

The **PLANCHET**

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A Lean and Hungry Look

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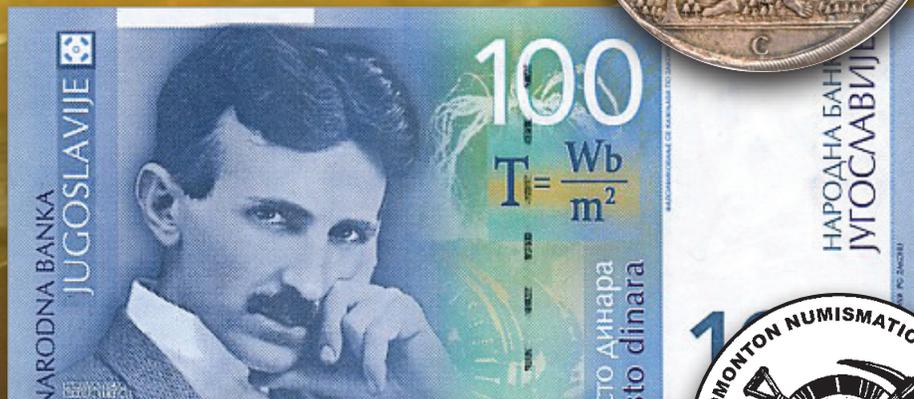
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Bronzes of Akragas

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+ **FALL COIN
SHOW AND SALE**

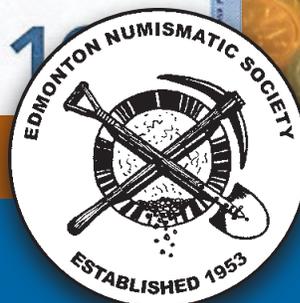


Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 65 · Issue 6



THE PLANCHET \$4.75CDN



November 2018





The **PLANCHET**

Volume 65 · Issue 6

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

October/November, 2018

Well it is getting to be show time again, we're preparing for another sold out show at the Howard Johnson Hotel on November 10-11, 2018. All the overpass banners have been hung with care, the advertising has been sent out, and final preparations are being made. The show set up will commence at 5:30 PM on the 9th at the hotel, so if you've signed up to volunteer for the show set up, please be there at that time. Dealers will be allowed in after the crew has set up all the tables and lamps, at around 8:00 PM. Security coverage will commence then as well.

So far it looks like we're on track to have another total sell out of tables, with a backlog of dealers wanting to get into the show. We're opening up the side room to displays and the appraisal table so that we can fit more revenue tables in the bourse area. We'd like to establish more of a club presence at this show and "sell" the club and *the Planchet*; for this I would appreciate if we could get some members out to sit and staff the Club Table that we will set up.

Also, the Silent Auction is becoming more and more popular, so Howard needs people to supervise and watch over that as well. The Kid's Auction, which is held up in the ballroom on the second floor is also becoming increasingly popular and we may need more help with it as more kids are expected to attend.

The other thing that I ask is for members who've completed shifts to just hang around and patrol the Bourse Floor area and the parking lot. The presence of "Black Shirts" wandering around gives comfort to the show participants and tends to dissuade any potential trouble; it's one other facet that adds to the professionalism in our shows. I realize that hanging around the show tends to cut in on one's weekend, but we're only asking for a couple extra hours of your time, and who knows, you might find something interesting for your collection that you may have missed earlier, you never know.

I look forward to seeing you all at the show! 



2018-19 Executive

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Pierre Driessen – **Treasurer**

Mitch Goudreau – **Secretary**

Joe Kennedy – **Editor-In-Chief**

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@ the Next Meeting Edmonton Numismatic Society



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Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 255

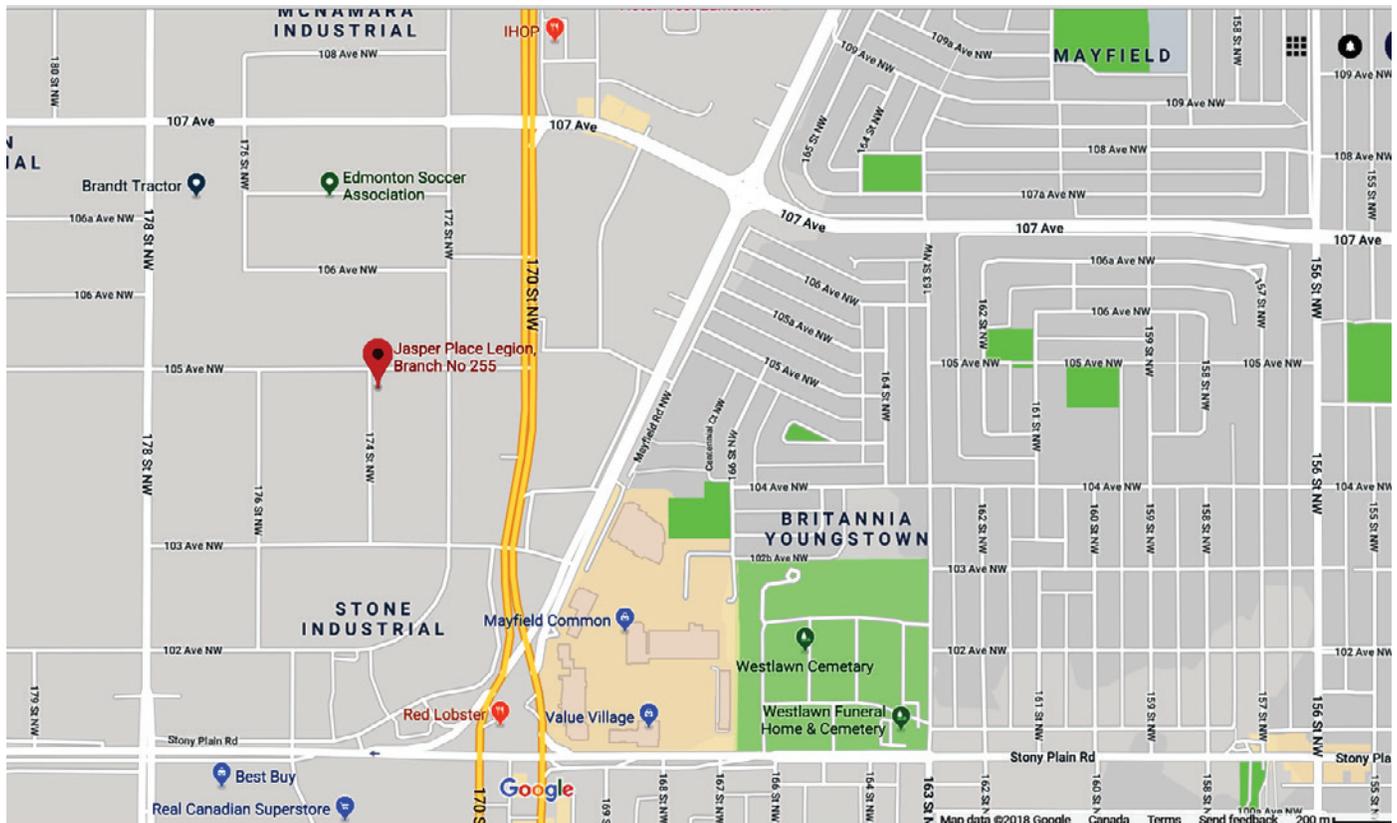
10427 – 174 Street NW. Edmonton

Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm

- ENS Society Matters
- Show and tell: bring your recent finds to share
- Silent auction
- Presentation
- Refreshments: coffee, tea, pop and cookies
- Door prize draws

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

P.O. Box 78057, RPO Callingwood,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. T5T 6A1



About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

September 12, 2018 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:13 hrs by asking if everyone had a great summer. 40 members showed up for our annual pizza night and the first ever meeting held in our new venue at the Jasper Place Royal Canadian Legion. This was a historical moment as it's believed that this was the first time beer was allowed at an ENS monthly meeting. 😊

The crowd was asked if anyone checked out our new website. Michael Schneider congratulated the ENS for updating it, stating that it looks great! Marc asked for constructive feedback to be passed on to the executive. The passwords for *The Planchet* editions will be made available soon.

Howard Gilbey gave the audience an in-depth briefing on the 2018 RCNA convention held in Mississauga, Ontario that he attended as the ENS delegate. While there, he accepted on behalf of our society the 2017 RCNA award for "Best Local Club

Newsletter". This is the third year in a row that the ENS has received this recognition.

Our president thanked Joe Kennedy, the editor of *The Planchet*, for the great work that he, and all the contributors have done in making *The Planchet* the success it is. Marc then presented Joe with the award plaque that Howard brought back from the convention.

A thank you letter sent by Paul Johnson on behalf of the Canadian Association for Numismatic Education (CAFNE) was read to the group regarding the ENS donation of \$1000.

Nov 10–11, 2018 Coin Show

The volunteer list for our coin show positions was circulated around the room for members to sign up.

Pierre requested that club members assist with the show advertising by placing ads in various publications.

The deadline for submissions to the Silent Auction is October 10 at next month's meeting. The consignment form will be put on the website in the next few days. Lots can also be dropped off at South Edmonton Coin and Currency or Northgate Coin and Currency.

Club Matters

Howard Gilbey made a motion for Alvaro Rodriguez to be given \$200 towards his expenses since he will represent the ENS at the October 18–21, 2018 coin convention in Arequipa, Peru, seconded by Jeremy Martin. A vote was held, and the motion passed.

Show & Tell

Three 1837 uncirculated notes from the Champlain and St. Lawrence Rail Road were discussed and passed around.

Conclusion

The silent auction lots were sold, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:55 hrs. ✂

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October 10, 2018 ENS Meeting Minutes

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:00 hrs and welcomed the 45 members in the room. He mentioned that the ENS' 2016 & 2017 financials will be presented this evening.

Congratulations were given to Dan Gosling for being selected as the recipient of the 2018 Paul Fiocca Award. It's the RCNA's highest award and the second highest overall in Canadian Numismatics. The award is presented for long term meritorious service or major contributions to the RCNA.

Nov 10-11, 2018 Coin Show

The coin show volunteer list was circulated for members to sign up. One of the changes from last month is that the advertising banner places are different. We now have four locations along Whitemud drive.

It was requested once again that club members assist with show advertising by placing ads in various publications.

Security measures at the show will be increased by having two commissionaires instead of one on both days.

Club Matters

Pierre Driessen presented the ENS' 2016 and 2017 financial statements to the audience. Our society is doing very well overall.

Dan Gosling made the motion that the 2016 and 2017 financials be entered into record as written, 2nd by Paul Purdie. The motion passed unanimously.

Winning tickets for the door prizes were drawn.

Presentations

Terence Cheesman gave a

presentation detailing his recent trip to London, England to attend the Coinex show. London is a major numismatic hub so he was also able to check out five auctions, coin shops as well as coin displays at the British Museum.

Most members stayed behind at the end of the meeting to look at a slide show given by Wayne Hansen about his May 2018 trip to England and Croatia which also included museum coin displays.

Show and Tell

Mike Schneider asked the members if anyone used coin collecting software to catalog their collections. He recently acquired a type called EzCoin which he found to be quite useful.

Three Canadian \$100 notes with mismatched serial numbers were passed around.

Conclusion

The silent auction lots were sold and the meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hrs. ~~✗~~

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Sat. Nov. 10, 2018 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sun. Nov. 11, 2018 10:00am - 4:30pm



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780-484-3333 for hotel room reservations

Hotel room bookings: use code Edmonton Coin Show (for your special show rate)

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Coin Auction for Kids

Hosted by the ENS Youth Program

Saturday November 10, 2018
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (arrive by 12:45 pm)

Howard Johnson Hotel,
15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta

- participation is free, parents are welcome – register prior to event!
- an excellent and fun introduction, in a non-pressure setting, to coin collecting and auctions
- all material for participation will be provided, including: catalogue and play money for bidding!

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2018

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Edmonton Numismatic Society



Coming Events

November 2: Issue 6 of the 2018 PLANCHET

November 10 & 11: ENS Fall Show at the Howard Johnson Hotel

November 14: ENS Meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion; 7:15 pm start.

November 23: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 7.

December 12: ENS Meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion; 7:15 pm start.

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

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Edmonton Numismatic Society

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Membership in the Edmonton Numismatic Society is good for one calendar year (i.e., January to December) and includes a subscription to THE PLANCHET.

New Renewal Date: _____ *Please print clearly*

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All membership applications are subject to approval by the Edmonton Numismatic Society. An official receipt and membership card will be issued upon approval.

* Please note: Distribution of the official society publication, THE PLANCHET, to all Lifetime Members, USA and Foreign addresses is available via e-mail and website download only.

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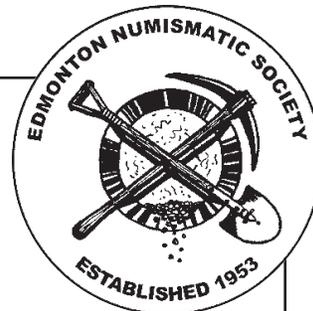
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Secure online payment with PayPal at
<http://www.edmontoncoinclub.com/membership.htm>



See us at a monthly meeting or semi-annual show.



\$1 & \$2 Coins

Canadian Retail Coin Prices

by Dean Silver



George V \$1	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 62	MS 63
1911	Note: Never coined; Spurious pieces do exist.											
1935	14.50	23.80	33.35	35.71	38.08	40.44	42.81	52.76	62.03	74.04	86.06	98.07
1936	14.50	23.80	33.35	35.71	38.08	40.44	42.81	52.76	62.86	87.44	112.02	136.59
Note: Master die supplied by the Royal Mint in 1911, now used for the first time.												
1936 Dbl Figures Canoe	24.64	40.50	56.76	60.79	64.81	68.84	72.87	89.77	106.96	148.67	190.39	232.10
1936 Dot Obv King	1,429	2,350	3,296	3,530	3,764	3,997	4,231	5,211	6,208	8,624	11,039	13,455

George VI \$1	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63
1937	28.14	30.15	32.16	33.17	34.17	35.18	36.18	40.10	50.13	71.37	92.62	113.87
1938	45.30	55.37	65.44	70.89	76.34	81.79	87.25	107.86	144.29	208.05	271.81	335.57
1939	12.56	13.72	14.88	15.76	16.63	17.50	18.37	21.94	27.73	33.03	38.32	43.62
no 1940 to 1944	Note: Dollars were not coined in these years due to a lack of demand.											
1945	140.59	180.26	219.93	235.24	250.55	265.86	281.17	335.19	429.38	611.97	794.56	977.14
1946	35.18	43.90	52.63	58.27	63.91	69.55	75.19	90.75	143.09	250.35	357.60	464.86
1947 Blunt 7	76.43	96.94	117.45	128.77	140.10	151.42	162.75	192.95	229.86	332.34	434.81	537.29
1947 Pointed 7	101.64	126.90	152.17	164.67	177.17	189.67	202.17	268.86	436.49	944.61	1,453	1,961
1947 Maple Leaf	183.93	221.42	258.90	276.03	293.15	310.27	327.40	392.23	492.75	658.35	823.96	989.56
1947 Dot	185.21	222.50	259.79	277.73	295.68	313.63	331.58	406.50	498.82	675.55	852.28	1,029
1948	936.40	1,078	1,219	1,269	1,320	1,370	1,420	1,643	2,027	2,504	2,981	3,458
1949	17.18	20.28	23.38	24.36	25.33	26.31	27.28	32.29	37.73	39.48	41.24	42.99
1950	18.05	20.54	23.04	24.46	25.88	27.30	28.71	32.39	36.73	47.86	58.99	70.12
1951	12.53	13.98	15.42	16.72	18.01	19.30	20.60	24.61	27.29	33.79	40.28	46.77
1952	12.53	13.74	14.95	15.74	16.54	17.33	18.12	24.72	27.71	34.23	40.74	47.25
1952 No waterlines	15.08	17.55	20.03	21.03	22.03	23.03	24.03	28.38	34.04	45.47	56.90	68.34
1952 Doubled 2	19.45	22.65	25.85	27.14	28.43	29.72	31.01	36.62	43.93	58.68	73.43	88.17



1936 \$1 Doubled Figures in Canoe

Rear figure doubled

Photo: Dean Silver



1936 \$1 Doubled Figures in Canoe

Front figure doubled

Photo: Dean Silver

DTS AVERAGE • \$1 & \$2 COIN RETAIL PRICES

Elizabeth II \$1	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63
1953 NSF	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.93	17.75	18.57	19.40	25.25	32.96	35.24	37.52	39.80
1953 SF	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.93	17.75	18.57	19.40	25.25	32.96	34.74	36.52	38.30
1954	13.76	16.41	19.06	20.70	22.33	23.97	25.61	30.18	38.31	42.57	46.82	51.08
1955	13.76	15.91	18.06	19.78	21.50	23.22	24.94	28.38	38.31	47.15	55.99	64.83
1956	13.76	17.66	21.57	22.66	23.75	24.85	25.94	30.84	40.73	52.19	63.64	75.09
1957	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	25.25	31.96	33.55	35.14	36.72
1958	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	24.75	31.96	33.55	35.14	36.72
1959	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	21.74	28.62	29.01	29.40	29.78
1960	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1961	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1962	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1963	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1964	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1965	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1966	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1967	13.76	14.93	16.11	16.78	17.45	18.12	18.79	20.24	23.21	24.82	26.43	28.03
1968	1.51	1.63	1.76	1.88	2.01	2.14	2.26	3.52	4.52	7.91	11.29	14.67
1969	1.01	1.13	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.63	1.76	2.51	3.52	5.70	7.87	10.05
1970 thru 1979	1.01	1.13	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.63	1.76	2.26	3.27	4.69	6.11	7.54
1974 Double Yoke	20.10	25.13	30.15	35.18	40.20	45.23	50.25	65.16	90.23	107.45	124.68	141.90
1980 thru 1989	1.01	1.13	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.63	1.76	2.26	3.27	4.69	6.11	7.54
1990 thru 1999	1.01	1.13	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.63	1.76	2.01	3.02	3.69	4.36	5.03
2000 thru 2009	1.01	1.13	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.63	1.76	2.01	3.02	3.69	4.36	5.03
2010 thru 2016	1.01	1.13	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.63	1.76	2.01	3.02	3.69	4.36	5.03

Elizabeth II \$2	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63
1996 thru 1999	2.01	2.14	2.26	2.39	2.51	2.64	2.76	3.02	4.02	5.19	6.37	7.54
2000 thru 2009	2.01	2.14	2.26	2.39	2.51	2.64	2.76	3.02	3.77	4.69	5.61	6.53
2002 dot in H	10.26	11.54	12.82	14.10	15.38	16.67	17.95	20.51	25.64	29.06	32.48	35.90
2010 thru 2016	2.01	2.14	2.26	2.39	2.51	2.64	2.76	3.02	3.52	4.36	5.19	6.03



1952 \$1 Doubled 2

Photo: Dean Silver



1952 \$1 Doubled 2

Photo: Dean Silver

Nikola Tesla on Paper Money & Coins

by **Mirko N. Dumanovic**

This article is not about Tesla's biography or his scientific accomplishments, but focuses on the visage of Nikola Tesla seen on paper money and coins.

Nikola Tesla (born to a Serbian family July 9/10, 1856 in Smiljan, Austrian Empire and died January 7, 1943 in New York, USA), was a Serbian American inventor and engineer who discovered and patented the rotating magnetic field, the basis of most alternating-current machinery. He also developed the three-phase

system of electric power transmission. Tesla immigrated to the United States in 1884 and sold the patent rights to his system of alternating-current dynamos, transformers, and motors to George Westinghouse. In 1891 he invented the Tesla coil, an induction coil widely used in radio technology.

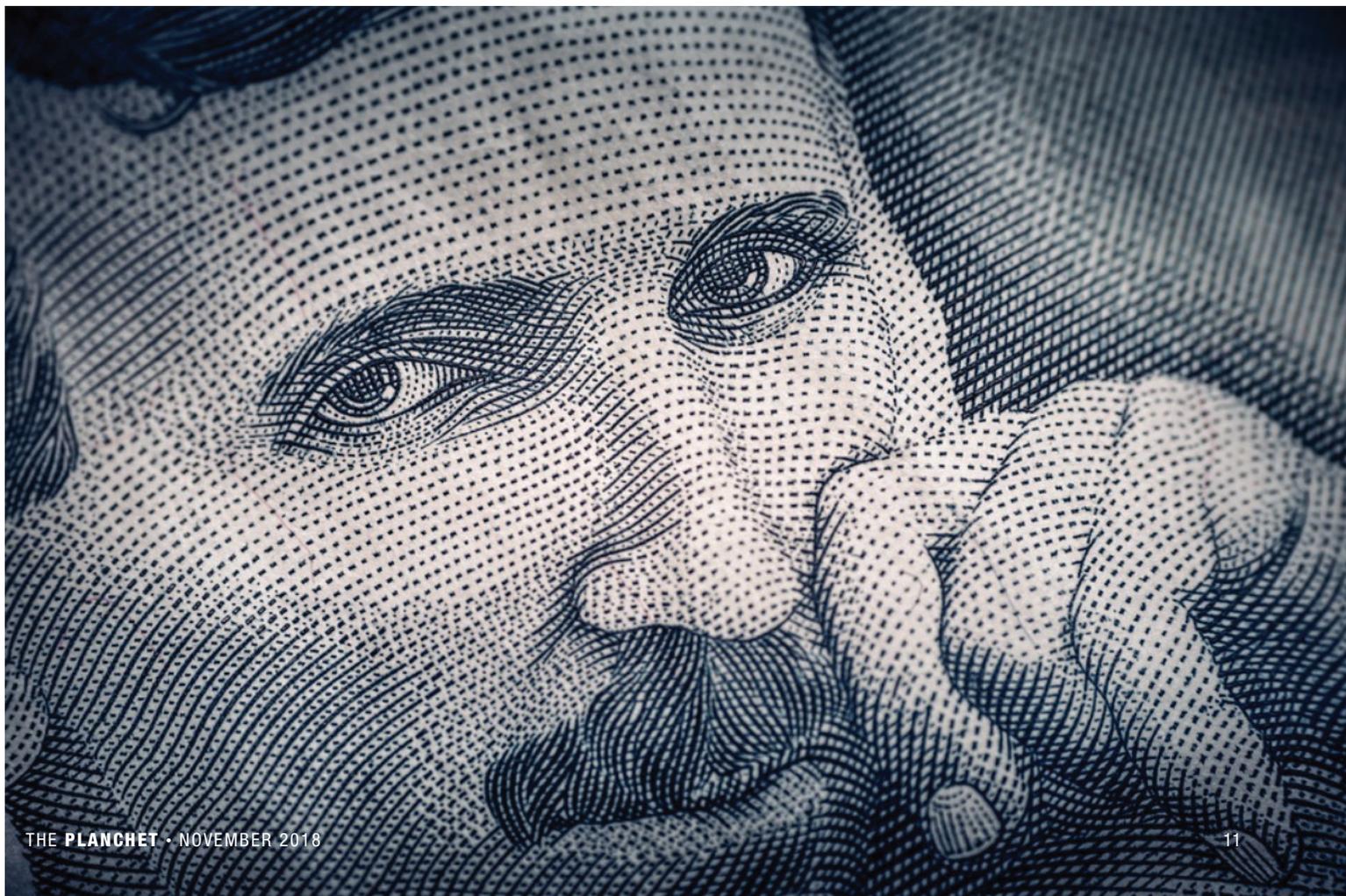
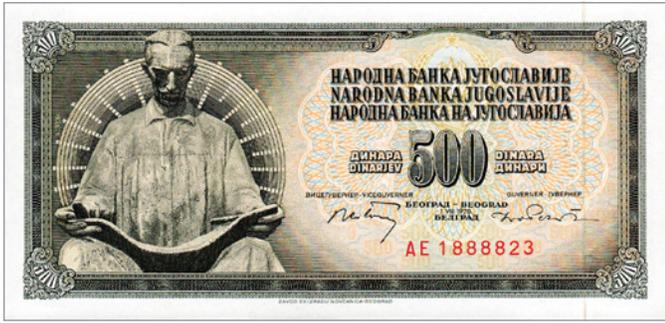
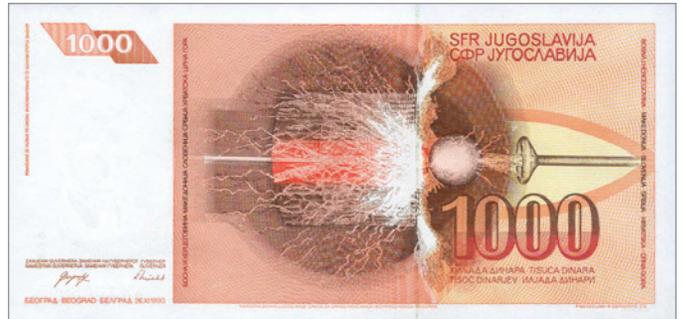


Figure 1 – 500 Dinars (1970)



The first banknote issued with the visage of Nikola Tesla. In Tito's communist Yugoslavia, it was unpopular to publically state that Nikola Tesla was a Serb.

Figure 2 – 1000 Dinars (1990)



This banknote began being circulated in 1990. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was still in existence. On the front is Tesla in his older age and on the back is an electric discharge.

Figure 3 – 1000 Dinars (1991)



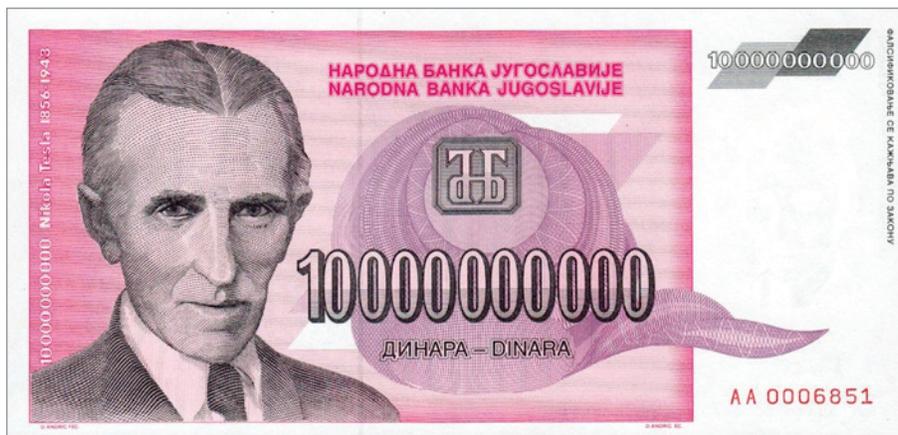
This banknote began being circulated in 1991. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was still in existence. On the front is Tesla in his older age and on the back is an electric discharge.

Figure 4 – 5,000,000 Dinars (1993)



A banknote from the period of Yugoslavian hyperinflation in 1993. Instead of the State Coat of Arms, the banknote featured the logo of the National Bank of Yugoslavia.

Figure 5 – 10 Billion Dinars (1993)



A banknote from the period of Yugoslavian hyperinflation in 1993. On the obverse is the Coat of Arms of the National Bank of Yugoslavia.

Figure 6 – 100 Dinars (2000) National Bank of Yugoslavia

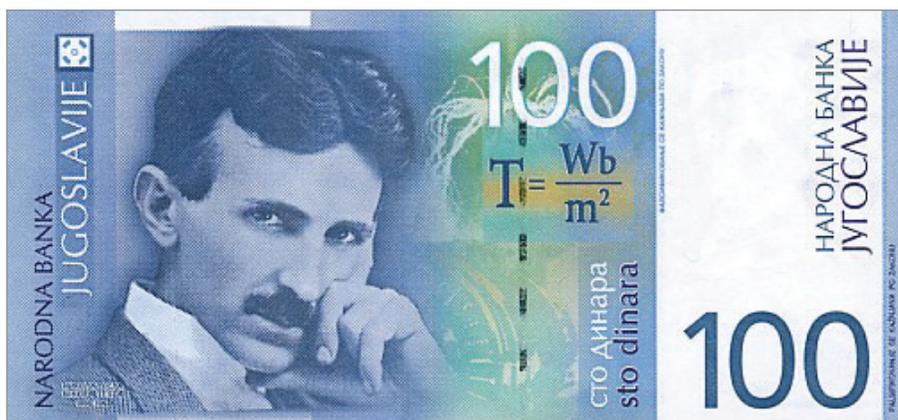


Figure 7 – 5 New Dinars (1994)



Banknote for with the Coat of Arms of the National Bank (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). On the reverse is the Museum of Nikola Tesla in Belgrade.

Figure 8 – 5 New Dinars (1994)



Banknote with the Coat of Arms of Serbia and Montenegro (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). On the reverse is the Museum of Nikola Tesla in Belgrade.

Figure 9 – 100 Serbian Dinars (2006)



On the obverse is a picture of Tesla deep in thought and a formula describing a unit named after him. On the reverse is Tesla's induction motor and a pigeon. On the left is the historical coat of arms of Serbia.

Figure 10 – A gold coin of 1000 Dinars (1996)



On the obverse is the Coat of Arms of Yugoslavia and on the reverse is Nikola Tesla. The legend includes his hometown and date of birth (Smiljan 1856) and the date and place of his death (New York 1943). Issue 1996.

Figure 13 – One Bitcoin Cent (2015)



999 Fine Silver, One Troy Ounce Round

Figure 11 – A silver coin of 20 Dinars (1996)



On the obverse is the Coat of Arms of Yugoslavia and on the reverse is Nikola Tesla. The legend includes his hometown and date of birth (Smiljan 1856) and the date and place of his death (New York 1943).

Figure 14 – 150 Kuna coin of Croatia (2006)



This is not all. Coins and banknotes with the visage of Nikola Tesla, a global visionary, will be printed and minted in the future. ☒

Figure 12 – Serbian coin of 20 Dinars (2006)



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Die and Strike Errors

by Joe Kennedy

C V K I N C U S E K M E F C L S
 Y F V A R I E T Y K G Q L A S D
 E R S R A I L R O A D R I M N M
 C A P P E D U U K W B T P N D D
 H G U R L P N C W E R W O X U Z
 I M N E S I O K R A E I V C G F
 P E I S H R T T P K T R E L R I
 S N F S B Q N H I A L E R O E L
 H T A Y A E T R R I R Y J C A L
 J L C J C L T O O L M A R K S E
 C K E F K S I U N C E N T R E D
 L J F C D R M G I N D E N T B O
 I O A A E F Z H N T I L T E D T
 P R O T A T E D I E W E A R A S
 C R E S U R F A C E D O U B L E
 B D A T E U E T H R E A D E Z Q

Answer to the Puzzle Page
 from the September 2018
 issue of THE PLANCHET

Z B Z V P J J M Y B C P Z U P B T Q
 U G A F V Q T K A Q A C N G L R N F
 R D R M M E D I N O B G P A O P U
 D N Q M W G R O G S O P D L N K A M
 K O B A W R R E S U R F A C E D T
 O V I E R P O L I S H E D M H I N G J
 V E J D W P B E S S I B O T E I P C
 S O V O W O F O R E I G N I T L V
 S T R E A K M U L E Y T N A F L A W
 M S Y D S T R I N C T U H T R W T L
 R P O L O D E A N N E A L L I N G I L
 F A H B E U I A X A M K I O C U N S
 R C O N T A M I N A T I O N Z K G O
 Y I O H U B D O U B L I N G E U L M
 C N T C O L L A R D X O O O E D I X
 J G X B O G L W R O N G R N W M G
 O E Z Z F P I T O U B L E T V C
 E S B J N J J N E M I S T A K E I I

- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| broadstrike | date (visible) | incuse | resurfaced | tool marks |
| brockage | deterioration | indent | rotated | uncentred |
| capped (die) | die wear | loose (die) | split | uniface |
| chips | dots | misaligned | spur | variety |
| clash | double | offcentre | strike | weak |
| clip | filled | oil | struck | wire |
| clock | flip over | partial | through | |
| crack | fragment | press | thread | |
| cud | grease | railroad rim | tilted | |

Coins on a Nicola Tesla Statue

Numismatic Curiosity found in Niagara Falls

by **Alvaro Rodriguez**



Last August, my son and I visited Niagara Falls, Ontario for the first time, as a school break trip. Just beginning to walk to observe the falls, we discovered a statue of Nicola Tesla in Queen Victoria Park. I could not resist the temptation to get closer to appreciate this monument to a great scientist.

There are no words to describe the majesty and realism of the Nicola Tesla statue. It was inaugurated in 2006, thanks to the contribution of the Tesla Committee and St. George Serbian Orthodox Church at Niagara Falls. It was created by the talented Hamilton, Ontario sculptor Les Drysdale. His inspiration imprinted such realism to the work that one practically sees the movement of the figure. Even the wind is captured in the long layer of his cloak, as Tesla walks on an imaginary floor above an electric motor. This is undoubtedly the best artistic representation of this famous scientist.

Statue of Nicola Tesla

Created by sculptor Les Drysdale and installed in Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Photo: Wikipedia

Being close, trying to see all the details, I noticed an interesting detail at the base of the figurative floor at the foot of the statue. I could see that it had two coins welded to it. These coins were quite worn by so many people touching them. Motivated by the interest in the currencies, I decided to contact the artist to know what the reason was to include these two coins in the work. Les Drysdale very kindly answered my email, telling me that one coin is of the Austro-Hungarian Empire where Tesla comes from and the other is a Canadian coin one cent of 1895.



Coins Incorporated Into the Statue's Base

Serbia 2 Dinara (left) and Canada Large Cent (right)

Photo: Alvaro Rodriguez

In 1895, Tesla designed what was among the first AC hydroelectric power plants in the United States, at Niagara Falls. ⚡



Serbia 2 Dinara (1879)

Canada Large Cent (1876)

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A Lean and Hungry Look

A Denarius of Cassius Longinus

by **Terence Cheesman**



Cassius coin (42 BC)

Caius Cassius Longinus was also a successful military commander, who was largely instrumental in stabilizing the situation in the east after the disastrous Roman defeat at Carrhae in 53 B.C. He sided with Pompey in his war with Caesar, but after Pompey's death in 48 B.C., he made his peace with Caesar. Later, however, he became resentful, along with many other aristocrats, as Caesar began to accumulate new and increasingly autocratic powers, so he conspired with Marcus Junius Brutus to assassinate him. Together they planned and successfully carried out the assassination on March 15 of 44 B.C. – the Ides of March. Within a few weeks of the assassination, the Liberators, as they liked to call themselves, were hounded out of Rome by men loyal to the memory of Caesar, an event so vividly portrayed in the play "Julius Caesar" by William Shakespeare.

Cassius along with Brutus headed east and started to raise an army. Cassius found this fairly easy as the prestige gained by his previous military success in the region brought numerous soldiers to his standards. Despite his greater military experience, however, he was a junior partner to the better known Brutus. The whole chaotic period was filled with ambitious

The last century B.C. was a period of absolute chaos for Rome as her citizens faced what seemed to be a never-ending cycle of civil strife and foreign wars. Like many other periods of strife, this period of the Roman republic produced men who were not adverse to taking extraordinary powers and bending the constitution of the state to further their own ends. Perhaps one of the most famous Romans to participate in the politics of the time was Caius Julius Caesar, a very successful Roman politician and military commander who conquered Gaul and invaded Britain. A dispute with a faction of the senate, which hated him, led to a civil war between Caesar and his erstwhile ally Pompey. Caesar's success in defeating this alliance meant that, by 44 B.C., he was the undisputed master of the Roman world. Unfortunately, the old adage which states that friends come and go but enemies accumulate proved true for Caesar.

men capable of trampling the constitution if it furthered their ambitions, but it was natural that such questionable acts brought about resistance among those who believed that the individual should conform to past precedents. For them, the Senate of Rome should control the supreme power of the nation and not a succession of war-lords. From an early age, Brutus was known for his adherence to this ideal and he advertised this philosophy through the minting of coins when he was in charge of the Rome mint in 54 B.C. On these coins, he honoured one ancestor who was a famous tyrannicide. He honoured another ancestor who was responsible for the expulsion of the last king of Rome. While these messages were probably directed against Pompey, it would seem that the rise of Caesar did not give him any comfort. This also explains the prominence given to Brutus by men such as Cassius. Brutus gave their enterprise a degree of constitutionality and made it look less like a opportunistic grab for power.

This is borne out by their coinages. While Brutus had coins minted for him throughout his tenure in the east, Cassius Longinus only minted two groups of coins which were both associated with the time the two leaders met in what is now Turkey. The coin I am writing about was minted during the first of these meetings which was held at Smyrna in 42 B.C. On the obverse is the head of Libertas, who is the personification of Liberty. The obverse legend is: C. CASSIVS IMP. LEIBERTAS. In full, this would read: CAIVS CASSIVS IMPERATOR LEIBERTAS. Roughly translated this would be: Caius Cassius the Victorious Army Commander who fights for Liberty. Likely, the inference is that Cassius either is bringing liberty or is fighting to liberate the Roman people.

The Cassius reverse features a jug and a lituus. Both of these items are emblematic of the Roman priesthood. Below one finds the inscription: LENTVLVS SPINT. This legend refers to the magistrate of the issuing mint, Publius Cornelius Lentulus. He was the son of Publius Cornelius Lentulus who got the nickname Spinther because of his resemblance to a popular actor by that name. The father had decided to support Pompey and fought against Julius Caesar. Caesar later had him put to death. Lentulus also has something of a numismatic legacy, since a series of cistophoric tetradrachms were minted under his aegis in Asia Minor. After the assassination of Caesar, the younger Lentulus threw his lot in with Brutus and Cassius then issued this coin as the mint's moneyor. He seems to have adopted his father's nickname of

Spinther since he placed it on his coins. This may seem odd from our point of view, but in Roman society it is not unusual for the son to acquire the nickname of his father. In this case, the son probably emphasised his father's nickname in order to show that his enmity towards Caesar, and Caesar's successors, had become a family tradition.

In October 42 B.C., the army commanded by Brutus and Cassius met those of Marc Antony and Octavian at the Battle of Philippi. After their defeat, both Brutus and Cassius committed suicide. The fate of Lentulus is less clear. He disappeared from the pages of history. He probably was killed after Philippi, however members of his family seemed to have survived and prospered during the reign of Caesar's ultimate successor, Octavian. ☒

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The Gorgeous Cast Bronzes of Akragas

by **Wayne Hansen**



Tooth-shaped Trias of Akragas
'Obverse' Depicting a Standing Eagle (450–430 BC).

Akragas, now called Agrigento, is not one of those tourist hot spots that automatically comes to mind when planning a relaxing vacation. But, if you have an interest in ancient history and you happen to be Sicily, it is one of the strategically important Greek cities from the 6th–5th centuries BC that still offers significant ruins to captivate the modern visitor. While looking for our hotel on my first trip there in 2001, I recall the horror of mistakenly driving our rental car down a steep, narrow alley in the cramped, medieval-like acropolis of the town. When I found that the alley was blocked, I had to back up the 30 degree incline in manual gear while I muttered assorted curses to whichever ancient gods might be listening. OK, maybe a detailed map would have helped.

I also recall encountering a busy evening *passagiatta* that was underway when I visited the acropolis's main street later that day. According a timeless, Italo-Sicilian tradition, local people were out enjoying the shops and restaurants in the warm Spring air. I particularly noticed the doorway of a brightly lit fish shop where I saw the severed head of a large swordfish pointing straight up from a side counter.

Although the town itself was interesting, most of the city's

ruins and museums were located below it, along a cliff edge and on a plateau in an area known as the Valley of the Temples. You could sense some of the grandeur of ancient Akragas when you stood in the valley ruins and gazed across to the modern town balanced on the adjacent hilltop.

The ancient polis had issued a rich series of classical silver and bronze coins before being captured by invading Carthaginians late in the 5th century. This article will concentrate particularly

on describing Akragas's early cast bronzes. Remarkably, they were the first bronze coins minted anywhere in the Greek world and the first with marks of value, so they heralded a new numismatic era.

(Oh yeah, about the title – I hate to let you down, but it is a tad sarcastic. If I looked for only the gorgeous cast pieces, I wouldn't have material for an article. It would be like trying to write about 'pretty' Roman coins.)

The crude, 'tooth' shaped coins of Akragas don't show up in the market very often. When they do appear, they generally aren't very expensive (I've paid \$100–200 US). However, a lot are dusty looking and chipped, or the denomination pellets don't show up well. Some are totally cleaned and shiny, which just seems unnatural. Perhaps, as the saying goes, the only thing scarcer than Akragas tooth coins is... Akragas tooth coin collectors. But I like them. The attraction boils down to their oddity, knowing that they were truly molded rather than struck, knowing they really are coins with denominations rather than trinkets and knowing they are the first bronzes, period. I have purchased a few of the large Akragas triases, but the smaller ones are really tough to find. Although I never thought finding all of the denominations was an imperative, I still do keep an eye out for prospects.

Some Background

Dorian Greeks from nearby Gela and the island of Rhodes founded Akragas circa 580 BC. It was the last of the major Greek settlements to be established in Sicily. In the rough and tumble world of city-states, Gela wanted to create a ready-made ally, and the new settlement's elevated location made it easy to fortify. Akragas was mostly ruled by tyrant overlords, as was the case with the other powerful Sicilian cities. The city quickly became wealthy based on local cultivation of olives and grapes (the grapes were either whisked off in refrigerated galleys to farmer's markets around Sicily or possibly made into wine – your pick). Its location made it a natural crossroads for coastal boat traffic and for trade with inland native tribes that had been dislocated by the Greek colonists. With this wealth, Akragas began issuing silver coins in 510 BC. When the settlement was



Fish shop with swordfish head, evening in Agrigento, May 2001

(photo by the author).

first threatened by Carthage, a North African invader that had designs on territory in western Sicily, Akragas joined with Syracuse to defeat them at the Battle of Himera in 480 BC (see map in Figure 1). This provided Akragas and its long-standing tyrant, Gelon, with treasure and a large number of slaves that were used to build fortifications, temples, two agoras and a lot of other public buildings. Only a little while later, in 461 BC, Syracuse turned on its former ally in a new squabble – Akragas lost, but the city survived. Akragas's mint started producing the featured cast bronzes soon thereafter, around 450 BC.

Rivalries among these sister cities continued into the later 5th century. In 415–413 BC, Akragas passively supported Syracuse when an Athenian armada besieged Syracuse from land and sea. Athenian forces

were decimated, and all of its ships were lost (Athens itself was ruined by the losses and suffered a great decline). Akragas decided not to help Selinos in another of its battles with the native-founded city of Segesta in 410/409 BC. Segesta again asked Carthage for military assistance, with the result that both Selinos and Himera were sacked by Carthage. Akragas wasn't affected in that clash, but it took in some refugees from the other two cities. Three years later, however, Hannibal and his Carthaginian generals, Hamilcar and Hamilcon, returned to Sicily to deal with Akragas. Akragas enlisted the help of Syracuse and Spartan mercenaries, who were paid with new issues of lovely silver tetradrachms and its only gold coin – a 1/5 th gold stater. Hannibal died of the plague, but his forces besieged the city for eight months before it fell

to Hamilcar. Rumor had it that Akragas's Spartan mercenaries were bribed towards the end so that they would abandon the city. Accounts differ, but the city would have been looted, and most of the population would have been killed, enslaved or forced to flee (a routine consequence in those days). Much of the city was probably also destroyed – for sure, its

fortifications were dismantled, and coin production stopped.

In 405 BC, the Peace of Himilco was negotiated whereby any remaining or returning citizens of Akragas could start rebuilding the city, but not its fortifications, after pledging allegiance to Carthage. Carthage also wanted tribute. Silver coinage had disappeared at this

point, but some earlier struck bronzes were countermarked for local use (as in Figure 7B). The city recovered somewhat and supported the Syracusan tyrant Dionysos I in his ongoing conflicts with Carthage. This led to another peace settlement in 383 BC where Akragas was considered to be a Syracusan affiliate. Akragas was never again a large power.



Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of Ancient Akragas

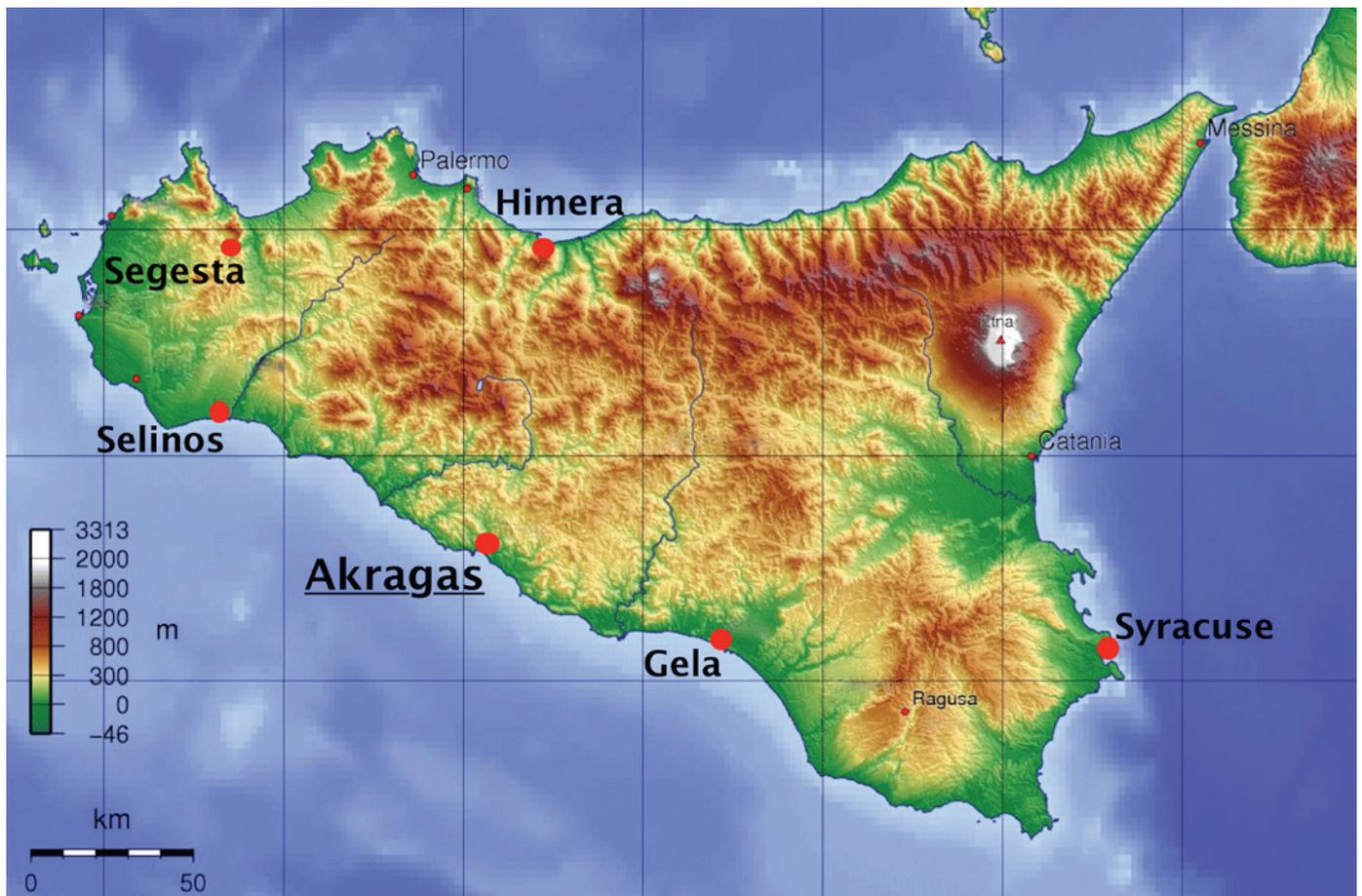


Figure 1 – The city was located in a well-fortified position mid-way along the southern coast of Sicily, but slightly inland. It was surrounded by fertile, volcanic land and was an extremely wealthy trading center. Its strategic location between eastern and western Sicily brought it into the midst of warring factions, including other Sicilian Greek cities and the forces of Carthage which were centered in the western part of the island. Carthage was the nemesis of several Greek cities, including Akragas, which itself was captured and plundered in 406 BC.

Figure 2 – View of Ancient City of Akragas

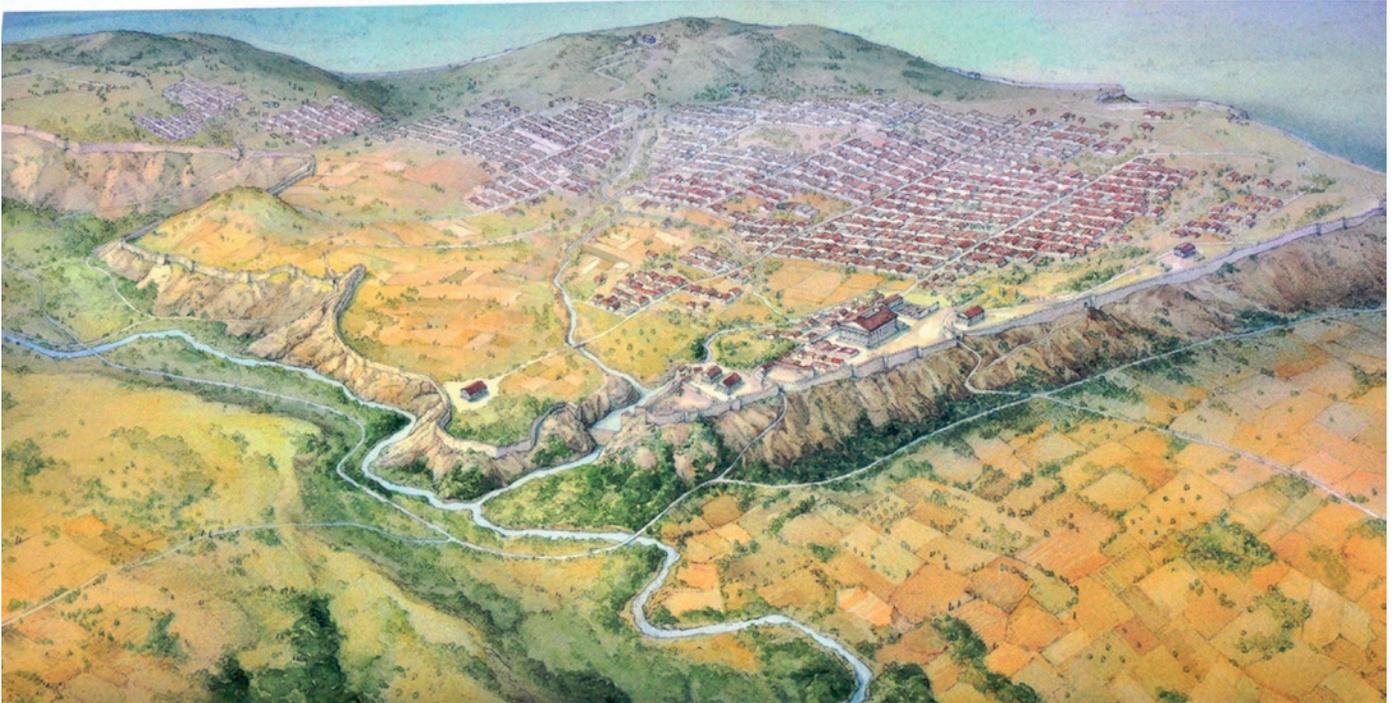


Figure 2 – This is a reconstruction of the city plan for the walled city of Akragas before it was sacked by Carthage in 406 BC. The walls encompassed the entire city, running along the edge of cliffs above two rivers and around two prominent hills that provided a spacious site for an acropolis. Temples can be seen along the ridge at the bottom of the slope and on the acropolis where the center of the modern city of Agrigento is now located. Houses and

civic structures stretched in an unconstrained grid pattern along the rocky slopes. The largest temple, near the center of the image, is now in complete ruin, but others nearby, including the Temple of Concord, are partially or fully intact. Carthaginians demolished the city's defensive walls soon after an eight month siege and a desertion by mercenaries forced the city to surrender.

(Photo by the author of a sign on the temple ridge).

Coinage of Akragas

As with some other Sicilian city-states under tyrannical rule, such as Syracuse and Gela, Akragas began to strike an attic standard, two-drachm silver coin, usually called a didrachm, starting around 510 BC (see Figure 3 left). This was only about seven decades after the city was founded. The didrachms could just have as easily been called staters, since there were no tetradrachms in Sicily for another forty years. These didrachms displayed a standing eagle with closed wings on its obverse and a full crab design on its reverse. These were both badges of the city, symbols of local cults and representative of the supreme god Zeus, whose temple could be found on the city's acropolis.

The crab was also a symbol of the river god Akragas, since most of the river god dies appear to show a freshwater variety that would have inhabited the two nearby rivers. A few later tetradrachm dies do, however, show a marine species of crab that may represent Poseidon. It was unusual to personify a river-god in crab form. In most other places, late archaic/early classical river gods were shown as a man-headed bull, either in full figure or just as a forepart (for example in Neapolis, Hyria, Laos, Agyrion, Akarnania, Phokaia and Gela).

Akragas's didrachm production stopped soon after Syracuse and Akragas defeated Carthage at Himera in 480 BC. With its

new riches (it was one of the richest cities in Sicily), Akragas then began minting attic tetradrachms in 470 BC using the exact same obverse/reverse designs that the didrachms had initiated (Figure 3 middle). It produced these tetradrachms in large quantities in order to support trade and civic construction, and to support its never-ending conflicts. However, after the city was defeated by Syracuse in 461, production of silver tetradrachms slowed markedly, leading to a decision to issue radically new, low value bronze coins around 450 BC. These were needed to supplement local commercial needs (again, there were no didrachms at that time). Production of the

first bronzes started with cast pieces tied to a parallel litra weight standard that was also used by native tribes (the litra was based on a pound of bronze equal to 12 onkiai). The cast coins were remarkable for their 3-D shape plus the fact that they were the first Greek bronze coins and that they were the first coins to include different numbers of raised pellets to denote value (see Figures 4 left, 5 and 6). Four cast denominations were issued: no pellets = onkia; two pellets = hexas; three pellets = tetras; four pellets = trias (based on it being 1/3 of a litra).

By 425 BC, the cast bronzes were replaced by large struck bronzes with more complicated designs. The designs incorporated the same eagle and crab badges, with some add-ons, and pellet markings that followed the cast coin pattern (Figure 4 middle and 7A). Two of the new struck bronze litra denominations are generally available in

the market now: three pellets = trias; six pellets = hemilitron. I have also seen two-pellet hexases. Silver tetradrachms were still struck sparingly until late in the 5th century, with increasingly creative design changes after 420 and an entirely new design after 409 BC. The last tetradrachm design showed a quadriga on the obverse and two animated eagles on the reverse (Figure 3 right). Ironically, as the city became more destitute and faced annihilation, its tetradrachm designs rose to an artistic pinnacle almost unmatched in Greek numismatics. Akragas also struck some silver fractions as its military situation deteriorated, including hemidrachms after 420 and some drachms after 409, but they are rare. It also struck very rare 1/5 th gold staters with eagle/crab types in 406 BC, probably for payment to recruited mercenaries (the same mercenaries who were bribed by Carthage to abandon the city).

Production of all coins terminated when Carthaginians took control of, and plundered the city in 406 BC. In the following decades, some of Akragas's struck bronzes, mostly worn hemilitrons but some triases, were intentionally defaced and countermarked with small incuse punches showing a head of Herakles, a head of river god Akragas or a crab (Figure 7B). After some peace and stability was restored, and after more of the population returned to rebuild around 390 BC, production of a new issue of large, river god portrait obverse bronzes resumed (Figure 7C), but the city was in a continuing decline.

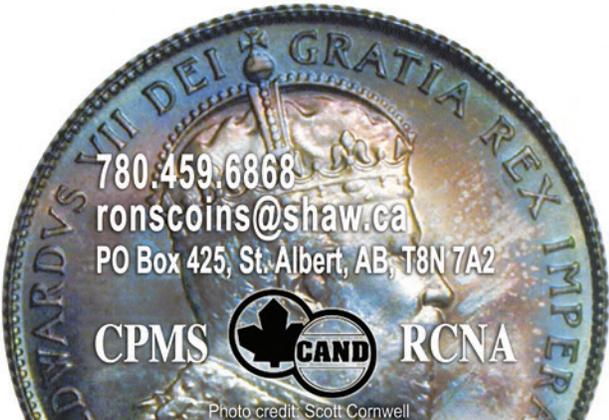
The commercial images used in Figures 3 and 4 are courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group. The combination of classic style, interesting images and well-executed dies makes the Akragas series highly desirable. In addition to the bronzes shown, I currently have only one of the silver coins, a didrachm.

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Figure 3 – Struck Silver Examples – Akragas 510–406 BC



Didrachm (~8.6g)

Early Tetradrachm (~17.3g)

Late Tetradrachm (~17.3g)

Sicilian silver was struck to an attic weight standard of approximately 17.3 grams for a tetradrachm, similar to coins struck in Athens. Akragas started didrachm production in 510 BC then, using its new wealth, switched to tetradrachms with the same types by 470 BC. Most of its coinage used the standing eagle with folded wings facing left on the obverse and a splayed crab image on the reverse. Tetradrachms continued to be minted until the city was overrun by Carthage in 406 BC, plus a few extra silver fractions and a minor gold issue after 420 BC.

Figure 4 – Cast and Struck Bronze Examples – Akragas 450–380 BC



Cast Trias (~17g)

Early Hemilitron (~22g)

Late Hemilitron (~18g)

The first Akragas cast bronzes were minted circa 450 BC after the city had suffered a defeat, and there was a need to provide a local currency. We can imagine that a lot of the cast coins would have been melted and incorporated into the new, struck issues after 425 BC. Both the cast and struck bronzes used a pellet system to indicate the coin's value in onkiai according to the litra standard. Initial weights varied but were fairly consistent from cast to struck issues. As in other areas of Sicily, however, weights were reduced over time – in this sense, the bronzes were indeed the first fiduciary coinage. Regular bronze issues stopped with the destruction in 406 BC, although a new issue of quality hemilitrons began circa 390 BC when the city began to rebuild.



First Cast Bronzes Were the First Fiduciary Coinage

Inherent within Akragas's first primitive cast coin issues was a radical concept. The idea was deceptively simple – to preserve supplies of precious metal, use casts of a relatively common metal to create easily handled, low-value coins to facilitate everyday transactions in the local market. In order to differentiate among similar looking denominations of variable weight, place a specific number of pellets as marks of value on each coin (simultaneously functioning as the world's first Braille coinage!). None of this had been done before – no bronzes and no use of pellets to show value. Ever since the first Greek coins were issued around 650 BC, only gold, silver and electrum had been used for coins. Weight standards for these precious coins had been set according to civic or regional preferences, which were highly enforced to at least 1/10 th of a

gram. Akragas had followed that same pattern but then suddenly decided to use utilitarian bronze in a parallel issue.

The radical part was that bronze was relatively cheap. The weight of each cast item could vary a fair bit, but it didn't matter, since the value of each coin was not determined by its intrinsic metal value, as had been the case previously. The denomination markings, largely by themselves, assigned a value to each coin, so in effect these earliest cast bronzes were the first example of a fiduciary coinage. This disconnect, between intrinsic value of the coin's metal and the assumed value of the coin as money, is the basis for all modern fiduciary monetary systems (With This Paper Dollar, I Thee Buy...). It started in Akragas.

Featured Cast Coins

The early cast bronzes of Akragas were devised at a time, just after 450 BC, when there was no other non-precious coinage to use as a guideline. Selinos chose a similar route soon after and even Rome issued large aes grave casts in the First Punic War almost two centuries later. For whatever reason, aside from a small issue of imitative flat coins, Akragas chose a three-dimensional format for its main casts. This coincidentally highlighted the flexibility of the casting process – where the issuers didn't have to be concerned about maximizing the two-dimensional striking force needed for precious coins. The civic authorities also decided to

make the three largest denominations variants of the same conical shape, while the smallest denomination was given an oblong, seed-like shape. Each small batch of these issues was likely cast in sand or dried clay molds, with the pellets at the bottom in the case of the larger denominations. Each coin was left with a visible casting sprue, which indicated where the coin was broken off the mold's pouring inlet. The large triases often showed an 'AK' legend above the standing eagle to denote the city of issue, though some were faint.

There are a few factors to consider when looking for these



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coins: smooth patina, intact surfaces and edges, clarity of images, prominence of pellets, plus overall shape and weight. Because they are cast, there will never be much detail on their images, but a few can be somewhat anatomic, even on the crab side. It is advisable to look for coins that show minimal chipping on the sharp edges and display a good set of pellets. As well, I like to have a taller/longer profile shape and a weight for triases that is over 16 grams (generally, I think a heavier coin means an earlier casting, plus a longer 'tooth' shape looks more pleasing).

Figure 5 – Featured Larger Cast Bronzes – 450–425 BC



Four Pellet Cast Bronze Trias – 450 BC

Obv: Eagle standing left; faint AK above.
Rev: Crab Top: 4 pellets.
Data: 16.72g, 19.0 x 14.6 x 19.6 long.
Mint: Akragas, Sicily.
Reference: Calciati I, 143, 1; ANS 1017; Westermark 525.
Acquired: Lanz, eBay, March 2012.

Three Pellet Cast Bronze Tetras – 450 BC

Obv: Two eagle heads back to back.
Rev: Crab Top: 3 pellets.
Data: 11.88g, 18.0 wide x 19.0 long.
Mint: Akragas, Sicily.
Reference: Calciati I, 145, 6; SNG 62; ANS 1018; Westermark 526.
Acquired: V Auctions, December 2008.

Figure 5 – These two coins were among the first cast in bronze to meet civic requirements, and these are the two largest denominations. I have three of the large four-pellet trias type in different states of encrustation – fully covered, partly covered and fully cleaned (this one is partly covered, the other two are in the Addendum 3) – but I have only the one of the very scarce three-pellet tetras coins. Many have this lovely green patina that is characteristic of Sicilian bronzes, probably because of contact with Sicily’s rich volcanic soil over thousands of years. Note the flattened casting sprue at the bottom end of each coin.

The coins are a lovely color, the pellets are large, the weights are good and the edges are generally free from chips. Although the eagle impressions on both are fairly good, the main problem on each is indistinct crab reverses. There are only suggestions of a crab body but no evidence of claws. However, it is rare on these to have full crab images. (Collection of the author and photos by the author).

Figure 6 – Other Cast Denominations – 450–440 BC



Cast Hexas (2 Pellets, 14m, 7.10g)
Standing Eagle & Crab



Cast Onkia (18m, 4.46g)
Eagle Head & Crab Claw

Figure 6 – The hexas and onkia are the two smaller denominations of the original cast bronze series. The hexas is also ‘tooth’ shaped like the trias and tetras, but it is quite narrow in profile, and it has only two pellets on its top. The onkia has an oblong, seed-like shape with close-up images of an eagle head and crab claw. Both still have a casting sprue at one end of course. These units are not too common, and I have not been able to buy either in good condition. (Photos courtesy CNG).



Struck Bronze Coins – After the Cast Period

To put the cast coinage into context, I am including my three examples of struck bronzes from Akragas (Figure 7 below). Large bronzes were struck after the cast ones, beginning circa 425–420 BC, using the same eagle/crab types. Weights of the early, six-pellet struck hemilitrons (see 7A) were almost double the weight of the previous cast tetras with 3 pellets (Figure 5), so the civic weight standard was initially fairly consistent. The example in Figure 7A with its screaming eagle obverse, plus its conch and octopus symbols, is early in the series. It came right after a very scarce triton symbol issue. Akragas also struck companion three-pellet tetras at the same time (not shown). Sicilian bronzes both in Akragas and in Syracuse were generally quite heavy compared to bronzes from other Greek locations (except Egypt and areas of the Black Sea).

Figure 7B provides an example of a worn and/or defaced Akragas hemilitron that was countermarked with a small incuse punch. Both hemilitrons and tetras were countermarked in this way after their original designs were obliterated. The punches are usually of three types – head of Herakles, head of a young river god or a little crab, probably in that order for frequency. The Herakles punches are also occasionally found in a larger diameter. The punch seen in 7B is a typical smaller size for the young river god. Akragas ceased its normal minting activities when Carthage conquered it in 406 BC. It is believed that older, worn or defaced bronzes were then struck with these punches over the next few decades to re-establish their legitimacy. The river god and crab varieties were likely re-issued by Akragas, while the Herakles type was likely issued by a nearby Sicilian city.

Figure 7C is a wonderful and somewhat rare bronze hemilitron produced by a resurgent Akragas mint in a brief period after 400 BC. These were probably issued during the time that the crudely countermarked coins in 7B circulated, an odd notion since these new coins are of a remarkably fine style. The young river god portrait on the obverse, marked by a small horn above the forehead, is a new type for the city and reminiscent of the venerated man-headed bull issues of Gela. These river gods personify the spiritual power and importance of the main local river to the civic economy. The city's usual eagle/crab types are consequently relegated to the reverse side, though they are presented within a very interesting and tasteful composition. This is a scarce, lovely coin, and it is large at 26 mm diameter.

Figure 7 – Akragas Struck Bronzes – 420 to 390 BC



7A – Before Carthaginian Conquest First Struck Hemilitron (circa 420 BC)

Obv: AK-PAΓAN-TINON around; Screaming sea eagle right, head thrown back, clutching grey mullet fish.

Rev: Crab holding snake in left claw; conch shell and octopus below; 6 pellets around.

Data: 21.2g, 27.0 x 26.0mm, 9h. Mint: Akragas, Sicily.

Acquired: D Loates, August 2000.

Figure 7A – This coin shows us how the very early bronze flans would have been broken off from a set of poured molds then struck with finished dies. It would have been tricky to obtain a nice strike with such large dies so we see a good amount of under-striking here, especially for the octopus, which didn't register at the bottom of the reverse. Even at 27 mm in this case, the flan wasn't large enough to show the full reverse design – the six pellets are barely visible.



7B – After Carthaginian Conquest Worn/Defaced Hemilitron with Countermark (circa 400 BC)

Obv: Blank (worn/defaced eagle).

Rev: Blank (worn/defaced crab) with young river god countermark.

Data: 18.12g, 29.8 x 29.2mm. Mint: Akragas, Sicily.

Acquired: G Woods, VCoins, September 2008.

Figure 7B – This is a reasonably good example of the scarce Akragas re-issues, especially with the river god countermark. The coin has been cleaned of most of its typical encrustations.



7C – After Carthaginian Conquest
 Re-Established Hemilitron (circa 390 BC)

Obv: ΑΚΡΑΓΑΣ Horned head of young river god Akragas left, wearing tainia.
 Rev: Eagle standing left on ionic capital, head reverted; crab to left; 6 pellets
 above right (three off flan).

Data: 18.81g, 26.1 x 25.7mm, 4h. Mint: Akragas, Sicily.

Acquired: Classical Numismatic Group, May 2008.

Figure 7C – I was pleased to win this rare coin at auction. It has a great style compared to most others of the type, and it is in excellent condition even though the reverse is a bit off center, and parts, including the obverse legend, are under-struck. Three of the six parallel pellets are off the flan. The metal is otherwise good and the surfaces fresh, providing considerable detail on the fantastic portrait of the young river god Akragas. The portrait reminds me a bit of the youthful Apollo head on some Katane tetradrachms from the late 5th century. (All coins collection of the author and photos by the author).



In Closing...

It's possible that, below the surface, the cast coins of Akragas may be drop-dead gorgeous. But we will have to settle for interesting. They are another reminder of the wide variety of coinages that were created by internet-starved peoples in the ancient Greek world. Issuing authorities responded to commercial and societal needs – in this case to develop a new type of lower value currency for everyday uses, whether for purchases of goods or for offerings in their temples. Initial 3-D

cast coins were replaced with equivalent and larger struck bronze versions after a couple of decades. This may have been mostly due to difficulties in maintaining enough detail and consistent image outlines on cast surfaces. Struck coins facilitate consistent repetition. It may also have been partly due to limitations of their novel shape, since, even now, their sloping surfaces and sharp edges make them a little awkward to handle (they are also known for their flip-busting qualities).

I enjoy my cast Akragas coins mostly because they are unusual, and they are the first in more than one respect – first bronzes, first cast and first with pellet denominations. It is a challenge to find good ones because they are scarce and prone to problems. Knowing this, it is difficult to accept that even with a shiny green, tooth-shaped Akragas trias burning a hole in your pocket, you still need \$5 to buy a cup of coffee! ☹️

Addendum 1 – A Surprise

In one of those inexplicable coincidences, my wife and I arrived in the Valley of the Temples on my second trip to Sicily in 2012, just as an entire cohort of armed Sicilian *polizia di stato* decided to rehearse some kind of secret ceremony. They didn't mind us poking about on the fringes as they practiced their gruesome rites. The backdrop was the Temple of Concord, one of the best-preserved Greek temples in Sicily and a World Heritage Site (Paestum, ancient Poseidonia, has other such temples just south of Naples in central Italy). It is one of five, mostly ruined temples on this ridge, sited directly across from the main town of Agrigento as seen on the adjacent hilltop. The temple is in Doric style, constructed 440–430 BC, about the time that cast bronzes were in their heyday. The odd bronze sculpture in the bottom photo is a modern fantasy, seeming to be a combination of Apollo and the wings of Nike, complete with a small head of Medusa incised into its back – the rationale still eludes me. (Photos by the author).



Quotes on Cast

We cast away priceless time in dreams, born of imagination, fed upon illusion, and put to death by reality.

– Judy Garland

Let the die be cast.

– Julius Caesar

Chance is always powerful. Let your hook always be cast. In the pool where you least expect it, there will be fish.

– Ovid

Civilization began the first time an angry person cast a word instead of a rock.

– Sigmund Freud

It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything.

– Joseph Stalin

Addendum 2 – What’s Wrong With This Picture?

First, let’s admire the fantastic style of this piece. The coin types and the design aesthetics are authentically Akragas. The cast gives you a sense of the tremendous quality of the best coins from this mint – the city could afford the finest artisans. The eagle and crab are magnificently and accurately displayed, along with a hapless hare and a scary fish. You can pick out the letters spelling AKRAGANTINON with only the G showing its Greek incarnation (Γ).



Akragas Design Cast in Bronze

No, the problem is that this piece is a bronze art medallion instead of a struck silver tetradrachm. It was cast, patinated, hall-marked and numbered at the Paris Mint in 1969 AD (#202 in an edition of 500). What is also special is that it is massive.

It weighs 186 grams and is 63.5 mm across. A silver tetradrachm of this type is only 17 grams and about 25 mm across. I bought two of these medallions, within the same month, from different sellers in Malta and France (the second

one, #262, was offered at a much reduced price). I displayed them at a show once, side by side as in the photo above. (Photo courtesy one of the subject dealers, Comptoir des Monnaies on MA Coins).

Addendum 3 – Recent Sale of Cast Trias and Comparison of Finishes

Cast Akragas bronzes are often noted as rare, as above. Hard to say whether they don’t show up much because they are truly scarce, they aren’t appreciated or they aren’t pretty (maybe all of the above). This one appeared in a recent CNG auction, which is interesting because it sold for \$475US on an estimate of \$200, resulting in a final cost of about \$560US with fees. I noticed

it because of the very unusual depiction of an eagle – it looked more like a goose. Although it does display the ‘AK’ (backwards K) legend beside the eagle, there are a number of other problems that, in my view, didn’t account for the price. It actually shows some wear judging by the surface polish and the amount of rim chipping. No photo was provided of the four pellets on top,

to indicate whether they are visible or not. There are also a few pits in the surface, a result of casting, general use or metal weakness. Beyond the eagle style, what does stand out is the shortened tooth shape of the coin – indeed, its rather anemic weight of 14.0 grams is less than my partly encrusted coin of 16.7 grams in Figure 5.

(continued next page)



429, Lot 1. Estimate \$200

SICILY, Akragas. Circa 440–430 BC. Cast Trias or Tetrokion (19.5mm, 14.04 g). Eagle standing left; (retrograde K) A to upper right / Crab. Four pellets (mark of value) on base. Westermark, *Coinage*, 525A; CNS 1; HGC 2, 126. Good VF, hard green patina. Choice for issue, and very rare with the letters visible.

From the DMS Collection. Ex CNG Inventory 730720 (March 2002).

Addendum 3 – continued

Bronze coin weights did vary quite a bit, but I suspect, based on the overall trends in other Sicilian bronze issues, that their weight decreased and their

shape changed as the issue progressed. My two other triases, shown below, both have the same AK legend (with forward K) and full weight, as does the trias in

Figure 5, meaning they could be earlier in the series. The scaled photos below show the dramatic difference between cleaned and un-cleaned versions.



Trias Comparison – Natural Patina vs Cleaned Surface

Top: Bold AK Legend – Dusty Surface (18.7x13.5x19.2 long; 16.66g).

Bottom: Faint AK Legend – Small Red Deposit (19.7x14.8x19.3 long; 17.43g).

(Collection of the author and photos by the author)

Bei Georg, er, By George...

by Marc Bink

When I was a child, we always used to dream about being kings and queens, having multitudes of the great unwashed cowering and quivering at our feet, waiting on our every beck and call. That was supposed to be the epitome of human power, to be a king or an emperor; but for many it was more an exercise in “be careful what you wish for”.

One such case is George I of Britain. From early on his family lusted after more lands and more power, and in the end he ended up with more than he could have imagined and had no idea what to do with it. Not to mention, he couldn't keep subjects happy on either side of his kingdom, and his personal life was a shambles.

It started innocently enough. Georg Ludwig von Hanover was born in Hanover in 1660, around the same time that Charles II of England was getting his throne back. The Stuarts, if the reader will recall one of my earlier articles, had come to grief in 1649

and were restored to their supposedly rightful place on the death of the “usurper” Oliver Cromwell. The Hanoverians had just come through a miserable set of wars which ended up decimating Germany and its population and laying waste to a large portion of its economy. George's father, Ernst August of Braunschweig-Lüneburg, had started off as a lowly Prince-Bishop of Osnabrück and had elevated himself through timely deaths and marriages to become the first Elector of Hanover. He of course wanted more, and as a precursor to getting the Electorship, he instituted a law of primogeniture whereby his



Official portrait of George I of Great Britain shortly after his coronation

eldest would become his heir and his lands could not be subdivided as was the case with so many regal families in Germany at the time. This immediately made Georg Ludwig (George Louis) much more important and worthy of grooming.

George was a bit of a funny kid; the only person who had an idea of what went on in his head was his very protective mother, Sophia of the Palatinate. She described him as very responsible and conscientious, providing a fine example to the younger children. Other contemporaries weren't quite so kind in their descriptions of young George, the most severe examples claiming him to be an absolute idiot to the milder forms of being somewhat “challenged” and “wanting”. George wasn't dumb; it just that he wasn't well “socialized” to use a modern term.



A silver shilling of George I showing how the Hanoverian coat of arms was blended in with that of the UK.

As he grew up, it seemed that any chances of inheriting anything other than a bishopric were getting remote as he had plenty of uncles who were closer to the line than he was. However, the 17th century being what it was, the era of big hair and even bigger pestilence and disease, his uncles soon died off one by one until he and his father were the only ones left standing.

George finally inherited the Electorship upon the death of his father Ernst August in 1714. Now here's where things take an interesting and unexpected twist for him and his family; he was soon to become the next in line for the British throne. His mother, Sophia of the Palatinate, was the granddaughter of James I of England through her mother, Elizabeth of Bohemia. One can bet that James would have never imagined that the offspring of one of his low-married daughters would ever stand a chance to inherit the British throne, but that is exactly what had happened.

As stated in a previous article, the Stuarts had come into power upon the death of Elizabeth I of England in 1604. James I was the first Stuart king, and as such, considered the patriarch of the line. He had a number of sons, but only one survived to succeed him in 1625, Charles I. In 1649, Charles lost his crown along with his head, and the Stuarts were banished to exile. Somewhere along the way they had started to flirt with Catholicism, and they had been accused of being covert Catholics almost from the beginning. Charles I had a Catholic wife, this was not popular at all and didn't contribute well to his chances. His son Charles II was raised in a Catholic household, but professed to be a Protestant. Upon his death he did take the Last Rites and the Sacrament, although it's been denied by his successors ever since. His

brother James II was a Catholic and made no bones about it. This got him into some severe trouble and he was forced to flee in disgrace. Thus began the "Glorious Revolution" to rid England of its "Popish" King. Now left kingless, the English Parliament struggled to find a suitable successor, one that was Protestant and one that would let Parliament call most of the shots. They settled on Mary, one of James' daughters. But she came only with some unwanted baggage; her husband William of Orange had to be accommodated as king. Well, to the English lords, this was a better alternative than to go with hat in hand back to James and claim a misunderstanding and beg for forgiveness. So William and Mary were installed on the English throne in 1688. And so ended the "Glorious Revolution".

Mary died in 1694, leaving no heir. William, to his grieving credit, chose not to besmirch his wife's memory and chose not to remarry and to govern England as best he could. He



Sophia Dorothea of Celle

Shown around the time of her wedding to George of Hanover. She was young, vivacious and beautiful, but hopelessly ignored by her husband and his family.

did, but eventually died childless in 1702. Now we're left with the last of James' daughters, Anne, who had the misfortune and terrible luck to suffer 17 pregnancies with not one child surviving more than a year. Her husband was Prince George of Denmark, and they preferred to live in England. As Anne grew older and had more bad pregnancies she became obese and unwell. She wasn't the healthiest person even when she was young, but age and sorrow plus the demands of government took their toll, and by 1714 she too was dead. This left Britain with a succession crisis, as there were no more daughters of James II left, Anne was effectively the last of the Protestant Stuarts. However, the Catholic Stuarts were more than willing to forgive and forget and get their old throne back; but the British had their fill of these people and the offer was graciously but firmly declined.

Rumour had it that George and Anne had a "thing" going at one point. However, it was not to be; the Hanoverians had pretty much figured who George was going to marry, and it would be someone beneficial to their family prospects, nothing else.

There were a few women in contention, but the one that really caught George's father's eye was Sophia Dorothea of Celle. She had all the right prerequisites, she was bright, vivacious, good looking and knew her place and where she wanted to be. Fluent in a number of languages, she was a precocious child who knew where she wanted to end up, in the role of a queen. However, the 17th century was a man's century, women weren't allowed to think for themselves. Sophie's father was persuaded to look and entertain one of the local boys for his daughter, he settled on the dour, feckless George, the polar opposite to his high spirited daughter.

George married Sophie von Celle, and it was purely about money and real estate. The two never really got along from the start, Sophie exclaiming loudly when told who she was going to marry, "I would never marry that Swine's Snout"! She ended up having to, and she bore him 2 children. At least it looked like George's succession problems were over. But Sophie's problems were only just starting.

Since they both didn't like each other, they seemed to both feel that there was no point in trying to get along. So they both started affairs. George took up with a number of mistresses, his favorite being Melusine von der Schulenburg. Sophia took up with her favorite, a Swedish Count by the name of Philip Cristoph von Königsmarck. They were both warned to keep things discrete; but neither listened. Sophia got a bit brash and actively moved out into the open with von Königsmarck. This of

course was unacceptable; there was a lot of money riding on the two of them remaining married in some form or another. The truth was, George really didn't care what happened to Sophia, and that was to become apparent in rather short order.

Somewhere along the line in 1694 von Königsmarck managed to get himself killed. There were a number of rumours about how von Königsmarck ended up dead, the most predominant one being that Ernst August, (George's father) had one of his courtiers kill him for the outrageous sum of 150,000 thalers. However, that doesn't make much sense considering that's all Ernst August got for the marriage, why would he spend all of that cash? It is said that von Königsmarck was discovered in the countess's bedchambers, and that after kissing her hand he was taken and immediately dispatched in another room. The body was

then supposedly either weighted down and tossed into the Leine River, or as it was supposed, buried under the floors in the Leine Palace at Hanover. The section for George I in the 1849 edition of the "Pictorial History of England" states quite clearly that a body was recovered after George's death when renovations were done to the Castle for George II. But it was not stated whether it was confirmed as being von Königsmarck's corpse. Renovations and repairs after the Second World War didn't find anything either, however in 2014 there was a body recovered from underneath the flooring. As of yet the identity has not been confirmed, the only thing known is that it has been there for a very long time and may actually be parts of five corpses. Needless to say there is probably a very interesting story behind this all that I'm sure the family has buried hoping it'll never come to light again.



Leineschloss

Here is where Count Königsmarck was supposedly murdered. This was the residence for George and Sophia when he was the heir to the Elector of Hanover. The "Pictorial History of England" (1849) claims that his body was recovered from under the floorboards of Sophia's dressing room during renovations just after the death of George I in 1727. Other more modern sources claim that is false; but just a few years ago a skeleton was discovered under the floors there. To this date the body of von Königsmarck has never been recovered. Sounds a lot like a recent embassy caper; more proof that what's new is actually very old.

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The marriage was dissolved in due course, not on the grounds of adultery as one would suppose, but apparently it was over abandonment. Sophia was charged with abandonment and then proceeded to get one of the most severe sentences when she was found guilty. George had her locked up in the Celle castle under house arrest for the rest of her life. She could go into town under escort, but she could never be left alone. She was also never to see her children again; and this was probably the most devastating for her. She wanted

to and waited years to see her daughter again, even going so far to appear at a window in her finest clothes when her daughter drove past in a carriage on her wedding day. But it was not to be; Sophia never saw her two children again. It severely hurt them both, especially George Jr.

In the meantime, the old Elector of Hanover, Ernst August, George's father had died. He had just gathered up the title of "Elector" (German: Kurfurst) for himself, but died before he became effective. It had been

a hard fought wait; but Ernst August finally waited out all of his brothers and uncles to become the Elector of the newly formed up Brunswick-Luneburg-Calenburg-Hanover. So in 1698, his son George, inherited the whole works and became the first full-term Elector of that state. The capital was soon established at his Leineschloss in Hanover. George soon put his mark on things, had the coinage changed and any traces of his father consigned to history. George was definitely his own man.



Schloss Ahlden

This is where Sophia Dorothea spent 32 years of her life under house arrest, the House at Ahlden.



A view towards the Celle Castle (in the background) taken by the author on a recent trip to Germany in 2017

George also never got along with his children from Sophia, it was as if he blamed them for what had happened or was reminded of her every time he looked at them. He managed to have three more daughters by his mistress Melusine. He never did remarry.

In 1714, Elector George Ludwig became King of England, Scotland and Wales. He had just straightened out his German possessions and just by accident discovered that there was a bigger prize at stake. It was not something he counted on, but when he had heard that Anne was ill and his mother

having just died, he rushed to make the proper arrangements. He had honestly believed that the English would find another Stuart to sit on the throne. He didn't realize at first that he was essentially the last Stuart descendant that wasn't a Catholic in existence, there were no others. So when the English came calling, George dropped all of his German squabbles and sprang into action. He couldn't get to England fast enough to snatch that crown and take over the treasury. When he was proclaimed king, a large number of towns rioted, presumably not in his favor. The English had just gotten rid of one foreigner, William III

of Orange, a Dutchman, and now they were saddled with a German. Considering that the English never really understood the Germanic sense of humour and dreaded it, one could see where this would be viewed as irresponsible to say the least.

George was a German through and through, and didn't really like England and couldn't understand her people. The feeling was reciprocated, the English didn't really know what to think of George. Most thought him "a bit thick" or a "tad tedious". George spent most of his time over in England, he travelled to Hanover a few times, but never

stayed for very long. He got Parliament to repeal and the act where he would have needed their permission to leave the country, otherwise he more or less let Parliament to run things in the UK. George's reign was the start of the age of the Prime Minister and the detachment of kings. George was happy and content to let Walpole run things, provided he didn't run out of money or get deposed somehow. There are stories that George never learned English and couldn't communicate; those are just false. He did learn English, spoke it with a heavy accent, and defaulted to flawless French which was the universal language of the Court in the 17th and 18th centuries. He had no trouble making himself understood.

He brought his mistresses over from Germany with him, another move which further endeared him to his new subjects. The English of course enquired as what to do about his wife, a perfectly legitimate question all things considered. George

chided them not to worry; she had been well taken care off. He installed his son George August as the Prince of Wales. George Jr. and his father never along. The younger one insisted on having a mind of his own, and George Sr, wasn't having any of it. He even took away his kids, something that George Jr could relate to from his own childhood, and that just made him resent his father more. In the end, they got along well enough not to shoot at each other.

George never really tried to fit into English society. He preferred to remain distant. The English, for all of their pretensions, were quite content to let the "foreigner" do his own thing. George managed to keep them out of any wars and managed to let the economy do what it wanted, and that suited the English just fine.

And his poor ex-wife languished at Ahlden House in Celle for 30 years until 1726. Sophia had remained under house arrest for the entire period. She had been

denied access to her father, her children and was never left unaccompanied, she was watched for the entire time by George's staff. Her correspondence was censored and controlled. She had a terrible life; and to think all she ever wanted to do and was trained to do was to be a queen.

George refused to call a period of mourning for her, and had her body thrown unceremoniously in a cellar. He was livid when he heard that his daughter's court in Berlin had worn black in Sophia's honour. The only way George's subjects in Britain knew that his wife had died was when a small note was placed in the London Gazette. He then decided to go back to Hanover to look after a few things. He never made it, he died on his way there. He had survived his ex-wife by about seven months. He was buried in Osnabrück, and eventually he and his wife Sophia were interred in Hanover. George I is the last English king to be buried outside of England.

Collecting George I coins

There was a major shortage of coinage in the UK at that time. The economy was still undergoing a transition from hammered to a milled coinage; by George's reign most of the hammered coinage had finally disappeared. Small change was

a large problem though, mainly because it was what the peasants, workers and the poorer people in the country needed to maintain commerce. Half pennies and farthings were in short supply, and inflation had rendered the silver penny to a

coin so tiny to point where it could no longer be sectioned. Previously, in the hammered era a penny could be sectioned into 1/2 pennies and farthings and now that wasn't possible. But people were still getting paid in pennies and needed to



Half penny (1717) in copper
One of the more common issues for George I



A guinea coin in gold from George I
This coin was worth 21 Shillings.

German, or the Brunswick-Luneburg-Calenburg- Hanover Coinage Issues

As the Elector of Brunswick-Luneburg-Calenburg-Hanover, he had some say as to what was depicted on the coins. George's portrait coins from Brunswick-Luneburg-Calenburg-Hanover are also scarce and pricey. The lower copper denominations aren't too expensive, but they don't have a portrait. In fact, they use the infamous "Wildman" motif that Brunswick was famous for. The billon coins are a bit more expensive, and then finally there are the silver ones with portraits that are the most desired and fairly scarce. There are a lot of denominations to choose from, from the cheapest pfennigs to the silver Mariengroschen to the thaler

coinages. This was a pre-decimal coinage that had its roots in the early medieval age. It was all rather confusing. The small-change German coinages are a little more common as they were extensively minted and heavily circulated. The actual mintage figures are all unknown, but there were three mints working and a number of different types of coinages being used concurrently. The Brunswick states were all trading states that had connections everywhere, so their money would have been heavily traded and circulated throughout Europe.

The Brunswick states were part of the old Lower Saxon

economic circle and shared the same denominations amongst themselves. The weights of these coins were similar to any other state's system, so they could be accepted fairly universally throughout the German speaking world. But not many found their way to England; the Bank of England and Parliament kept a close watch on the money coming in and leaving, ensuring that there wouldn't be a repeat of what happened in the early modern period where high-grade and well-made English coinage started replacing badly made local stuff, creating a major currency devaluation and threatening the English economy.

And Finally...

George was pretty proud of the fact that a lowly Hanoverian Elector and one-time Prince Bishop of Osnabrück was now King of England, and he was determined to hang on to that title. He allowed Parliament to more or less run things, so in effect he became a rubber-stamp king. It suited his needs by never being in a position to offend Parliament and possibly end up like his Stuart predecessors. It suited

Parliament's needs by allowing them to control their own destiny and planted the seeds of our modern Constitutional Monarchy. For this privilege most Englishmen were able to look past George's seeming eccentricities, thick-headedness and fixation on Germany. They grew to accept him, and in typical English fashion, ignore him. That suited George fine too, as it allowed him to concentrate on

his mistresses and his German possessions.

So by 1727 once George had died the English had rid themselves of one crazy German king. Surely the next guy would be better and more involved they thought, he couldn't be as bad as the previous king was... or could he?

...Stay tuned... 



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Contact: editor_ens@yahoo.ca

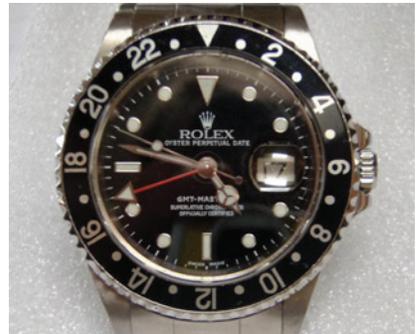
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