

The **PLANCHET**

XRF Part 2 –
The Metallic
DNA of Ancient
Gold and Electrum

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Really Big and Ugly

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5¢ Coin Prices

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Bei Georg, er,
By George...
Part the Third

PAGE 29

+ **ENS SPRING COIN
SHOW AND SALE**

Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 66 · Issue 2



THE PLANCHET \$4.75CDN



March 2019





The **PLANCHET**

Volume 66 · Issue 2

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

March, 2019

There's not much to report this month; we've got all the show preparations done. By the time you read this everything will be well in hand and lined up for another stellar show. We're anticipating another sold out venue.

Enjoying the cold weather? I'm not...yeah, I know, it's Alberta. But we haven't had a month-long period of extreme cold for as long as I can remember, I think the last time was 1979.

We had a little fun with the banners this time, it was awfully cold when Pierre and I hung them, so much so that we couldn't get the a third one up because the zip ties kept breaking. A person couldn't even begin to bend them. They just shattered like glass. So much for the advertised claim on them that they can be applied at -20°C and hold to -40°C. It was -18°C with a wind chill to about -36°C or so. I haven't been frozen like that in a long time. We'll try again this upcoming week and hopefully it'll be warmer.

Which brings to mind a bit of an issue; we're having trouble finding people who are willing to go get the banners and take them down. Our agreement

with the city states that they have to be down by midnight on the Saturday of the show. Since Pierre and I are busy with Hospitality Suite cleanup and other items, we are not in a position to go and rescue them. Thus far we've always had someone volunteer to go brave the cold and get them. My sincere thanks to those who always step up and volunteer to go and get them. Right now, the usual volunteers are getting two of them, but we're short a person to help out on the third. We couldn't get someone to remove the fourth one, so we aren't even putting it up. We really do not want to jeopardize a great working relationship with the City and possibly lose the privilege of putting these banners up, so rather than take a chance on having the fourth one up too long, we decided to leave it off. It was in a highly visible location too and would have been a great location to catch the downtown bound crowd.

These shows take a lot of people to be successful. As things go, some of our regular volunteers are starting to pare back their commitments, either as a result of family issues or just life. We desperately need new blood to step up and take over when the others leave. If you aren't

a volunteer yet, maybe you can find it in your heart to consider it for the fall show; we've got things designed so that it's all pretty much "plug and play". So maybe next time then...

We also still need some people to help out in the parking lot during set up and tear down. It's a pretty simple job, bundle up and stand outside with a reflective vest on and be a presence, that's it. We'd also like more of our famous "Black Shirts" to come down and just walk the bourse floor while the show is on. If you have time to do that for a few hours, come see me at the Appraisal Table and I'll make sure you're on the volunteer list. Here again, it's just to show a presence. Who knows, while you're walking around, you just might find that one piece you've been looking for.

Other than that, we're pretty much ready. Just in case you're not sure when and where it is, it's on the weekend of March 8-9, 2019, and it's at the Howard-Johnson at 156th street and Stony Plain Road. Parking is free all around the building.

I look forward to seeing you at the show! 🍷



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on the web**

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@ the Next Meeting

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Wednesday, March 13, 2019

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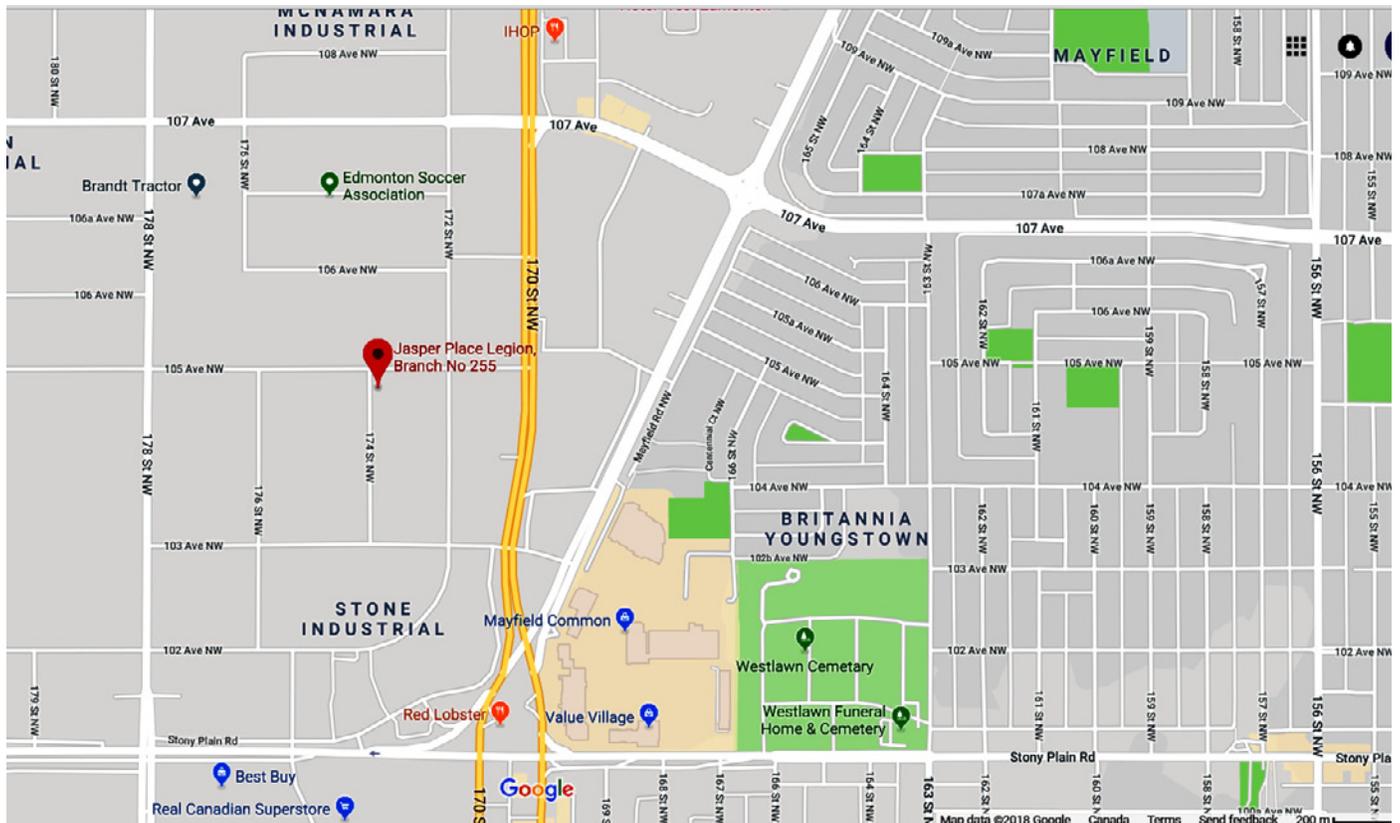
10427 – 174 Street NW. Edmonton

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

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Canada. T5T 6A1



by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

January 9, 2019 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:15 hrs by wishing everyone a happy new year. 36 members are in attendance for this first meeting of 2019.

Club Matters

The ENS mourns the loss of Donald (Del) E.L. Keown who passed away on December 20, 2018 at the age of 87. Del was one of our great volunteers. He had a very interesting and productive professional life where he served with many organizations. Growing up playing sports, Del was even signed by the Detroit Red Wings when he was 18. Bob Ericksson made a motion for the ENS to donate \$200 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation in memory of Del, 2nd by Jeremy Martin. A vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.

A reminder was made that the club elections are coming in March. Paul Purdie our Vice-President has resigned, so we will be looking for a new vice-president at that time.

March 9–10, 2019 Coin Show

The volunteer sign-up sheets were circulated in the room for those wishing to assist in the operation of the coin show. There

were some unsavory characters around outside on the last day of our November 2018 show, so we are looking to have more parking lot attendants.

The silent auction consignment deadline will be on February 13, 2019 at our monthly meeting. Prior to that, lots can be dropped off at the South Edmonton Coin and Currency shop. The form is available on the ENS website in the "Shows" area.

Show and Tell

Items shown included:

- An ancient gold oktadrachm from the Ptolemaic Kingdom portraying Arsinoe II. This impressive coin dates back to 270–268 B.C.
- Several sets of North Korean currency specimen sets.
- A stack of 50 billion dollar notes from Zimbabwe.
- 1954 Canadian \$5 replacement note set. These replacement notes are 150 times scarcer than regular bank notes

Presentation

The door prizes were drawn before Mirko Dumanovic gave a presentation called "Nikola Tesla on Paper Money and Coins".

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 20:27 hrs. 🚫



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Vacant – **Vice President**

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by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

Feb 13, 2019 ENS Meeting Minutes

Marc Bink, the ENS President, opened the meeting at 19:16 hrs and welcomed the 39 members in attendance. He thanked everyone for showing up tonight, despite the cold.

March 9–10, 2019 Coin Show

We are well prepared for the upcoming coin show. The overpass banners are being hung up on Monday February 18, and the other advertising is also being looked after.

All dealer tables are expected to be sold out even though we have had a couple of cancellations.

This coming Saturday (February 16), will be the deadline for the silent auction submissions. The lots can be dropped off at the South

Edmonton Coin and Currency store.

Club Matters

The Annual General Membership meeting is next month. The purpose of this is to elect ten directors and five members of the executive, who will lead our society for a year. Members are encourage to run for positions as new ideas are always welcome. We will at a minimum, have to fill the position of the Vice-President and one Director because of a couple of resignations.

We have been successful at maintaining our membership but the average age of our members is high. For this reason we have to find a way to attract new and younger members. One suggestion is that we should beef up

numismatic education on our website. It was also mentioned that we could produce some educational videos on You Tube. Danny Kachkan, Andy Bailes, Mirko Dumanovic, Patrick Conlin and David Peter volunteered to look into this.

The executive will research prices to see what it would cost to hire a summer student to work on the Google optimizing project for *The Planchet* articles.

Presentation

The door prizes were drawn before Terence Chessman gave a presentation on the coinage of Alexander the Great.

Conclusion

The silent auction lots were sold and the meeting was adjourned at 20:50 hrs. ☒

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2019

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Coming Events

March 9 & 10: ENS Spring Show at the Howard Johnson Hotel

March 13: ENS Meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion; 7:15 pm start.

April 5: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for 2019 Issue 3.

April 10: ENS Meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion; 7:15 pm start.

April 13–14: Regina Coin Club spring show and sale, at the Turvey Centre.

April 26: Issue 3 of the 2019 PLANCHET

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

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Part 2: XRF – Digging Into the Metallic DNA of Ancient Gold and Electrum

A Netherworld of Elements Revealed

by **Wayne Hansen**



Three Classical/Hellenistic Greek Gold Coins

Obverses of Carthaginian and Macedonian Staters
(circa 350–310 BC)

My quest for the analysis of metals in ancient gold coins began in late 2018 when I was preparing a display of the earliest Greek coins. I photographed a group of my archaic electrum globules dated from 650–500 BC, and wondered how their varied colors might be related to their alloy composition. The whole question of what's in them is fascinating anyway. Then I heard that a local coin shop could test metals with an XRF analyzer, so I took my little cache over to the store, including a duplicate geometric coin to check consistency. Although I initially had doubts about the accuracy of the portable equipment, the actual results were quite consistent with general assumptions and reports I had seen about the composition of similar coins. I came away with a good deal of respect for the data. It could generally be assumed that ancient gold coinages, particularly the alloyed electrums, are composed of a variety of natural and/or refined metals, so I wasn't surprised when tests showed many of the coins contained three, four or five different elements. Some metal percentages were smaller than expected and some were merely traces. I was also surprised, eventually, when a number of coins had as few as one or two metals in their profile.

After the initial tests on the earliest coins, which became Group One in Part 1 of this article (January 2019 *Planchet*), I thought it would be useful to include a batch of my later gold coins as a second study group. So I took my later coins into the store as well – the common reaction as I came in the door was “Oh, Oh, here comes Trouble”, and I don't blame them. A photo of that second batch can be seen in Figure 4. Soon after, another local ancients collector was able to test his gold specimens in the same shop, with emphasis on later Macedonian and Roman issues. I used some of those coins to expand the number of my featured types, extending the date range down to 350 AD. There were enough coins in my second batch, plus some of the new coins, to create Groups Two and Three for this article, as well as list a number of related issues for corroboration. I hope you find the combined results interesting.

Continued from Part 1 of the Article

The first half of this article, including preliminary discussion, equipment description and Group One test results for the earliest Greek coins, can be found in 'Part 1: XRF – Digging Into the Metallic DNA of Ancient Gold and Electrum' – see *The Planchet*, January 2019. All figures and comments for Part 2 coinages continue here in sequence from Part 1.

Figure 4 – An Arrangement of Mid to Late Coins



Figure 4 – Mid to Late Gold and Electrum Coins (485–20 BC) – This photo shows some of the Group Two and Three coins in age order. The small Persian hekte on top certainly looks golden, as do the full gold staters in the middle group. The first century BC Celtic coins at the bottom are rather eclectic and have lighter hues which might be assumed to result from a more mixed metal content.

(Photo by the author and collection of the author.)



B. Group Two: Mid Period – Persian, Carthaginian, Macedonian and Syracusan Gold

Both gold (AV) and electrum (EL) coins are found in the second batch tested, all of stater size. The Group Two types are described in four parts, separated by era and authority but centered around the powerful empires of the Classical and Hellenistic periods of antiquity. The first part is a single Persian

gold issue; the second includes an early gold stater and a later electrum stater from the Carthaginian Empire; the third contains six gold staters related to the extended Macedonian Kingdom and the fourth is an example of the uncommon Syracuse gold coinages.

All of these mid-survey mints were located around the central and eastern Mediterranean, including North Africa, Sicily, Northern Greece, Asia Minor and the Middle East, with Diodotus #19 being the outlier way off in Bactria (Afghanistan), just west of India.

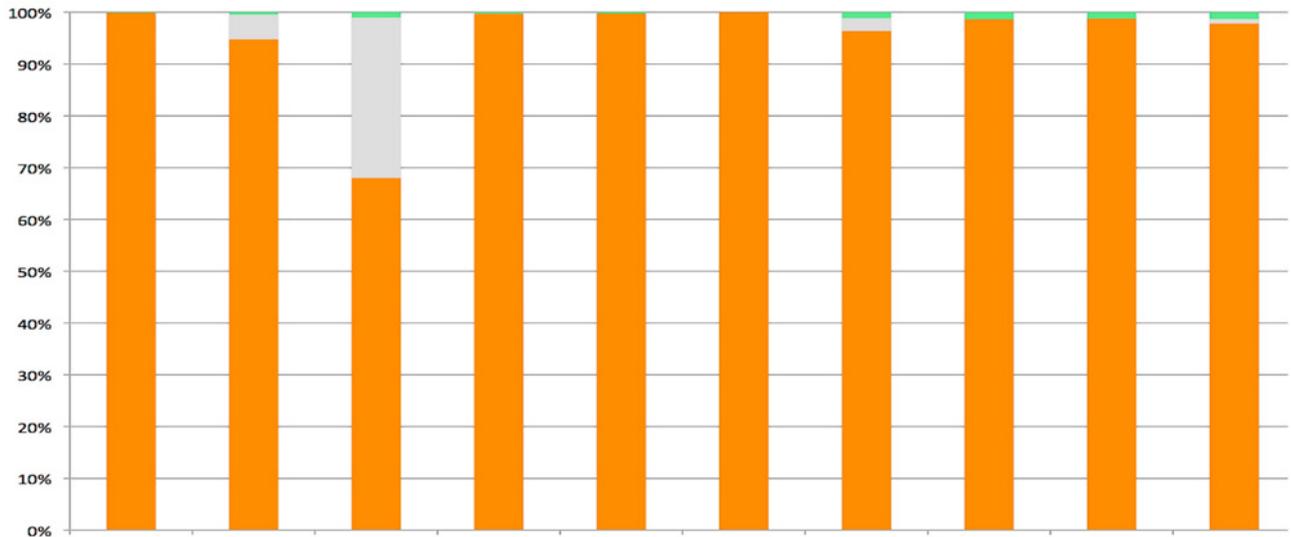
Results for Persia, Carthage, Macedonia and Syracuse

Please refer to Figure 5 for the summary table of detected values, above which is an accompanying bar chart visually illustrating the proportions of

the three main elements usually found in each featured coin (gold, silver and copper). Six similar Classical and Hellenistic coins were also tested and

summarized to see how they compared to the tabulated coins - these corroborating results are listed below the main chart.

Figure 5 – Metal Composition of Group Two Coins



Persian, Carthaginian, Macedonian & Syracusan Gold - Percent Metal Content (%)										
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Lydia	Zeugitania	Zeugitania	Macedon	Macedon	Macedon	Macedon	Macedon	Macedon	Sicily
	Persia	Carthage	Carthage	Philip II	Alex III	Philip III	Lysimachos	Ptolemy I	Diodotos I	Agathokles
	Sardis	Carthage	Carthage	Pella	Amphipolis	Kolophon	Byzantion	Alexandria	Ai Khanoum	Syracuse
	Daric-8.24g	Stater-8.81g	ELStater-7.75g	Stater-8.80g	Stater-8.61g	Stater-8.56g	Stater-8.52g	Stater-17.80g	Stater-8.27g	DbDek-5.76g
Dates (BC)	(485-420)	(350-320)	(310-290)	(340-328)	(310-300)	(323-319)	(circa 250)	(294-285)	(255-235)	(304-289)
Gold	99.71	94.78	67.46	99.74	99.76	100.00	95.31	96.91	97.00	96.04
Silver	--	4.77	30.73	--	--	--	2.46	--	--	0.88
Copper	0.29	0.45	1.01	0.26	0.24	--	1.09	1.32	1.17	1.26
Lead	--	--	0.06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bismuth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iron	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nickel	--	--	0.61	--	--	--	0.69	0.74	0.74	0.73
Gallium	--	--	0.13	--	--	--	0.45	0.39	0.46	0.46
Zinc	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.64	0.63	0.63

Figure 5 – Coins shown in the table are illustrated by number after the Group Two Comments. They offer a wide range of pure to fairly pure gold coins, along with one late-issue electrum, #13 from Carthage. They are notable for representing three main empires, Persian,

Carthaginian and Macedonian, covering the Classical and Hellenistic periods. The Carthaginian gold and electrum coins from North Africa, and the Lysimachos gold from the Black Sea area have slightly lower, but still respectable, gold percentages.

Corroborating Test Examples for Group Two

These duplicate/related coins were tested for comparison, though dates and/or types for similar coins may differ. Metals: (G) Gold, (C) Copper, (Ir) Iron, (Ni) Nickel and (Ga) Gallium. No Silver detected.

Persian AV Daric (Sardis)	485–429 BC	(G) 98.12	(C) 1.01	(Ni) 0.71	(Ga) 0.16
Philip II AV Stater (Pella)	340–328 BC	(G) 99.85	(Ir) 0.15		
Alex III AV ¼ Stater (Amphipolis)	330–320 BC	(G) 100.0			
Alex III AV Stater (Babylon)	323–320 BC	(G) 100.0			
Philip III AV Stater (Lampsakos)	323–317 BC	(G) 100.0			
Alex III AV Stater (Amphipolis)	310–300 BC	(G) 100.0			

Comments on Group Two Coins

Even for those generally familiar with ancient coins, the results for this group are amazing. Many of the Macedonian staters, and the one Persian daric, are actually or virtually pure gold. This testifies to the refining prowess of these empires. My Philip II stater #14, from Pella, first tested at 100% gold, but that looked suspicious, so I took it back for a re-test. It again came up as 100%, but then the tester found a spot at 99.74%, so I used it instead. This was before the other five staters came back at 100%. The Philip III stater #16 from Kolophon, also at 100%, is the fine-styled coin that may show a portrait of Alexander III as Apollo, but there is disagreement about this.

I have not delved into the full history of ancient mining and refining in eastern (Asia Minor, Levant and Africa) and western territories (Macedon and Thrace), undoubtedly a fascinating topic. It should be reiterated that all earliest coins were electrum and that Kroisos (Croesus) independently struck the first actual gold coins in Sardis, circa 564–540 BC. I do not have an example of a Kroisos issue to test

fineness (\$, are you kidding?), but the Persians conquered Asia Minor and Thrace right after, no doubt seizing and re-purposing whatever gold and electrum they could find. Persia, also called the Achaemenid Empire, then minted massive numbers of gold darics at the large Sardis refinery and mint, in order to store its wealth. When Philip II expanded his Macedonian Empire circa 340 BC, he captured gold fields in Thrace as a source of new metal; and then when Alexander III invaded Asia Minor and the Levant in the 330's BC, he captured vast stores of Persian darics in places like Persepolis in Syria. You can see how gold coins from one location and era would have been melted, possibly re-refined and reissued, especially if the new weight standard was different. Taken together with the mining of new ore, the situation becomes complicated.

We can observe that the fineness of the gold coins fell off by the 3rd century BC and in the 'fringe' areas of North Africa (Carthage #12), Sicily (Agathokles #20), Black Sea (Lysimachos-Byzantion #17),

Egypt (Ptolemy #18) and Baktria (Diodotos #19). In those areas, later issues also show the arrival of two or three trace elements for each coin, suggesting that a small proportion of locally refined or captured metals may have been added to the mix somewhere along the line (but not enough to devalue the coins). The slight decline/denaturing of the far eastern and Black Sea staters has been observed in other studies. With so much gold having been captured, mined, refined and struck by the Macedonians, it is hard to say whether later, smaller authorities would have bothered refining their own metal. The same goes for the Roman Empire, discussed in the next section. Regarding Carthage and Egypt, gold was also produced in northern and central Africa through the whole period and likely traded to Mediterranean powers.

Carthage did switch from gold to electrum for its staters towards 300 BC, so Carthage #13 coin is a known anomaly. The switch was made because of exigencies caused by its conflicts with Syracuse and then Rome.

Group Two – Mid Period – Persian, Carthaginian, Macedonian and Syracusan Gold Coins



99.7 0.3

11. Persia – Xerxes II – Running King AV Daric (Sardis) 485–420 BC; 14.5 mm, 8.24g

- An early gold coin, following Croesus.
- Fairly common but most are worn or ugly.
- Very high gold content, almost pure.
- Fresh, dark, full gold color with toning.



94.9 4.8 0.4

12. Zeugitania – Carthage – Tanit AV Stater 350–320 BC; 20.0 mm, 8.81g

- Late gold issue while active in Sicily.
- Gold issues are rare; weight slightly low.
- Gold slightly alloyed (reduced?).
- Lovely, rich mid to full gold color.



67.5 30.7 1.0

13. Zeugitania – Carthage – Tanit EL Stater 310–290 BC; 18.0 mm, 7.53g

- High style, high-grade electrum issue.
- Very scarce to rare in this grade.
- Good gold content; lower weight than gold.
- Full gold color – dark toning/light highlights.



99.7 0.3

14. Macedon – Philip II – Apollo AV Stater (Pella) 340–328 BC; 19.5 mm, 8.80g

- Early Philip issue from Macedon mint.
- Nice style obv/rev; rare Nike on reverse.
- Almost pure gold (also tested 100%).
- Mid to full gold color; little lustre.



15. Macedon – Alex III – Athena AV Stater
(Amphipolis) 330–320 BC; 19.5 mm, 8.61g

- Revised, posthumous issue of Kassander.
- High style obv and very sharp details.
- Virtually pure gold from Macedon.
- Full gold color with good toning.



16. Macedon – Philip III – Apollo AV Stater
(Kolophon) 323–319 BC; 18.0 mm, 8.56g

- Lovely issue; uncertain portrait Alex III
- Rare, high grade, great details.
- Pure gold, likely imported from Macedon.
- Fresh, full gold color; good dark toning.



17. Macedon – Lysimachos – Alex III AV Stater
(Byzantion) circa 280 BC; 18.0 mm, 8.52g

- Early posthumous issue; Black Sea mint.
- Scarce to rare since early; high grade.
- Bit lower gold content, with traces.
- Full gold color with good toning.



18. Egypt – Ptolemy I – AV Pentadrachm
(Alexandria) 294–285 BC; 24.0 mm, 17.80g

- Large (double stater) Egyptian gold.
- Very rare; high grade; lovely portrait.
- Good, eastern gold content with traces.
- Fresh, bright, dark gold color.



19. Baktia – Diodotus I – AV Stater
255–235 BC; 18.0 mm, 8.27g

- Far eastern issue from Afghanistan area.
- Rare no test cuts; high grade, nice style.
- Good, eastern gold content with traces.
- Fresh, bright, full gold color.

20. Syracuse – Agathokles – AV Double Dekadrachm
304–289 BC; 16.0 mm, 5.76g

- Unusual Sicilian gold; Athena obv; good size.
- Very rare issue during struggle with Carthage.
- Good, eastern style gold content with traces.
- Mid gold color with toning/dark recesses.



C. Group Three: Late Period – Celtic and Roman Gold

Group Three includes Celtic and Roman coins from the third to first century BC and Roman Imperial coins from the second to fourth century AD. The geographic distribution of the three Celtic 'gold' staters #21–23

from tribes in Gaul and Britain is interesting, covering the period before and after Julius Caesar's advance into Gaul and Rome's onward advance into Britain. The Dacian coin #24 was struck in association

with Rome near the Black Sea, likely in Romania. The three earlier Roman coins are from Rome, while the late coin #28 is from its eastern territory in Asia Minor.

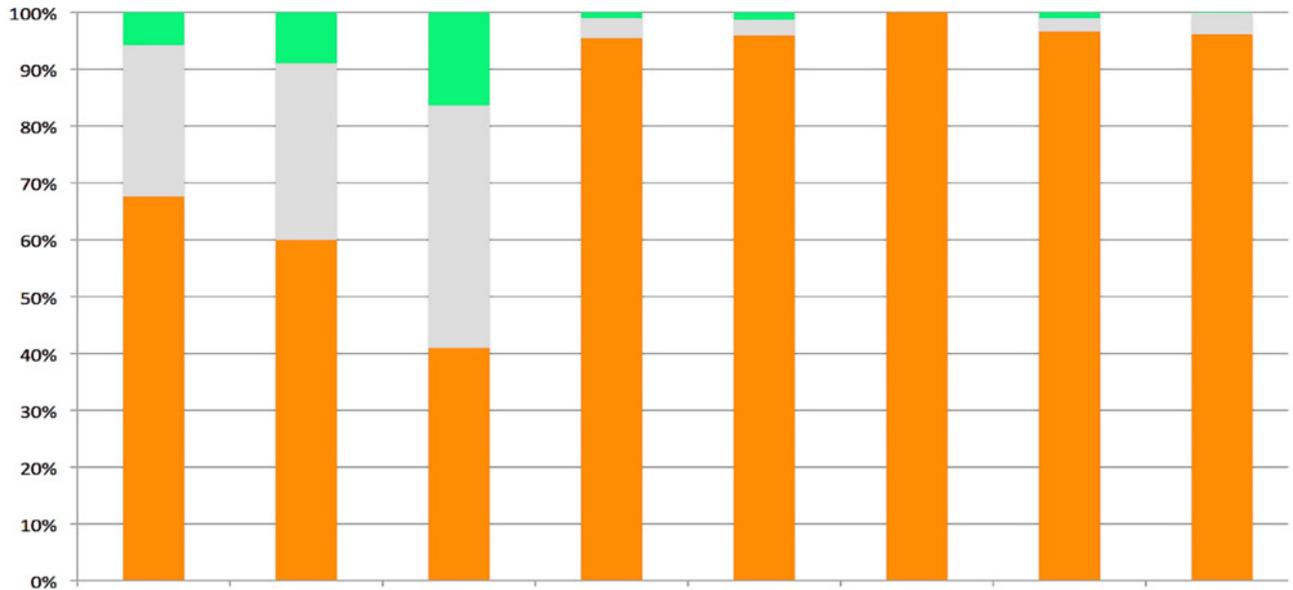
Results for Celtic and Roman

Please refer to Figure 6 for the summary table of detected values, above which is an accompanying bar chart visually illustrating the proportions of

the three main elements usually found in each featured coin (gold, silver and copper). Three similar Roman era coins were also tested and summarized to

see how they compared to the tabulated coins – these corroborating results are listed below the main chart.

Figure 6 – Metal Composition of Group Three Coins



	Celtic & Roman Gold - Percent Metal Content (%)							
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Celtic Gaul	Celtic Belgica	Celtic Britain	Geto-Dacia	Rome	Rome	Rome	Rome
	Senones	Ambiani	Corieltauvi	Koson	Republic	Julius Caesar	Anton Pius	Constantius II
	Agenticum	Ambiani	South Ferriby	Sarmizegetusa	Rome	Rome	Rome	Antiocheia
	Stater-7.15g	Stater-6.10g	Stater-5.74g	Stater-8.39g	20 Asses-1.13g	Aureus-8.10g	Aureus-7.22g	Solidus-4.40g
Dates	(100-60 BC)	(58-55 BC)	(45-20 BC)	(42 BC)	(211-208 BC)	(46 BC)	(152/3 AD)	(347/50 AD)
Gold	67.63	59.92	40.97	94.29	94.87	99.73	94.90	96.02
Silver	26.62	31.07	42.60	3.50	2.72	--	2.31	3.75
Copper	5.75	8.93	16.36	0.96	1.29	--	0.96	0.13
Lead	--	0.08	0.07	0.23	--	--	--	--
Bismuth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iron	--	--	--	--	--	0.27	--	0.10
Nickel	--	--	--	0.64	0.71	--	0.74	--
Gallium	--	--	--	0.38	0.41	--	0.48	--
Zinc	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.60	--

Figure 6 – Coins shown in the table are illustrated by number after the Group Three Comments. They cover another wide range of dates from the late BC's to the early AD's and relate to the advance of the Roman Empire. The Celts are the outliers, subsumed by Rome on either side of the English Channel. The #24 Koson coin is a quasi-Roman issue minted after the assassination of Julius Caesar by a Dacian king in alliance with the Roman rebel Brutus. The Roman type issues are fairly pure, though generally less than the Macedonian coins noted in Group Two (see also the corroborating coins below). The Celtic examples, from both sides of the Channel, are called 'gold' coins, but as you can see, they are basically electrum with a high silver mix.

Corroborating Test Examples for Group Three

These duplicate/related coins were tested for comparison, though dates and/or types for similar coins may differ. Metals: (G) Gold, (S) Silver, (C) Copper, (Ni) Nickel and (Ga) Gallium.

Koson AV Stater (Sarmizegetusa)	42 BC	(G) 93.94	(S) 3.90	(C) 1.00	(Ni) 0.73	(Ga) 0.43
Gordian III AV Aureus (Rome)	240 AD	(G) 97.82	(C) 0.96	(Ni) 0.73	(Ga) 0.49	
Aurelian AV Aureus (Milan)	271/2 AD	(G) 86.28	(S) 11.27	(C) 1.42	(Ni) 0.66	(Ga) 0.37

Comments on Group Three Coins

What we have here is a failure to conform. We have the Celtic issues, coins labeled #21–23 from the 1st century BC, which are called Celtic 'gold', but they are almost classically electrum in composition (a couple have a bit higher amount of copper). Then we have the Roman and related issues labeled #24–28, generally of later issue except for coins #21 and #25, which have a very high gold content and a much wider range of trace elements. That the Roman gold coins, including the Romano-Dacian coin #24 from Romania, are largely of slightly lower purity than the Macedonian gold coins in Group Two, means that the issuers did not simply melt and re-strike them (aurei are a slightly lower weight standard than the staters, so they would not have just been over-struck). The exception on fineness is the Julius Caesar aureus #26 from 46 BC, which exactly the same in composition as many Macedonian pieces. This is ironic, since I've seen one study that examined very, very minute platinum-related trace elements in both Celtic and early Roman coins (too minute to register by XFR) to see if the Romans used Celtic booty to strike their own gold. The minute traces tie the metal to a specific origin, and it was shown that at least the

early Roman gold was sourced from the Celts. This possibility was examined because Caesar, as proconsul, had conquered the southern Celts in the Gallic Wars of 58–51 BC. An accounting of this episode was contained in my article: 'Dabbling in Celtic Gold', *The Planchet*, September 2017.

Aside from the one Caesar aureus, Roman gold fineness seems fairly consistent at 94–96 percent. This includes the earliest, 3rd century BC Republican gold 20 asses, #25, from Sicily, and the last specimen, a 4th century AD solidus, #28, from Asia Minor. The trace of iron may again be surface contamination. There is some commonality among three of the Roman issues, in that nickel and gallium was found.

The Celtic coins show only lead as a trace element in two of the three coins, and no traces in the other – again surprising (lead is often a companion element in silver ore). The British Celts were related to the continental Celts, especially in the style of coinages and probably a lot more. The British Corieltavi coin #23 is lower in gold fineness and quite different in color, being a bit of a reddish-tan hue – the only explanation is possibly less gold and more copper.

It is interesting that there is a steady decline in the amount of gold in these and most Celtic coins over time, and into the 1st century AD, traceable in many of their issues. By the turn of the BC/AD millennium, some issues appear to be pure silver, as with the Durotriges on the south coast of Britain, yet they are still sometimes labeled as 'gold' coins.



GEORGE MANZ
COINS

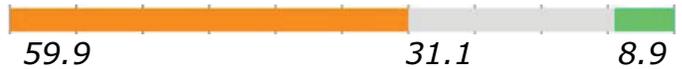
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Group Three – Celtic and Roman Gold Coins



21. Celtic Gaul – Senones – AV Stater
(Agenticum) 100–60 BC; 12.5 mm, 7.15g

- Unusual, electrum type; current Sens.
- Scarce type, some with omega symbol.
- Good gold level with no trace elements.
- Recent hoard, lustrous, little toning.



22. Celtic Belgica – Ambiani – AV Stater
(Samarobriva) 58–55 BC; 19.0 mm, 6.10g

- Concave electrum type; current Amiens.
- Scarce; evocative, artistic Celtic design.
- Good gold level; one minor trace element.
- Lovely, bright mid gold color with toning.



23. Celtic Britain – Corieltavi – AV Stater
(Lincoln Area) 45–20 BC; 21.0 mm, 5.74g

- Bit later issue with continental types.
- Previously rare; sharp Apollo/horse design.
- Lowered gold level and weight; thin flan.
- Unusual light reddish-tan color.



24. Dacia – Koson – AV Stater
(Sarmizegetusa) 42 BC; 21.0 mm, 8.39g

- Interesting tribal Balkans/Roman issue.
- Reasonably available but few perfect.
- Good eastern gold content with traces.
- Nice mid gold color; crude Republican style.



25. Rome Republic – Anon – AV 20 Asses
(Sicily) 211–208 BC; 10.0 mm, 1.13g

- Rare Republican gold minted in Sicily.
- Very small coin; good types and grade.
- High gold value similar to later aurei.
- Mid to dark gold color with toning.



26. Rome Republic – Julius Caesar – AV Aureus
(Rome) 46 BC; 20.0 mm, 8.10g

- Obviously a special early Roman gold coin.
- Rare; high grade early aureus.
- Almost pure gold, unusual (recycled?)
- Full, bright gold color with good toning.



27. Rome – Antoninus Pius – AV Aureus
(Rome) 152/3 AD; 18.0 mm, 7.22g

- Good example of typical Roman aureus.
- Scarce.
- High gold content; secondary/trace metals.
- Rich, bright mid gold color.



28. Rome – Constantius II – AV Solidus
(Antioch) 347/50 AD; 20.0 mm, 4.40g

- Late Roman gold in lighter denomination.
- Scarce issue; high grade.
- High gold content; minute trace elements.
- Mid to dark gold color with good toning.

Notes and Acknowledgements:

1. Analysis Assistance: I would like to thank South Edmonton Coin & Currency Ltd (southedmontoncoin.com) for use of its XRF machine. Jamie, Leigh and Matthew provided valuable expertise and assistance in the testing of these samples.
2. Collections and Photos: All coin photos are by the author. Pictured coins are from the collection of the author, except #'s 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 and 28, which are from the collection of Terence Cheesman. All corroborating coins for Groups Two and Three are also from Mr Cheesman's collection.
3. The above charts and graphs were prepared by the author, using only actual data recorded.
4. All comments are casual observations by the author based on some understanding of ancient numismatics and a brief study of related metallurgical information. They are offered only to potentially aid in interpreting the data and could be superseded by more informed research.



In Closing...

The first thing you'll notice is that there is a lot more to these coins than a run-of-the-mill Bitcoin®, even though the tiniest one weighs only half a gram. The second thing is that there is a whole lot of variety in the size, shape, color and artistry of these ancient gold and electrum issues – enough of a sparkle to warm the coldest of cold hearts I'm sure. Many differences in their metal composition have been uncovered in the testing. It's useful to know that the color of a coin doesn't necessarily tell you everything. It's also useful to see how the purity of gold coins changed by era and kingdom, a reflection of not only technological advancement, but also an indicator of the regional availability of precious metal and the role of coinage in each society. Although certain advanced refineries had worked out how to make gold virtually pure at least by the 5th century BC, there were also many incentives to leave it as an alloy, whether to improve its properties such as hardness, or simply just to reduce a coin's value.

It is sobering to think about the untold number of slave laborers

who toiled in countless dank tunnels with only candles and rough hand tools, chipping at ore seams and hauling the heavy rubble to crude refineries for stoking and processing into precious coin blanks. All this under the same sun and moon we now enjoy mostly for recreation, travel and, of course, romance. Fortunately, the ancient coins that were produced so primitively can be breathtakingly beautiful at the same time, especially if they have that hint of GOLD.

With all of the conquering and pillaging that happened in those days, most of the earlier gold and electrum coins described here would have been commandeered and re-minted by successive regimes, or perhaps been made into objects such as jewelry. Many, or most, of the late coin types discussed above probably contain particles of previous ancient coins going right back to the beginning. It was only a few decades ago I heard that, if you melted all of the total gold production since ancient times into one lump, it would form a cube roughly 50 feet square. Such is the

special durability, versatility and attraction of gold that it has persevered, immutable but changeable, through all its incarnations over the ages. The same principle of gold recycling applies today, except that modern gold mining has far outstripped earlier production levels, and modern demand can be easily met. That lump may now be twice as large.

Whether for its technical contribution, or just its sheer entertainment value, I think the analysis of these precious coins was immensely useful. Not everything that shines with a golden glow is what it appears, but having this kind of data removes a heavy veil of uncertainty about their nature. The extra knowledge makes it hard not to appreciate the communal effort and the savage hardship that was required to create these culturally advanced artifacts. We also need to celebrate the lucky circumstance that allowed so many of them to survive in order that they could, indeed, be appreciated. ☹️

Quotes on Analyze/Analysis

See, if you analyze stuff long enough, you'll eventually break ideas down to the quantum level where nothing makes sense and there's no longer any meaning to anything. And then when you try to put it all back together again, you realize the pieces just don't fit anymore. Worse, you realize that the pieces never fit in the first place. And then you're left with a heap of broken ideas and beliefs that are shattered beyond repair.

— P.S. Baber

To dissect a poem as if it were a system is a crime, even a sacrilege.

— Emil Cioran

The intellectual is constantly betrayed by his vanity. Godlike he blandly assumes that he can express everything in words whereas the things one loves, lives, and dies for are not, in the last analysis completely expressible in words.

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Love hates to be cross-examined. Question love, and it runs away.

— Marty Rubin

Analysis and synthesis are different mental muscles to serve different purposes.

— Pearl Zhu

There's a need to dig up the past and analyze it.

— Michael Cimino

When analytic thought, the knife, is applied to experience, something is always killed in the process.

— Robert M. Pirsig

Now, analysis, the breaking of the wholes into parts, is fundamental to science, but for judging works of art, the procedure is more uncertain: what are the natural parts of a story, a sonnet, a painting? The maker's aim is to project his vision by creating not a machine made up of parts but the impression of seamless unity that belongs to a living thing.

— Jacques Barzun

In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

— John F. Kennedy

Apply analysis when appropriate, but keep it on a short leash when joy beckons.

— Alan Cohen



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Really Big and Ugly

A Cast As of the Roman Republic

by Terence Cheesman



Figure 1

A Cast As of the Roman Republic (circa 225 B.C.)

I think every coin collector has a numismatic “bucket” list. Ever since I started collecting the coinage of the Roman Republic I have wanted one of the large cast Asses of the early republic. The one I always had my eye on was one which features the head of Janus on the obverse and the prow of a galley on the reverse. This type set the pattern for Roman base metal coinages for most of the Republican period, ending in 30 B.C. Though the large cast coinages started sometime around 280 B.C., the Janus/Prow Libral standard As was first manufactured in 225 B.C, and continued in production until 217 B.C. The problems associated with the purchase of these large coins are somewhat greater than those associated with other ancient coins. The first problem is that they are cast and somewhat crude. This makes them easy to counterfeit, so I have to trust the dealer.

The second problem is shipping. At least one time when I was enquiring about purchasing one, I was told by the vendor that he would not ship internationally. I guess the post office has some restrictions, or he was worried that customs might declare the thing a WMD or something. Don’t ask, I really do not know. When I was in London a few months ago, I saw one being offered at an auction and actually made plans to try purchasing it. This was not to be. I purchased other coins and pushed this project back on the backburner, again. But upon returning from London, I was offered a really nice specimen and shipping was no problem. I decided: yeah, it is time to bite the bullet and buy one. (Figure 1)

The first thing that one notices about my new coin is that it is massive. It has a diameter of 63 mm and weighs 272.48 grams, which is a bit heavier than the standard weight of this series which is 268 grams. The As was the principal denomination and was divided into 12 units or Uncia. There were a further five denominations created – the Semis was half of an As or six Uncia, the Triens was a third of an As or four Uncia, the Quadrans a quarter of an As or three Uncia. There was also the Sextans or a sixth of an As or two Uncia (I know this stuff is mind numbing, but it gets important later). All these coins were cast using a process called sand casting. This is a very inexpensive process since the mold material consists basically of sand mixed with clay. In this process, the desired object pattern

is placed into the two halves of the mold (the cope is on the top and the drag is on the bottom). The pattern is removed creating a cavity, then runners and risers are added. The mold is joined together and metal is poured in and left to cool. Although a prototype would have been used for the mold initially, it is possible that a real coin would have been used to create subsequent molds. Once the coin had cooled, any excess metal such as the rough sprue or imperfections created where the two halves connected would be removed and smoothed off. The coin was then polished to give it a more attractive appearance.

This series has three basic design variants. The first has a horizontal bar below the head of Janus denoting the denomination 'I' (As). The reverse features the prow of a warship facing right. The second variety, which includes my coin, omits this feature and the third variety, generally considered to be the last, has the prow facing left on the reverse. Otherwise, all varieties have a vertical bar above the prow denoting the denomination. The first variety is the most common followed by the second with the third being much more rare. The Second Punic War, which started in 218 B.C. caused a massive disruption in the production of these coins and by 217 B.C. coins of the Semi Libral standard were initiated. As implied, these coins were cast at a standard roughly half the weight of the previous coinage. However, even this weight standard proved untenable. Starting in 215 B.C., the Post Semi-Libral standard was introduced. This latter group of coins is poorly understood. It is unknown whether there were two distinct weight reductions or a more or less haphazard decline in weight. My coin (Figure 2) is roughly the weight of a Libral standard Quadrans, however coins with the weight standard



Figure 2
A Cast As of the Roman Republic (circa 215 B.C.)



Figure 3
A Cast As of the Roman Republic (circa 211 B.C.)

of a Libral Triens are known as well. However, by now the reduction of weight placed the As within the range of the technical ability of the Roman state to strike these coins. So even though most Asses are still cast, some of Quadrantal weight were being struck. This system seems to have lasted until 211 B.C. when Asses were struck at a standard somewhat less than the Libral Sextans (Figure 3).

The question that one gets is how much was an As worth, and that can be a "huge" problem (no pun intended). The closest parallel to this coinage pattern is the Ptolemaic system based on a silver Tetradrachm using a weight standard of 14.2 grams

and a bronze Drachm of 68.4 grams. This would result in a ratio of silver versus copper somewhere around 4.81 grams of copper to 1 gram of silver (actual ratio might be 5 to 1). The ratio suggested by the weights of the Roman cast coins versus the contemporary silver "Quadrigratus" ranges from 40 to 1 if this coin is equivalent to a silver Didrachm. It would be 80 to 1 if compared to a base metal Drachm, or even 400 to 1 if we use the ratio of the silver Denarius to the copper As. Current scholarship seems to agree that the ratio is 120 to 1, so that three of these massive coins equals a Quadrigratus which is a Didrachm weighing about 6.75 grams.

One has to ask, what would these things really be used for? Apparently Roman legionaries were paid with these coins. Mine weighs 272.48 grams, more or less, while the standard weight for one of these coins is roughly 268 grams or about 0.60 of a pound. Thus, four of these coins would weigh over a kilogram and ten would weigh about 2.6 kilograms or 6 pounds. A massive hoard of these coins consisting of 1569 specimens was found some years ago. This group would have weighed about 420 kilograms or 930 pounds (somebody must have got tired of hauling this stuff around or the cart broke down). It is hard to think of these coins being used for daily commercial transactions. However, it must be said that at this time most citizens of Rome were farmers. A number of years ago I interviewed an individual who lived on a farm

in Italy during World War II. He observed that the only time they needed money was to buy metal or land, and to pay taxes. Most everything they needed came from the farm and it is very likely that a Roman citizen was not that much different. So it is likely that these coins were simply a rather cumbersome method of storing wealth. Soldiers at this time would be paid out at the close of the campaign season, so the need to carry a large number of these clumsy coins during the campaign would not be necessary.

The prevailing theory is that these coins were cast at the mint of Rome. This is, so far, the most logical answer to the question. However, the design of the prow on my coin is very similar to struck Asses of Sextantal standard thought to have been minted in southern

Italy. Though interesting, there is no real evidence of Semi-Libral or Post Semi-Libral cast Asses made using this modified design. So without any clear link between the Libral As and the Sextantal standard struck Asses minted in south Italy, we still cannot confirm that the Libral Asses were minted anywhere else other than Rome.

The Roman Libral As was an episode in economic history where the authorities attempted to create a base metal coinage that reflected the actual value of copper at that time. There are other examples such as the Swedish "plate" money and the British "cartwheel" coinages. All these experiments proved to be short lived as the coins were simply too heavy and awkward to be of much practical use. The Roman experiment lasted longer than most. ☒

(Coin photos by W Hansen)

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1858 - Small date	16.29	24.31	32.33	38.79	45.24	60.72	76.19	102.79	129.38	217.03	392.97	879.76
1858 - Large date	114.63	161.73	208.83	264.92	321.00	430.59	540.17	754.82	969	1,515	2,487	5,129
1870	14.03	20.05	26.06	35.73	45.40	57.79	70.17	100.98	131.79	214.97	400.03	1,067
1871	14.11	20.18	26.26	34.72	43.18	74.90	106.61	117.32	128.02	225.16	423.23	954.06
1872H	12.10	17.08	22.05	29.16	36.27	45.33	54.39	85.90	117.40	248.74	551.33	1,669
1874H - Large date	17.37	24.41	31.44	47.52	63.59	93.55	123.51	196.11	268.71	462.23	850.19	1,827
1874H - Small date	18.37	27.41	36.45	55.27	74.08	111.32	148.55	204.46	260.36	403.80	750.02	1,760
1875H - Small date	123.62	182.75	241.87	295.33	348.80	480.28	611.76	800.67	989.58	1,565	3,394	9,916
1875H - Large date	236.37	349.53	462.68	563.51	664.34	855.13	1,046	1,516	1,986	3,603	7,040	-
1880H	6.16	9.50	12.85	17.89	22.93	35.92	48.90	76.05	103.21	223.84	467.74	1,100
1881H	6.95	10.53	14.11	21.53	28.96	40.62	52.27	83.45	114.63	246.85	548.11	1,218
1882H	8.95	13.86	18.77	25.22	31.66	48.13	64.60	92.13	119.66	252.66	590.19	1,223
1883H	19.41	29.24	39.07	55.25	71.43	107.74	144.06	228.42	312.79	658.75	1,377	4,112
1884	101.24	144.99	188.75	243.31	297.88	420.68	543.47	865.35	1,187	2,685	5,770	15,056
1885 - Small 5	13.03	19.62	26.21	36.14	46.07	64.00	81.94	143.39	204.84	530.73	1,220	3,801
1885 - Large 5	13.50	20.89	28.29	37.81	47.34	70.72	94.11	152.86	211.62	571.04	1,231	4,289
1886 - Small 6	8.25	12.96	17.67	22.85	28.04	38.91	49.78	81.87	113.97	260.33	638.22	1,830
1886 - Large 6	9.97	16.93	23.89	29.30	34.71	47.99	61.27	100.07	138.86	299.16	671.81	1,916
1887	16.23	27.54	38.84	51.33	63.82	81.22	98.62	165.33	232.03	389.16	723.96	1,704
1887 - Repunched 7 (7/7)	24.81	32.26	39.70	57.07	74.44	107.39	140.35	225.56	310.78	546.37	-	-
1888	5.55	8.37	11.19	16.67	22.14	29.80	37.46	58.25	79.04	136.41	286.75	723.81
1889	22.70	32.48	42.25	54.18	66.10	97.59	129.08	214.88	300.69	458.50	848.33	2,033
1890H	6.38	9.76	13.14	19.15	25.17	36.07	46.98	77.50	108.01	192.08	370.26	729.40
1890H - 1's in Victoria	9.53	14.59	19.64	28.63	37.63	53.93	70.23	115.86	161.48	287.17	553.54	1,090
1891	5.37	8.36	11.36	13.73	16.11	22.81	29.51	43.28	57.05	112.04	268.45	670.97
1892	6.04	9.37	12.69	17.32	21.94	32.78	43.62	70.31	96.99	197.66	511.74	1,197
1893	5.37	8.36	11.36	13.58	15.81	22.67	29.53	42.45	55.37	119.71	309.02	679.32
1893 - Far 3	7.03	10.10	13.17	16.03	18.88	28.76	38.64	55.54	72.45	155.87	395.16	965.94
1894	14.55	21.54	28.52	41.11	53.69	75.29	96.88	147.27	197.66	342.80	687.64	1,816
1896	5.37	7.55	9.73	13.72	17.70	23.48	29.26	43.99	58.72	121.23	317.51	698.76
1897	5.39	7.73	10.07	12.92	15.77	22.99	30.20	48.66	67.11	127.52	318.73	629.21
1898	13.25	18.64	24.02	29.09	34.15	52.52	70.88	111.39	151.89	291.12	582.25	1,342
1899	4.71	6.72	8.72	11.71	14.70	19.09	23.49	35.23	46.98	95.72	209.73	523.38
1900 - Small date	4.71	7.08	9.44	11.22	12.99	18.47	23.94	37.98	54.19	103.59	221.57	656.99
1900 - Large date	17.87	26.20	34.52	49.55	64.59	81.21	97.82	167.23	236.64	388.78	665.35	1,603
1901	4.69	6.80	8.90	10.75	12.59	17.66	22.73	38.10	53.48	95.72	203.16	528.96

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DTS AVERAGE • 5¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

Edward 5¢	G 4	G 6	VG 8	VG 10	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 63
1902	1.83	2.62	3.41	4.23	5.05	6.81	8.58	11.53	14.48	24.80	51.78	80.18
1902H - Large H	2.10	2.88	3.67	4.52	5.37	7.40	9.44	13.55	17.66	29.79	57.89	86.86
1902H - Small H	6.75	9.89	13.03	17.37	21.71	30.55	39.38	54.49	69.60	103.59	158.86	267.34
1903	3.32	5.26	7.21	10.42	13.63	21.37	29.11	47.13	65.14	133.78	281.17	602.06
1903H - Small H	2.15	3.59	5.04	7.28	9.51	13.91	18.31	27.13	35.95	85.86	162.66	453.79
1903H - Large H	13.09	18.05	23.02	29.41	35.81	49.87	63.94	94.63	125.32	196.93	421.99	1,253
1904	2.10	3.21	4.32	6.02	7.72	12.01	16.30	26.13	35.96	98.55	272.83	754.47
1905	1.75	2.68	3.60	5.24	6.87	9.70	12.53	19.62	26.72	59.93	154.10	363.25
1906	1.75	2.54	3.34	4.98	6.63	8.89	11.14	16.60	22.06	51.37	138.69	420.37
1907	1.75	2.45	3.15	3.85	4.55	6.78	9.02	12.86	16.71	37.30	90.60	192.10
1908 - Small 8	4.46	7.47	10.48	14.15	17.82	27.29	36.76	52.50	68.23	102.82	158.72	258.97
1908 - Large 8	23.62	36.74	49.86	72.48	95.10	125.91	156.72	230.32	303.91	434.23	751.67	1,420
1909	3.15	4.37	5.59	7.69	9.79	14.36	18.93	32.02	45.10	110.74	318.79	868.82
1910 - Round bottom 0	2.10	2.97	3.85	4.81	5.77	8.04	10.31	13.28	16.25	31.74	78.53	142.03
1910 - Flat bottom 0	3.67	5.15	6.63	8.22	9.81	13.54	17.28	22.04	26.81	51.18	125.97	248.00

George V Silver 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 63
1911	4.34	7.24	11.25	13.30	15.35	17.41	19.46	28.08	45.30	64.32	102.35	155.91
1912	4.20	6.64	10.63	11.90	13.17	14.43	15.70	23.28	38.43	54.75	87.41	233.86
1913	3.32	4.72	7.69	8.92	10.14	11.36	12.59	15.63	21.71	28.46	41.95	94.66
1914	3.50	4.89	9.24	10.43	11.61	12.80	13.98	21.56	36.71	52.47	83.98	222.73
1915	18.55	27.97	43.70	53.24	62.78	72.31	81.85	124.55	209.95	290.29	450.97	902.21
1916	5.68	10.80	16.04	20.10	24.17	28.23	32.29	48.65	81.36	106.72	157.46	350.88
1917	2.80	4.55	5.94	7.91	9.88	11.84	13.81	18.53	27.97	37.21	55.68	120.27
1918	2.80	4.55	5.94	7.77	9.60	11.42	13.25	16.26	22.27	31.16	48.95	103.01
1919	2.80	4.55	6.29	8.03	9.77	11.51	13.25	16.26	22.27	30.44	46.78	100.25
1920	2.80	4.55	6.29	7.95	9.60	11.26	12.92	15.85	21.72	28.46	41.95	85.21
1921	5,515	6,852	8,439	9,003	9,567	10,131	10,695	11,921	14,372	15,820	18,717	33,406

George V Nickel 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 63
1922	1.76	3.27	5.79	7.62	9.44	11.26	13.09	20.14	34.25	46.34	70.53	150.33
1923	1.89	3.78	7.21	10.97	14.72	18.47	22.22	36.81	66.00	101.08	171.25	405.23
1924	1.52	3.29	6.08	9.11	12.14	15.18	18.21	26.91	44.31	71.52	125.94	330.02
1925	98.73	122.96	169.62	215.82	262.02	308.22	354.42	506.32	810.11	1,211	2,013	5,846
1926 - Near 6	21.14	26.02	36.32	49.51	62.70	75.89	89.08	143.70	252.95	370.14	604.53	1,899
1926 - Far 6	173.80	250.67	401.07	499.21	597.35	695.49	793.64	963.95	1,305	1,761	2,674	6,851
1927	1.77	3.29	6.24	8.99	11.75	14.51	17.26	25.43	41.77	59.62	95.33	203.86
1928	1.77	3.29	7.93	11.00	14.08	17.16	20.24	27.41	41.76	56.27	85.30	142.03
1929	1.52	2.70	5.23	8.18	11.13	14.08	17.04	24.79	40.30	61.40	103.59	225.58
1930	1.52	2.70	5.56	9.06	12.56	16.05	19.55	31.50	55.41	83.73	140.37	342.43
1931	1.52	2.70	5.95	10.79	15.63	20.47	25.32	45.42	85.64	132.29	225.60	860.44
NOTE:	Throughout the year a marked improvement has been shown in the efficiency of the coining presses, especially while coining nickel blanks, due to chromium plated collars. Ref; 1931 Mint Report p.117											
1932	1.52	2.70	6.15	10.38	14.60	18.83	23.06	38.04	68.01	111.23	197.66	687.61
1933	2.05	3.94	8.06	13.62	19.17	24.72	30.28	55.45	105.79	190.29	359.29	1,036
1934	1.52	3.29	6.17	10.43	14.69	18.95	23.21	38.98	70.53	113.06	198.13	790.58
1935	1.52	3.29	6.17	9.76	13.36	16.95	20.55	34.69	62.97	94.04	156.17	501.09
1936 - Near S	1.52	2.70	5.91	8.29	10.67	13.05	15.42	22.53	36.75	49.69	75.57	178.18
1936 - Far S	1.86	3.31	7.24	10.16	13.07	15.98	18.89	27.60	45.02	60.87	92.57	218.27
NOTE:	A minimum of 348,450 5¢ pieces were held back in reserve at the end of 1936. Ref; 1936 Mint Report P.5 & P.7											

George VI 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 63	MS 64
1937	0.59	1.06	2.77	3.26	3.76	4.25	4.74	6.85	9.84	15.82	30.05	56.76
NOTE:	The four lower denominations were available at all Agencies of the Bank of Canada on the prescribed date. Ref; 1937 Mint Report P.7 & P.14											
1938	1.28	2.77	5.45	8.04	10.64	13.23	15.83	49.20	66.78	101.92	206.63	753.77
NOTE:	200 sets of coins dated 1937 were struck in 1938. Ref; 1938 Mint Report P.7											
1939	0.98	1.98	3.34	4.74	6.15	7.56	8.96	28.12	40.31	64.69	109.35	242.07
1940	0.59	1.05	2.11	2.77	3.43	4.09	4.74	10.54	16.54	28.52	65.53	141.90
1941	0.57	1.05	2.11	2.90	3.69	4.48	5.27	14.36	22.17	37.78	86.40	250.42
1942 - Nickel	0.68	1.18	2.29	2.90	3.52	4.13	4.74	10.54	16.54	28.52	60.10	125.21
1942 - Tombac	0.68	1.14	2.11	2.46	2.81	3.16	3.51	5.70	6.44	7.92	20.45	40.07

DTS AVERAGE • 5¢ COIN RETAIL PRICES

George VI 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 63	MS 64
1943 - Tombac	0.67	1.03	1.69	2.13	2.56	2.99	3.43	5.54	6.40	8.11	17.11	36.73
1943 Flat Rim rev 12/12	0.89	1.37	2.24	2.82	3.39	3.97	4.54	7.34	8.64	11.26	31.63	48.67
1943 Step Rim rev 12/12	1.64	2.52	4.13	5.18	6.24	7.29	8.35	13.49	15.89	20.70	58.15	64.48
1943 Dot between C.E	2.31	3.55	5.82	7.31	8.79	10.28	11.77	19.01	22.40	29.18	88.69	102.38
1943 Dot right of flame	2.83	4.35	7.13	8.95	10.77	12.59	14.42	23.29	27.44	35.75	117.51	135.66
1943 Dot on 4	3.46	5.33	8.73	10.96	13.19	15.43	17.66	28.53	33.62	43.79	155.70	179.75
NOTE:	8,000 Tombacs dated 1943 were held back in Reserve at years end. Ref; 19 - 42,43,44 Mint Reports											
1944	0.46	0.92	1.41	1.65	1.89	2.13	2.37	4.03	4.78	6.29	8.20	15.03
1944 No chrome	0.91	1.82	2.78	3.25	3.73	4.21	4.68	8.32	9.88	13.01	25.18	50.63
NOTE:	8,000 Tombacs coined in 1943, dated 1943 were released from reserve into circulation during 1944. Ref; 1944 Mint Report Pages 3, 4, 6, 7, 17											
1944 Tombac	One example in a circulated state of preservation is claimed to exist.											
1945	0.48	0.97	1.48	1.73	1.99	2.24	2.50	4.24	5.47	7.94	9.52	21.70
1945 No chrome	0.91	1.82	2.78	3.25	3.73	4.21	4.68	8.32	10.75	15.61	31.18	101.27
1946	0.51	1.03	2.06	2.58	3.10	3.61	4.13	9.68	12.83	19.14	51.13	125.21
1946 6 over 6	3.10	6.21	12.41	14.76	17.11	19.47	21.82	36.93	50.36	77.22	169.51	-
1946 Arrowhead rev	3.10	6.21	12.41	14.76	17.11	19.47	21.82	36.93	50.36	77.22	169.51	-
1946 Arrowhead obv+rev	3.83	7.66	15.33	17.89	20.44	23.00	25.56	44.73	61.77	95.84	259.03	-
1947	0.55	1.11	2.22	2.78	3.33	3.89	4.44	8.14	10.80	16.11	39.55	80.13
1947 - Dot	26.67	35.59	50.85	65.25	79.66	94.07	108.47	211.94	240.97	299.04	524.76	901.50
1947 - 2 Dots over 4	28.83	38.48	54.97	70.55	86.12	101.69	117.27	229.12	260.51	323.29	567.31	974.60
1947 - Maple Leaf	0.55	1.11	2.22	2.78	3.33	3.89	4.44	7.77	10.42	15.73	35.61	56.76
1948	1.72	2.55	4.40	5.57	6.73	7.90	9.07	20.15	22.95	28.55	50.26	75.13
1949	0.48	0.97	1.94	2.39	2.83	3.27	3.71	7.42	8.69	11.22	25.16	46.74
1950	0.48	0.97	1.94	2.39	2.83	3.27	3.71	7.42	8.54	10.77	25.06	53.42
1951 - Nickel	0.48	0.97	1.81	1.95	2.09	2.24	2.38	4.77	5.77	7.77	12.20	25.04
1951 - Dot obv King	6.21	12.48	23.18	25.04	26.90	28.76	30.62	61.25	74.10	99.81	142.98	-
1951 - Steel	0.30	0.51	1.02	1.27	1.52	1.76	2.01	3.82	4.60	6.16	14.09	25.04
1952	0.30	0.51	0.97	1.22	1.46	1.71	1.96	3.77	4.43	5.75	12.05	23.37

Elizabeth II 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63	MS 64	MS 65
1953 - NSF	0.17	0.36	0.72	1.39	2.06	3.21	4.88	6.69	8.51	10.32	21.21	52.44
NOTE:	The No Shoulder Fold (NSF) variation occurred unintentionally (in error). Ref; 1953 Mint Report P.8											
1953 NSF Closed 5	1.89	4.04	7.80	11.15	14.51	22.80	31.82	42.48	53.13	63.78	74.44	141.79
1953 - NSF near leaf	167.76	239.65	359.48	443.36	527.24	718.96	958.62	1,318	1,678	2,037	2,397	-
1953 - SF	0.17	0.36	0.76	1.44	2.13	3.81	6.32	8.59	10.87	13.14	21.21	67.46
1953 - SF far leaf	95.86	143.79	191.72	247.64	303.56	447.36	617.51	917.18	1,217	1,517	1,816	-
1954	0.20	0.42	0.89	1.66	2.43	4.04	8.54	11.68	14.82	17.96	25.84	86.39
1955	0.15	0.26	0.56	1.05	1.54	2.56	4.17	6.22	8.26	10.30	15.90	81.01
1956	0.15	0.26	0.56	1.05	1.54	2.56	3.40	5.16	6.92	8.68	14.77	69.36
1957	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.67	0.87	1.49	1.19	3.34	5.49	7.63	14.77	50.46
1957 - Bugtail	1.23	2.45	4.13	5.53	6.94	11.83	19.17	29.97	40.77	51.57	62.37	149.04
1958	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.67	0.87	1.49	2.41	4.15	5.89	7.63	14.77	51.21
1958 - Large left leaf	1.46	2.93	4.93	6.61	8.28	14.12	22.89	35.78	48.67	61.56	74.45	177.92
1958 - Double Date	2.13	4.26	7.18	9.61	12.05	20.55	33.30	52.06	70.82	89.57	108.33	258.88
1958 LRG Leaf + DBL Date	3.05	6.11	10.30	13.80	17.29	29.50	47.80	74.73	101.65	128.58	155.50	371.60
1959	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.67	0.87	1.49	2.41	3.71	5.02	6.32	13.22	42.20
NOTE:	"The Numismatic Section of the Mint" is mentioned for the first time. Ref; 1959 Mint Report P.4											
1960	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.67	0.87	1.49	2.41	3.65	4.88	6.12	13.22	42.45
NOTE:	A coin packaging machine was designed and built. "It will be used to seal sets of uncirculated coin in plastic for distribution by the Numismatic Section". Ref; 1960 Mint Report P.10											
1961	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.67	0.87	1.49	2.41	3.65	4.88	6.12	13.22	42.45
NOTE:	Two additional coining presses are being converted to strike two five cent pieces at a time. Ref; 1961 Mint Report P.14											
1962	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.92	1.38	2.41	3.44	4.47	5.51	6.55	13.72	44.95
1962 - Double date	2.42	4.72	7.02	9.45	11.88	17.37	24.76	30.54	36.32	42.10	88.88	314.26
1962 - Heavy Double date	5.16	9.87	14.67	19.74	24.81	36.28	47.89	58.23	68.57	78.92	141.26	371.02
1962 - Doubled Reverse	5.91	11.30	16.80	22.60	28.41	41.54	54.83	66.67	78.52	90.36	161.74	424.82
NOTE:	In 1962, for the first time, the five-cent coin was struck from nickel blanks fabricated in Canada. Ref; 1962 Mint Report P.6											
1963	0.13	0.25	0.47	0.74	1.00	1.63	2.16	2.96	3.77	4.57	15.15	83.20
NOTE:	To contend with the increased uncirculated coin demand, the Numismatic Section facilities were enlarged considerably by the acquisition of more space. Ref; 1963 Mint Report P.8											
1964	0.13	0.25	0.47	0.74	1.00	1.63	2.68	3.62	4.56	5.50	15.15	95.22
1964 Obv+Rev Die Clashes	13.01	13.82	15.18	16.32	17.45	20.28	28.24	40.13	52.02	63.90	389.41	-

Elizabeth II 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63	MS 64	MS 65
1964 - Extra Waterline	23.09	24.53	26.95	28.96	30.97	36.01	50.13	71.23	92.33	113.43	691.21	-
1965	0.13	0.25	0.47	0.74	1.00	1.63	2.68	3.36	4.03	4.70	15.85	96.53
1965 - Arrowhead Queen	6.00	9.00	12.00	15.00	18.00	22.62	27.33	32.22	37.11	42.00	69.89	198.55
1966	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.72	0.97	1.59	2.68	3.70	4.71	5.73	21.05	208.82
NOTE:	In addition to the striking of regular coins, several trial runs on 1967 coinage were made. Ref: 1966 Mint Report P.8											
1967	0.12	0.25	0.46	0.72	0.97	1.59	2.68	3.28	3.88	4.48	11.87	103.30
1968	0.23	0.35	0.57	0.82	1.08	1.70	2.73	3.37	4.01	4.65	12.29	47.28
1968 Beads/Denticles obv	0.52	0.81	1.30	1.90	2.49	3.91	6.29	12.95	19.62	26.29	37.81	119.32
1968 Denticles obv	7.83	12.10	19.57	27.52	35.48	50.25	64.64	85.12	105.60	126.08	230.85	520.50
1969	0.23	0.35	0.57	0.82	1.08	1.70	2.73	3.37	4.01	4.65	13.30	67.09

Elizabeth II 5¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 30	EF 40	AU 50	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63	MS 64	MS 65
1970 thru 1979	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.32	1.34	2.40	3.47	4.53	12.02	33.81
1977 - High7	0.29	0.58	0.82	0.92	1.03	2.05	2.71	5.41	8.10	10.79	21.57	70.03
1977 - Low7	0.29	0.58	0.82	0.92	1.03	2.05	2.71	5.73	8.75	11.77	24.48	74.42
1980 thru 1989	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.32	1.34	3.20	5.06	6.92	15.03	84.41
1990 thru 1999	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.32	1.34	3.03	4.73	6.43	12.26	40.43
1990 - Bare Belly	7.69	12.82	15.38	17.95	20.51	25.64	37.41	48.29	59.16	70.04	150.46	328.42
1990 - Tired Eye	7.88	13.14	15.76	18.39	21.02	26.27	38.04	53.73	69.42	85.11	176.41	331.19
1996 - Attached-6 [A-6]	46.62	56.98	67.34	77.70	88.06	119.13	129.49	207.19	284.89	362.58	440.28	621.57
1996 - Crowned Beaver A-6	86.02	110.60	135.18	159.76	184.34	208.92	282.65	457.78	632.90	808.02	983.14	1,475
1996 - Far 6	0.36	0.51	0.77	1.28	1.79	2.31	5.41	11.06	16.70	22.35	41.33	161.81
1998 - Bare Belly	17.63	29.38	35.26	41.14	47.01	58.76	89.13	-	-	-	-	-
2000 thru 2009	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.32	1.34	1.86	2.38	2.91	7.64	21.98
2000P	0.13	0.27	0.53	0.80	1.07	1.60	2.67	3.92	5.17	6.42	9.05	27.43
2001 No P	0.14	0.30	0.60	0.90	1.20	1.79	2.99	4.64	6.29	7.94	14.38	46.94
2001P Erroneous Period (G.)	12.63	17.71	21.25	25.54	29.82	37.27	56.53	71.55	86.57	101.60	226.45	401.77
2010 thru 2016	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.32	1.34	2.80	4.26	5.72	6.71	17.15



5¢ 1925

(Photo: Canadian Coinoisseur)



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Bei Georg, er, By George...

Part the Third

by **Marc Bink**

When we last left England in October of 1760, George II had finally expired and left things to his grandson. The country breathed a sigh of relief and welcomed the new king. Here again, the Hanoverians decided to keep things simple; the new king was again called “George”, no one could accuse them of being progressive.



George III in his coronation robes (1760)

But the new king was progressive; he was the first Hanoverian who was actually born and raised in Britain. He was born to Frederick, George II's eldest German-born son, the Prince of Wales, and his wife Augusta, on June 4, 1738. George's mother was also of German extraction, having come from the Saxe-Gotha line from Saxony. George was born 2 months premature, which may have contributed to issues he had for the rest of his long life. He wasn't expected to survive; infant mortality the 18th century was exceptionally high to begin with, and being so premature certainly didn't work

in his favour. But he did survive, and he was regarded as a bit of a miracle “gift from God” as a result. His parents doted on both him and his younger brother Edward. He received a fairly rounded education, a first for any English king; he was able to read in both English and German by age 8. He excelled at the sciences and had a particular interest in Astronomy. Moreover, he was well versed in, and able to intelligently comment on, current events and politics at a very young age, seeming to appreciate his future role. In fact, today he would be considered “gifted”.

His father, Frederick, the Prince of Wales, died suddenly in 1751 when George was 13. All of a sudden, he was thrust into the forefront, and with that, his grandfather, King George II, finally began to take an interest in him. The grandfather finally realized that, he too wasn't much longer for this earth. He wanted to ensure that his grandson was somewhat ready to take over the reins of power. However, young George's mother was highly protective of her son and refused to grant the old King access – she kept George at home.

In typical Hanoverian tradition, the younger George had a rocky time with courtships and subsequent marriage. The biggest hurdle was that his grandfather, George II, had to approve any marriage he could enter into. The first person he fell in love with wasn't "good enough" since her stature in the peerage wasn't sufficiently high to warrant a future king's attention, so George grudgingly moved on. His grandfather then wanted him to marry a Sophie-Caroline of Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, which would have cemented and enlarged the Hanoverian position in Germany, but a deal could not be reached. Sophie instead married the Margrave of Bayreuth.

George married Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. They were introduced on their wedding day. I wonder what she must have thought coming to London from Schwerin, a small little backwater of a town in northern

Germany. However, the castle she grew up in was spectacular, so I'm sure her standards were already set pretty high. Either way, the cultural shock must have been incredible. Six hours after she first set foot in England, after a harrowing crossing, she was married to George. The first thing she had to promise him was that "she wouldn't meddle" in politics or his affairs. She held that promise and supported her husband for 57 years. What is unique about their marriage is that they actually grew to love each other. George never "fooled around" on his wife. He's probably the first English king to ever do that. They had a good marriage and the couple had 15 children, 9 sons and 6 daughters. The future of the Hanoverian dynasty seemed to be assured for generations to come. George and Charlotte became patrons of the arts and many famous composers of the day visited. Mozart showed up with his family in 1765 and

even composed some music for Queen Charlotte. She sang an aria with him.

No one could ever accuse George III of being a wanderer. He never left the south of England throughout his life. Unlike his predecessors, he never once went to Hanover. Nor did he go to Scotland or Wales. He went to Dorset for the beach in summers, and that was about it. He didn't like St. James Place, so in 1762 he bought Buckingham House instead, which became his primary residence. It started with Queen Charlotte liking the place on a visit. Although it wasn't far from their "official residence", it was somewhat out of the way. George started enlarging and improving the place since it was originally just a large townhouse (it's now called Buckingham Palace). I think there was more to it though; I have a feeling he wanted to stay away from his mother or at least keep her at arm's length.

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King George III as he would have appeared during the American Revolution of 1776–81

One other thing that happened fairly early on in George's reign was a sudden onset of madness or anti-social behaviour. The first bout occurred in 1765, though it didn't last long. At first it was assumed to be melancholy; there one minute and gone the next. What most people didn't appreciate then, as well as recently, is that it looks like George came by this affliction naturally. His father was also afflicted with bouts of melancholy and anti-social behaviour, so George may have inherited it. Recently, it's been speculated that porphyria may have been the cause of George's mental instability.

One of the first things that George did when ascended to the throne was change how he was being paid. The king owned a large number of properties, but in truth, they didn't generate much revenue. As such, the king was usually strapped for cash anytime his wife went on a shopping spree, or when he needed something for his large family. Previously, this had created serious problems for the Stuarts, who were always seen to be with hat in hand in front

of Parliament begging for money. George didn't want to end up the same way, and he felt that there should be transparency and accountability in the Royal finances. So he petitioned Parliament to create an annuity for them, and in return he would transfer his property to Parliament. At first this was perceived to be a bad thing; people thought that the king would use his income to buy influence or pay out bribes. Recent scholarship has found no evidence to suggest that. However, throughout the course of his reign, the Civil List was routinely increased and Parliament cleared off some three million pounds worth of debts.

But it left Parliament squarely in control of the country's finances, and it changed the nature of money. Previous to this, cash money was considered to be the property of the sovereign and a measure of his personal wealth. That's why it had the reigning monarch's effigy on it. After this, the king more or less became a ward of the state; they submitted household expenses for running the numerous palaces

and were awarded an "allowance" to maintain their persons. Initially, it worked well; but due to inflationary pressures and an ever-growing family, George III was forced to politely ask for more funds all the time. He did better than his own son, the future George IV, who spent money everywhere on wine, women and song, and who had racked up a considerable gambling debt.

The country's finances were changing in this period. It was the start of the Industrial Revolution, and there was a mass migration of people off the land into the cities. This meant the tax structure had to be adjusted, since land taxes were no longer a viable source of revenue for the Crown. George had done the math and already knew about the problem, but Parliament was just beginning to learn. It was a case of "be careful what you wish for" when the king handed over everything to Parliament; now they were responsible to dole out the money and keep the ship of state solvent. And that was getting tougher to do.

What was it like in George's London? Setting the Stage...

So what was it like in London in those days? We all have images of elaborately dressed and bewigged people deftly discussing the pressing issues of the day using witty euphemisms in airy and luxurious surroundings. Well, that's a fantasy. The truth is, life wasn't much better than it would have been in 1000 AD, or for that matter, in Rome a thousand years earlier. If anything, it was worse – just the clothing was more elaborate.

London at the time was the largest city in the world, and one of the dirtiest. It was seething with people, much like today, except that most of these people didn't smell very good and probably had no sense of smell left either.

They were largely unwashed, in some cases for years, and there were open latrines everywhere. Every yard had a "privy", which essentially was an outhouse mounted over a cesspool. Some better houses had the privy up a few stories, dumping into a chute that emptied into the cesspool. Horses were absolutely everywhere, and no one picked up after them either. It was unsafe to walk on a sidewalk, because there was a risk that someone above would empty the contents of their chamber pots on passers-by below. It was great sport. So it was safer to navigate amongst the piles in the streets. Men walked to the outside of the sidewalk to avoid getting nailed (most couldn't fling it that far)

and ladies used parasols to deflect any falling mess. Open gutters overflowed with the vilest substances, products of both humans and animals.

One thing that must have been very evident, even from miles away, was the stench. The whole place was covered and buried in dung; and when it rained the spatter from disturbed puddles accumulated on walls or on passers-by, which turned everything brown. So disease and pestilence was commonplace and more or less epidemic. And with every passing month, more and more people would turn up from the countryside seeking their fortune or just to earn a few scraps of bread in one of the

new factories that were starting to spring up. Any spare space of land was given over to some building; most ramshackle, some repaired from the Great Fire in 1666, most in grievous disrepair. It was dangerous just to get around – particularly after dark, because of the risk of bumping into things, such as fallen junk and low hanging iron signs. Cottage industries were giving way to large factories; this would of course hit its zenith in the mid-nineteenth century, but the movement away from traditional industry had started in around 1750.

This is one reason George bought Buckingham House in 1762. It was outside of London and was almost rural by comparison. It was located in Westmintster in parkland. It wasn't too far from the traditional seats of power, Whitechapel and St. James Place, but it was on the opposite end of London from the old Tower. It probably didn't stink as bad there.

The City of London was actually quite small. What we consider "London" today is actually a number of smaller towns all rolled into one. For the most part this had been accomplished by 1770; although I still have the odd watch that has an address of a one-time town that is now a suburb or section of London.

Travellers to London stayed in one of the many inns that were located near the city and in Westminster. These old

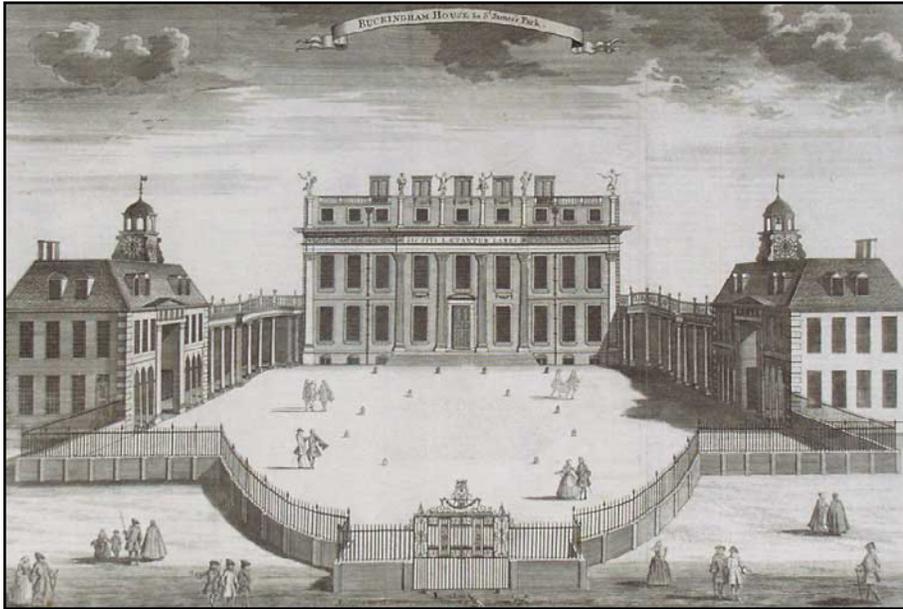


An 18th century impression of St. James Palace, the official residence of the monarchy.

Coaching Inns had been around for hundreds of years by this point. Stagecoaches would be staged from them; each inn had stagecoaches departing to different cities and locations. The buildings themselves would be large square shaped things with the inner courtyards devoted to the care of livestock. This way they could close and secure the inn at night. In those days there were no police, so everyone was looking out for their own security and criminal activity was rife. Stay out past lock-down and you're on your own. These inns would double as rooming houses; long-term travellers could stay there as long as their money held out. And these places were not cheap to stay at. Most of the Inns had a pub or a bar and a

restaurant of sorts attached to them, so travellers didn't have to venture out in the night. You took your life in your hands if you did; the area around the inns was always working class poor, or worse. Pickpockets were an accepted fact of life. It was considered an English thing to do – to give chase and turn in the criminal who robbed you to the local constabulary. The idea of "police" was considered "foreign" and frowned on as an infringement on English liberty.

And speaking of crime, the punishment for one was usually unduly harsh. There were about 240 hanging offenses. As a result, there were people hanging around everywhere, public executions became sort



An early shot of Buckingham House, much the way George III would have first seen it.

On the Road to middle age and madness

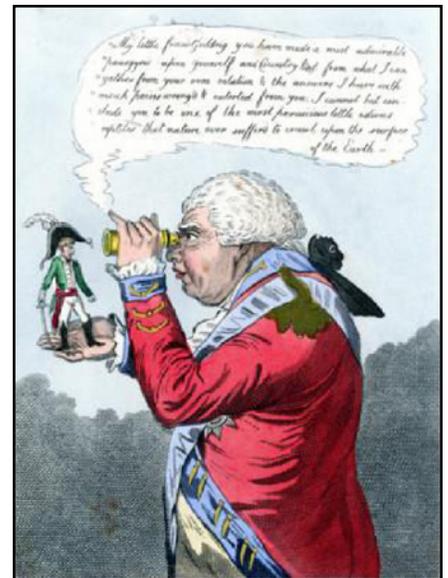
And now back to the general state of things. England by the mid eighteenth century was the largest empire in the world. She had ships and colonies or occupied states everywhere. There was some truth to the term "the sun never sets on the British Empire", because it didn't. But all of those colonies and possessions took a lot of manpower and money to run, and that was one thing the Bank of England was chronically short of. The old rules of money management meant that one had to have a sizeable amount of gold stockpiled to back any outstanding notes. So the focus of everyone's search was how to get more gold. The king absolved himself of that responsibility when he gave his finances over to Parliament; he left them in the lurch. Parliament was having trouble adjusting to the

of a family outing thing, as long as you or one of your relatives wasn't the subject of interest. There were rotting bodies in cages everywhere, or heads on pikes to serve as reminders for transgressions. It was about this time that the English judiciary came up with a solution to overcrowded jails and backlogs in executions, that of "transportation". Get rid of your riff-raff by shipping it off to the far flung corners of the globe, chances are there was a ship headed there anyway, so might as well dump off some poor people and petty criminals into places where their chances of survival would be slim to none. It was convenient, and no one seemed to mind.

Getting around London was accomplished with hackney coaches. Starting in the 1630s, many of the inns realized that there was money to be made transporting people. The area around Hackney district was known for its horses, so some were hired from there and attached to small coaches. These later evolved into hansom cabs in the 1830s, and eventually

to the Black Cabs that still exist in London today. Traffic in London was always terrible and unsanitary. It was best if one kept their feet off the ground, so taxi cabs made sense. This was in the days before sanitation departments had been developed. If your horse keeled over and expired, it might lie there for days or weeks until one of the local tanners would come to retrieve it. More often than not, the carcasses would just accumulate in a corner off the beaten track and just decompose. Surprisingly enough, it wasn't uncommon to find human bodies there either. If the horse died while on the street, invariably it would become fatal for the owner too. The falling carcass could injure the owner or the carriage riders, (as well as others), resulting in a lawsuit or two if one was lucky, but at worst, resulting in an open injury which more than likely would become fatal in short order.

So this was the London that George III inherited; doesn't sound like a great place to be now, does it?



A period correct comic depicting George III as Gulliver and Napoleon as King of Brobdingnag, circa 1803

There is little evidence to suggest the king would have even seen this satire, during this period his sanity had begun to slip and he was more frequently "out of it" than "with it".

“new normal” and the changed tax base. So they went after the colonies, reasoning that these far-flung dominions could afford to be squeezed some more to support the Mother country. It didn't work.

We all know something about the Boston Tea Party, but what you may not know is that, in reality, it had nothing to do with tea at all. It was all about stamps and how some Boston broadsheets whipped up some hype as a result of having to pay an extra tax. The Americans were at the time paying no tax to Britain. As a result of increased defence costs and recent French incursions, Parliament thought it might be a good idea to charge the American colonies a tax to help support the costs they were incurring. So the government introduced a Stamp Act, which meant an extra fee on every document issued in the dominion that required a separate stamp to be placed on it when duty was paid. The biggest groups that were affected by this were the publishing houses and printers, in other words, the media of the day. So in good American fashion, they spun the whole thing as “Taxation without Representation” and got some firebrands in the Continental Congress warmed up. Soon, where a “live and let live” attitude had prevailed before, an independence movement took root and gained in strength.

The king and his parliament at first didn't take the threat too seriously. After all, who would be so stupid as to take on the military might of Britain? And, not to mention, whom would these people trade with once they were independent? What would they use for money? American independence was greeted with scorn and derision in the Old Country. Everyone

underestimated the Americans. And as such, once things started in New England, the second mistake made was to not commit enough resources to the problem. The truth of the matter was that the British didn't have a very large army. Their military prowess was just about solely based on their navy. So when the time came to again field an army in the Americas, there was no local talent available to draw on, they all had to be imported in from England.



George III as he would have looked towards the end of his life, about 1819–20

Now completely out of his mind, blind and hard of hearing. He was 81 years old, and had ruled Britain for 59 years by this point, the longest ruling British monarch unsurpassed until his granddaughter Victoria, in 1897.

That meant recruiting, training and moving men around, and committing ships that otherwise would have been committed elsewhere. The British were never able to build enough of an army up to take out the growing American army.

King George III was of course the first to in no uncertain terms condemn any attempts by the Americans to gain their

independence. No ruler or leader in any country at any time likes the idea of losing territory, particularly if there is a strategic value to it along with an economic one. The British had invested a sizeable fortune in North America and they had recently fought a war there against the French. They had expanded their territory and were the largest colonizing power in North America. Their hope was to apply more pressure to the French to get a hold of Louisiana and the whole of the Mississippi, thus controlling all the major trade seaways on the continent. So when the Americans wanted to split, the British naturally fought back.

The American take on King George III was that he was a tyrant. He wasn't; he was actually the furthest thing from one. He was a pacifist by nature and abhorred war. The American problem caused him great grief and probably contributed to the ever-increasing spells of madness he was suffering. He was genuinely hurt by the idea that thousands of people rejected him and his government – he could not understand why. But once the Americans had triumphed and were looking to trade as a new nation, he was one of the first to extend an olive branch, telling the new American ambassador John Adams when he presented his credentials: “I was the last to consent to separation; but separation having been made and having become inevitable, I have always said, as I say now, that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power”.

The loss of the 13 Colonies and the subsequent founding of the United States did not, however, help George's mental stability.

The Coins...

Collecting George III coinage can be a challenge. Throughout most of his reign, the Bank of England was chronically short of small change. Coinage production never met demand, except towards the end of his reign after the Great Re-coinage of 1816. Gold coins were "adequately" supplied, but silver and copper were not. There were a few factors that contributed to this.

As far as English coins go, the same series issued in George II's reign were issued sporadically through George III's reign. In the early days, George II coins were still being made. The first issues of halfpennies and farthings in 1762 all featured George II's effigy on them. The

British Treasury tried to issue a load of copper farthings and halfpennies between 1770 and 1774, but it lost out to counterfeiters who bought up most of the run and melted it down, substituting underweight and mixed alloy coins in its place. The halfpenny was one of the main coins of daily commerce; the working people used these coins to purchase all of their daily goods. Large denominations such as shillings and sixpences were almost non-existent by the mid-1770s. Coins and tokens from everywhere soon started to fill the void created by a lack of small change. Halfpenny tokens made by storekeepers and taverns started to circulate in place of any government legal

tender. Silver coins were coming in from Spain, with some issues countermarked by the British Treasury.

Some of the only silver coins made with George III's effigy on them were the Maundy mint-ages. These were coins that were given out to the elderly and the infirm by the monarch on Maundy Thursday each year. They never circulated, or at least not extensively. A few were always spent – I have a worn Maundy 3 pence coin from 1763 in my collection. The first regular silver coin issue with George III's effigy came in 1787. And then it stopped again. There were some issues from the Treasury in wild denominations,



A Never Released Pattern Coin of a George III Shilling (1764)



Halfpenny from the 1806 Issue
Smaller and lighter than the first Soho issue of 1797.



George III Shilling with Hearts (1787)

This shilling was released for circulation along with a smaller sixpence. This issue was the largest silver issue until the Great Re-coinage of 1816. This one features hearts in the Hanoverian shield.



George III Bullhead (1816)

The Great Re-coinage issues feature some of the ugliest portraits to ever grace a coin. This effigy is known as the "Bullhead" effigy, and it's easy to see why. Usually the ruling monarch has to approve the effigy placed on the coinage, but by this point in time George was stark raving mad and mostly blind. His son George IV would have approved this, and by then he was somewhat obese and ugly too.

allowing the British economy to regroup and refinance itself on a stronger footing. With a tighter accounting system, money stopped disappearing into the Continent and remained in Britain. There was finally enough small change going around to meet the needs of the people.

In George's German domains, things went along like they had in the previous two reigns. After the Napoleonic Wars, the Duke of Braunschweig-Lüneburg-Calenburg-Hannover became the King of Hannover. Titles reflected the elevation of His Highness, but the reality of it was that no one really cared.

George never went anywhere near Hannover and by the time this happened in 1814 he was well beyond the point of caring himself. The point was that George was now an English king and his German domains now took second place if any at all in the scheme of things.

Later Life and Insanity

Unlike his forefathers, George was a pacifist and cut from a gentler cloth. He loathed war, yet was embroiled in some of the most seminal wars in the last 250 years. Each episode affected his mental stability, sometimes sending him into longer and longer periods of insanity. The public was by and large oblivious to this; the Palace kept a tight lid on George and his condition. Sure, the press was notified if he was having "troubles", but the press left it alone; whereas nowadays they would pursue the poor king until they had film of him drooling and hollering at the moon.

George would recover from these bouts of madness. Invariably it was as if nothing untoward had gone on, he'd pick up his correspondence and take up his hobbies like watch making or

reading about scientific discoveries. But as the 1780s wore on, it was becoming apparent that the periods between lapses were growing shorter and the recovery time was further away each time. One person who took it really hard was Queen Charlotte. At first, she would do what she could to be there, but after some of his more serious bouts in the 1780s, she maintained her distance. The Act of Regency had already been enacted and enforced a few times since 1765. Charlotte was the Regent until George IV turned of age. Charlotte supported her husband, but visited him very sporadically after he descended into madness a final time in 1810. She probably never saw him again after 1812. She died of natural causes in 1818, and George was never told. He wouldn't have comprehended it anyway.

When George lost it permanently in 1810, his son George was declared Regent, and ruled in George III's name until 1820, when the elder George finally died. As George senior had been grappling with his sanity over the years, more and more of the king's roles had been usurped by the government. In one respect, this suited George just fine; he didn't really enjoy the job. He would have been much happier as a scientist or a scholar, tending to his family and exploring the heavens or whatever struck his fancy. This resulted in him being called "Farmer George" by pundits and satirists. He preferred that kind of lifestyle to the one he had. He had tried to raise his children with the same degree of frugality and respect that he had been but failed.



George III Guinea – Fourth Head

A common issue, featuring the fourth style of portrait. There was no shortage of gold coins during most of George III's reign, it was only after the Napoleonic Wars had run their course that Britain was faced with a major gold shortage. (Image courtesy of Spink)



An Early George III "Bullhead" Halfcrown

This popular denomination came into being with the Recoinage of 1816 and was set at 2 shillings, 6 pence. George is depicted in all his ugly glory, semi-nude of all things; his son must have been trying to make a statement of sorts when he accepted this portrait, the meaning of which is no doubt lost to the ages.

Legacy

George III was much maligned in life as well as long afterwards. He was a man who genuinely cared for his subjects and their well being. He is shown in popular culture as an obese, dimwitted tyrant who is half out of his mind, when in actuality he was none of that. Yes, he did get fat and during his periods of insanity he said and did some bizarre things, but when he was lucid he was a very intelligent and well-spoken man. He presided over one of the most tumultuous periods of recent history, and, for the most part, his country came through it on a better footing than before, even though it had lost one of its most profitable colonies.

All the kings named George profited so far cared a great deal about their subjects and honestly tried to do what was best by them. They laid the groundwork for what Britain would eventually become, a large empire ruled by a constitutional monarchy. They all have, for whatever reason, received a bad rap in the history books; George I for being too German, George II for wearing his heart on his sleeve and being too blunt, and George III for being a nut and losing New England. One would think that would be enough to ensure that not another George would come to the throne and get the same bad treatment. But, as stated before, the Hanoverians were nothing if not predictable. Though the next king named George was not predictable, in fact, he was a handful. More about him in the next installment, stay tuned! ☒



A Late Issued George III Sovereign (1820)

A modified portrait featuring Benedetto Pistrucci's wonderful design of St. George slaying the dragon which is still on the current design of sovereigns.



The Famous Copper "Cartwheel" Penny Issue of 1797

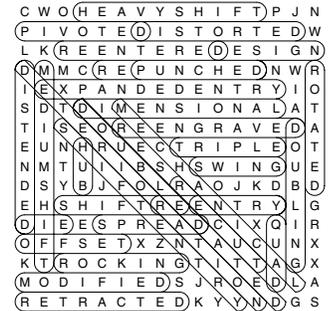
Supposedly the first issue struck with a steam fired coin press at the Soho Mint in Birmingham. Modern scholarship is calling that into question, as it seems that Matthew Boulton wasn't able to get Watt's steam engine to work right without snapping driveshafts. Apparently this problem wasn't corrected until the 1816 issue was being prepared.

Coin Varieties – Common Terms

by Joe Kennedy

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

Answer to the Puzzle Page from the Jan. 2019 issue of the Planchet



- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| A off denticle | curved right | knobbed | nickel | small |
| A to denticle | design | large | normal | square |
| Arnprior | dot | lines | over | tombac |
| blunt | Edwardian | long bough ends | pointed | twenty one (leaves) |
| bold | far | low | relief | twenty two (leaves) |
| bowtie (cross) | first | maple leaf | round | Victorian (leaves) |
| broad (leaves) | flat | medium | round top | waterlines |
| concave | flat top (digit) | modified | short | wide |
| cross | high | mule | short bough ends | |
| crosslet four | holly (leaves) | narrow | shoulder fold | |
| curved left | inverted ("A") | near | silver | |

Regina Coin Show Features First Nations Medals

by **George Manz**

When Queen Victoria died on January 22, 1901, it began a series of events that would have great consequences for the future of the British monarchy and its overseas territories.

With her death, Victoria's eldest son became Edward VII.

Edward's eldest surviving son was next in line to the throne, so he sent the young George on a trip to many parts of the British Empire. The Duke, and his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall and York, left England on March 16, 1901 aboard H.M.S. Ophir. For the next nine months, they visited Gibraltar, Malta, Ceylon, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, South Africa, St. Vincent, and finally, Canada and Newfoundland.

Melville Allan Jamieson's book "Medals Awarded to North American Indian Chiefs 1714-1922" chronicled the event: "...As in other parts of the British Empire a gathering of the native tribes was held to offer allegiance to the Royal travelers who were representing the King Emperor."

On September 28, 1901, the Royal party rode in a special carriage two miles west from Calgary to Shagannapi Point, a wide plateau among the foothills overlooking Calgary. In ancient times, it served as a meeting ground between Blackfoot and Cree. Approximately 2,000 representatives of the various First Nations tribes of western Canada were encamped there,

including Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan, Sarcee, Stony and Cree. They were wearing their finest buckskins, feathers, leggings and moccasins.

It was a grandiose affair. A detachment of North West Mounted Police accompanied the Royals and the Governor General of Canada, Lord Minto.

The 12 Head Chiefs of the First Nations tribes were presented to the Duke, who greeted and shook the hand of each Chief. A young Sarcee boy then read a statement welcoming the Duke "to the land of our forefathers." Each of the Head Chiefs of the six First Nations then gave a speech in their own languages.

This was followed by a speech from the Duke to the assembled First Nations peoples.

His speech ended with "From the warmth of your reception I feel that you will also long remember this day. In order to specially commemorate it the Great King has ordered that a suitable silver medal shall be struck, and one will be presented to each of the Head Chiefs, which shall always be kept by him so long as he remains in office, and afterwards by his successors."

Each of the 12 Head Chiefs received a 65mm silver medal. The obverse of the medal depicts the busts of their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York encircled by a scroll of maple leaves. The reverse shows the Royal Arms in

the centre, underneath CALGARY SEP. 28th 1901 surrounded by PRESENTED TO HEAD CHIEFS IN COMMEMORATION OF ASSEMBLY OF INDIAN TRIBES. The medal is suspended by a ring, with a red, white and blue ribbon at the top of which is a brooch showing a male First Nations in a canoe, holding a paddle in both hands.

In addition, 24 similar bronze medals were presented to sub Chiefs.

Both the silver and bronze medals were produced by P. Ellis Company of Toronto.

After his return to Britain, George was proclaimed Prince of Wales in November 1901. He became King George V in 1910, leading Britain until 1936. His granddaughter, Elizabeth II, is currently on the throne.

A silver and a bronze medal will be on display at the Regina Coin Club spring show and sale, April 13-14, 2019 at the Turvey Centre, just north of Regina.

Representatives from the Sakimay First Nations will cut the ribbon to open the show. Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Thomas Molloy will attend the show as Queen Elizabeth's representative. 

George Manz is Fellow of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association and President of the Regina Coin Club.



Bronze First Nations Medal (1901)



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