simply left to deteriorate due to neglect and improper storage.

Following the Hundred Days, Napoléon's final defeat at Waterloo and exile to St. Helena, the Bourbon government instituted a determined campaign to eradicate all vestiges of the preceding 26 years. Much of what had not previously been destroyed was now done away with, including the particulars of the Napoleon medallic series.

It is interesting to note that Napoléon's fiercest adversaries, the British, were the ones who made attempts at cataloguing and preserving the medallic legacy of the Revolution and First Empire. Lacking proper documentation and official cooperation, they were at a disadvantage in determining the exact nature, design conceptualization, inspiration and meaning of many of the medals and jetons in the Napoleonic series. This makes researching this not so long ago numismatic period an interesting challenge. The present day Paris Mint in general is of little help.

The medal, seen in Images 1 and 2, dedicated to Napoléon's sister, Caroline, Queen of Naples, is a particularly good example of this challenge.

So what was the inspiration for this medal? What message was it intended to convey? Why was it struck and why in this particular form?

Chevalier Millin (1759 - 1818), keeper of the Collection of Medals and Antiquities in the National Library in Paris, in his *Medallic History of Napoleon*, describes the medal in vague terms. About the obverse he states: "Head of the Queen of Naples, between a rose and a sprig of myrtle". The reverse he describes as: "A bull with a human head, crowned by a winged female figure: a type of the ancient coins of Naples." ¹ Millin does not go beyond these superficial descriptions.



Image 3: Bust of Caroline Murat, youngest sister of Napoléon Bonaparte, by the famous Italian sculpture Antonio Canova (1782 - 1839).

The English Captain Laskey, in his *A Description of the Series of Medals Struck at the National Mint by Order of Napoleon Bonaparte, Commemorating the Most Remarkable Battles and Events during His Dynasty*, makes an attempt at interpretation. His obverse description is similar to Millin's. For the reverse however he states: "Reverse - Victory on wing, crowing the Minotaur with a laurel wreath, within a dotted circle." ²

The lack of interpretation and proper description is surprising since a proper education in the late 19th century was heavy on Greek and Roman mythology and history. It is even more surprising for a man such as Millin, who was purported to be a distinguished classical scholar and working in his field as keeper of the French national numismatic cabinet.

These works, published in London in 1819 and 1818 respectively, demonstrate the absence of accurate Paris Medal Mint records so soon after the

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striking of the medals. Later works do not provide much more for the numismatic researcher. Books such as Bramsen's *"Médaillier Napoléon le Grand ou description des médailles, clichés, repoussés et médailles - descriptions relatives aux affaires de la France pendant le consulat et l'empire"*, published in three volumes between 1904 and 1913, despite its grand title is little more than glorified catalogue. It does however provide a little in the way of translation of the legends.

One modern scholarly work by Joachim and Liza Zeits, *"Napoleons Medaillen - die einzigen Zeugnisse des Ruhms, die alle Jahrhunderte überdauern"*, although again lacking in interpretation, does provide a direct link to the inspiration for this medal.³ It is the Campania, Neapolis nomos or didrachm struck between 300 - 275 B.C. An example of this coin must undoubtedly have been in either Denon's personal collection or that of the Paris Medal Mint.

There are variations of this coin, sporting slightly different elements, but the general design is consistent. The obverse features a woman's head, facing right or left, with either a band or diadem in her hair, wearing large earrings and a necklace. Near her head can be found a variety of figures or objects. An inscription may also be present.

On the reverse is depicted a man-headed bull, facing right, crowned by Nike or Victory flying overhead. The inscription in ancient Greek ΝΕΟΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ is found in the exergue.

Denon chose this coin to model the medal for Caroline Murat upon deliberately and with great care. It was not a question of, "Oh it looks, nice let's use it." Schooled in the classics, having travelled extensively throughout Italy and politically astute, the Paris Medal Mint director would have been intimately familiar with the history and symbolism his choice carried.

The coin tells the mythology of the founding of the ancient city of Naples, capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, of which her brother, the French emperor, had created Caroline and her husband, Joachim Murat monarchs on 1 August 1808.

The mythology, as with so many of the legends of the ancient world, is complex, contradictory and many faceted. The founding of Naples is no exception. According to the archaeological record the 1st Greek settlement in the area of modern day Naples, called Praléron, was founded in the 2nd millennium B.C., supposedly by Phaléros, one



Image 4: example of a nomos (didrachm) from Campagnia, Neapolis in Southern Italy, struck between 300 - 275 B.C. AR. 7.3g, 18.3mm HN Italy 579: SNG ANS 365



**Image 5: another example of a nomos (didrachm) from Campagnia, Neapolis in Southern Italy, struck between 300 - 275 B.C. AR. 7.32g, 21mm
HN Italy 579: SNG ANS 340, Sambon 460**

of the Argonauts. This settlement was abandoned when archaic Greece collapsed. At the end of the Greek Dark Ages, in the 9 or 8th century B.C., a new colony was founded called Parthenope. This colony was founded anew as Neápolis in the 6th century and became an important centre in the diaspora of the Greek colonies of Magna Graecia.

It is the story of the second founding, which captured Neapolitans' imagination and was adopted as their founding story. Modern residents of the city call themselves Partenopéi or Parthenopeans. This links Naples with the great foundation sagas and epics of the Greek heroic age. The coins in images 4 and 5 tell the story.

On the obverse is the portrait of Parthenópē, one of the Sirens. These archaic creatures played an interesting role in the mythology of ancient Greece. Depending on the period and saga, they were two, three or five in number. Their names were at times Teles, Raidne, Molpe, Thelxiope, Parthenope, Lecosia, Ligia and Aglaophonos.

For purposes of the founding of Naples they were the daughters of the river god Acheloiros (Latin: Achelous), born from the drops of his blood. This is the ancient name of the Aspropotamos, Greece's largest river, located on the border of the regions of Acarnania and Aetolia on the west coast.

This river god is depicted in various forms, at times as a human-headed dragon, a bearded horned man but most often as a bearded human-headed bull, as on the coins shown. Above him flies Nike or Victory who crowns him with a laurel wreath. The human-headed bull, common on coins of the region, gradually became a symbol of Naples.

The appearance of the Sirens changed over time. In early Greek art they had the appearance of birds with large women heads, feathers and scaly feet. Later they were transformed into female figures with birds legs, depicted with or without wings. Originally the Sirens were the companions of the goddess Persephone,

daughter of Zeus and Demeter, the goddess of the harvest. Persephone was abducted by Hades, brother of Zeus and king of the underworld, who made her his queen. Overcome with grief at the loss of her daughter, Demeter went into seclusion, causing all fertility on the earth to disappear. Eventually Zeus intervened and sent Hermes to plead with Hades to return Persephone to the earth. Hades





Image 6: Attic red-figured stamnos ca. 480 - 470 B.C. showing a scene from Homer's *Odyssey* with Ulysses tied to the mast of his ship, in agony, pleading with his men to untie him. His men are unable to hear the Sirens' song, because they have beeswax in their ears. Location: British Museum.

agreed but gave Persephone a pomegranate to eat. This ensured that she was bound to him and his kingdom of the underworld and would have to spend a third of the year with him. This gave rise to the mythological explanation for the seasons, as Demeter rejoices at Persephone's presence or mourns her absence.

In the most popular version the goddess Demeter gave the Sirens wings so they could search for Persephone. In the *Fabulae* (The Stories) Gaius Julius Hyginus (64 B.C. 17 A.D.) tells that the Sirens were cursed by Demeter for failing to prevent Persephone's abduction and became escorts of the dead. In another tradition the goddess Hera convinced the Sirens to challenge the Muses to a singing contest. The Sirens lost, and the Muses plucked out their feathers, making crowns from them as trophies. This made the Sirens flightless. To survive they were condemned to a life of luring sailors to their deaths by shipwreck. Some myths tell that they ate the dead sailors, their island being white with their bones.

After many shipwrecks and dead sailors, the poet Homer, recounting in the epic *The Odyssey* the trials and tribulations of Ulysses' quest to return to Ithaca from the Trojan War, tells us of the protagonist's encounter with the Sirens. It was this clever Greek hero who defeated the Sirens by ordering his men to fill their ears with beeswax so they could not hear the Sirens' song, while having himself tied to the mast with instructions not to untie him, regardless of his pleadings to the contrary. The stratagem worked, Ulysses and his ship sailed unharmed past the Sirens' island. Aware that the knowledge of how to defeat their fatal attraction would spread, the Sirens flung themselves into the sea and drowned. The Siren Parthenopë washed up onto a beach near Naples.

The Sirens became synonymous with creatures, which were dangerous and devious - veritable femmes fatales. They came to symbolize an enticing, but dangerous and misleading, appeal or allure, an enticement or temptation, which could ultimately prove fatal.

The legends and myths endured, and by the Middle Ages they had been transformed into mermaids.

The location of the island or islands of the Sirens varies according to the source you consult. Homer in the *Odyssey* places them between Aeaea and the rock of Scylla. Others place them in the Tyrrhenian Sea off the coast of southwestern Italy, between Sorrento and Capri, or possibly near Paestum. Other myths name Anthemoessa (or Anthemusa) as the island, which could possibly be Ischia, a volcanic island at the northern end of the Gulf of Naples. It could also be the island of Capri on the south side of the Gulf of Naples.

An alternate location is Capo Pelora, the promontory forming the northeastern extremity of the island of Sicily. At any rate the general vicinity where classical writers and myths place the location of the island or islands of the Sirens is near or in the present day Gulf or Bay of Naples. This is a treacherous area for navigation, with many rocky outcroppings jutting just above the water, deadly for all unsuspecting mariners. It may be possible that the early inhabitants of the region benefited from this and made a living from beachcombing. Perhaps they helped the process by luring ships onto these dangers hidden in the water. This could explain the origins of the legends.

The Medal (*Images 1 and 2*):

- **obverse (image 1)**: the portrait of Caroline Murat, Queen Consort of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, depicted as the Siren Parthenópē, facing right, with diadem in hair, earrings and necklace. To left of bust is a branch of myrtle, to the right a rose.

Myrtle, an evergreen, is connected with death and resurrection. In Greek civic life myrtle was used at the founding of a new colony. The rose symbolizes love.

The legend is in ancient Greek.

ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑ ΚΑΡΟΛΙΝΗ - translates as "la Reine Caroline" or "Queen Caroline"

Below the bust is the Greek BP, which translates as "BR" for Nicolas Guy Antoine Brenet (1773- 1846), the engraver.

- **reverse (image 2)**: depiction of Acheloios, the bearded human-headed bull, facing right. Above him flies Nike or Victory, which crowns him with a laurel wreath. Between his legs is the Greek ΔΕΝ, which translates as "DEN" for Dominique-Vivant Denon (1747 - 1825), the Paris Medal Mint director.

Legend: ΑΩΗ Greek for the year 1808. The



Image 7: Caroline Murat, born Maria Annunziata Buonaparte, Queen consort of Naples, Bay of Naples in background, by Baron François-Pascal-Simon Gérard (1770 - 1837), Fondation Dosne-Thiers, Paris.

exergue is in ancient Greek. ΕΝΩΛΙΤΩΝ - translates as "Napolitains" or "Neopolitans".

The use of the particular coin was clever and served to link the newly created queen of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies to the distant past of Naples and its surrounding region. The linking of the ancient and familiar symbols of Naples to the new regime was a propaganda attempt at legitimacy. It may also have been a way to win over the new monarch's subjects. The Siren Parthenópē had become Queen Caroline. This was consistent with the general character, nature and purpose of the Napoleonic medal series. Its main purpose as an effective propaganda tool was to celebrate the Napoleonic regime and provide legitimacy by linking it to the glorious past of the ancient world through the use of the symbols of power and authority of the ancients.

The use of myrtle is suggestive of a new start, the founding of a new kingdom in the south of Italy, the Napoleonic kingdom of the Two Sicilies, ruled by the French emperor's sister and brother-in-law. The use of the rose may symbolize the new queen's love for Naples and her new subjects. In addition Denon may also been having some

numismatic fun at the expense of Queen Caroline. The choice of a Siren was very apt, for Caroline was the most ambitious of Napoléon's sisters. She was tough, screwed and forever scheming. She was never satisfied with the honours, privileges and gifts bestowed upon her and her husband by the French emperor. She schemed and maneuvered incessantly within the Bonaparte clan for position, wealth, titles and power, sacrificing everyone and everything to obtain her goal.

She detested Napoléon's first wife, Josephine, and never stopped scheming against her. Not a sovereign in her own right, rather a queen consort, Caroline proved to be a very capable administrator. She governed with a firm and efficient hand, while her husband, the famous cavalry commander Murat, was away on campaign with her brother. She was in many respects the brains of the Murat family and most certainly its driving force. One of her main rivals, the shrewd Talleyrand, Napoléon's foreign minister, had a healthy respect for her and her abilities. Regarding her husband, he remarked that Joachim Murat "was so incapable off the battlefield".⁴

In many respects Caroline Murat was like a Siren - dangerous, devious, enticing, but ultimately fatal, at least for her husband, in her ambition to retain their kingdom as the French Empire collapsed. The use of the rose symbol may have alluded to her notorious promiscuity. The use of the rose symbol may have alluded to her notorious promiscuity, as she had numerous lovers and many torrid affairs.

One interesting question remains. Did Napoléon himself know about the possibility of Denon's hidden agenda and appreciate these subtle nuances? He was often exasperated with his family and in particular Caroline and her husband, so it is a distinct possibility that he appreciated and even enjoyed the hidden humour.

The medal was presented to Queen Caroline upon her visit to the Paris Medal Mint. No record exists of her reaction. Denon remained in his post, so it may be surmised that Caroline did not take offense. Conversely this could also be because she did not know of or appreciate the underlying symbolism. On many levels the medal is a masterpiece. Depicting a perfect marriage between current political circumstances and the symbolism of the ancient past.

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1. A.L. Millin, *Medallic History of Napoleon*. (London: Rodwell and Martin, 1819), 97.
2. J. C. Laskey, *A Description of the Series of Medals Struck at the National Medal Mint by Order of Napoleon*

Bonaparte, Commemorating the Most Remarkable Battles and Events during His Dynasty. (London: H. R. Young, 1818), 238.

3. Joachim and Liza Zeits. *Napoleons Medaillen - die einzigen Zeugnisse des Ruhms, die alle Jahrhunderte überdauern*. (Petersberg, Germany: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2003), 248.

4. Desmond Seward, *Napoleon's Family*. (New York: Viking, 1986), 74

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Trevor Lynn

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Coming Events

November 10 & 11, 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.

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

December 12, 2012 - ENS December Meeting - Royal Alberta Museum, 7:15 pm start. Annual member donated charity auction. "Go For The Gold" volunteer awards. Snacks provided.

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

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

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