

The PLANCHET



Kassander

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50¢ Canadian
Coin Prices

PAGE 21

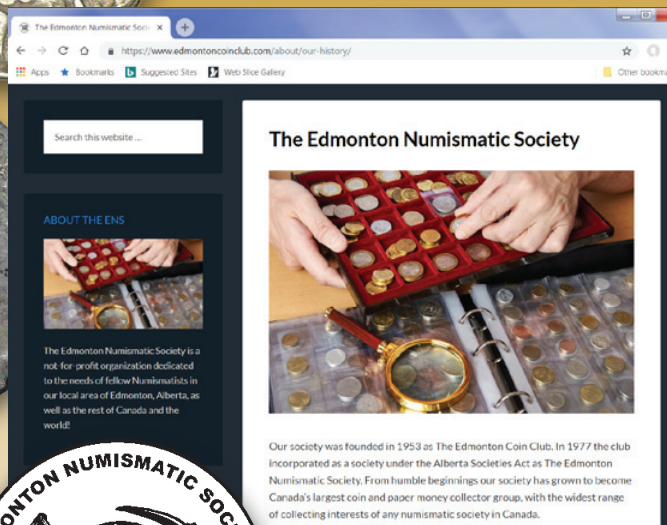
It's not the
Maine Event

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A Denarius
of Otho

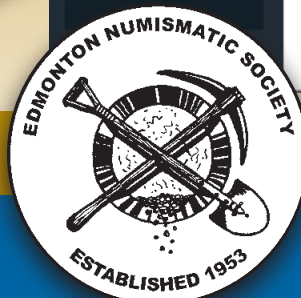
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**+ NEW ENS
WEBSITE**



Edmonton Numismatic Society

Volume 65 · Issue 5



September 2018





The PLANCHET

Volume 65 · Issue 5

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Message from the President

Marc Bink

September, 2018

Welcome back! I hope all of you had a good summer, however abbreviated it may now seem considering the snow we've had in the past week. I guess that's the price we have to pay for the few weeks of above freezing temperatures we get each year.

I'm happy to report that our new meeting venue is a success. We met for the first time at the Royal Canadian Legion at 10427 - 174 street in the West-End. Our annual "Pizza Night" was a success, there was lots of pizza and good conversation all around. I'd like to thank Pierre Driessen on behalf of the club for getting the pizza organized and bringing it.

It was nice to hear some positive feedback with regards to the new website. If you haven't had a look at it yet, please be sure to go online and check it out, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. The address remains the same, but the content has been updated as well as the appearance and functionality of the site. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people previously involved and maintaining the old site, Dan Gosling and his daughter who initially put it together back in 1998, and Markus Molenda who was our webmaster for the past number of years. The new site no longer requires a "webmaster" to load it, so we will be ending this position effective immediately. The responsibilities for oversight of the web page and maintaining the domain will fall to another position on the Executive, at this point we haven't decided which one that will be.

One thing that deserves all of our attention is that of increasing the membership. For succession planning and the continued

well-being of this club we need to attract new members. That also means younger members, as a lot of us aren't "spring chickens" anymore. Our club's constitution mandates that we provide numismatic education to the public at large, and the website along with the *Planchet* go a long way to doing this. Is there more that we could be doing? I think there is. To this end, we will be exploring some ideas to put some feelers out into the community to get our "word" out and hopefully attract some new members in the process.

Just as a heads-up, I'm planning on convening a Board Meeting in October, and membership drives and succession planning will be one of the topics of discussion. This brings me to my next point; we as an executive need to know how we're doing. So, how are we doing? Is there anything we should be looking into? What are we doing right? What are we doing wrong? We need your input to help us decide the direction of this club. Let me or any one of the Executive know; all that we ask is that you keep it civil.

One last thing, perhaps the most important; at the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) convention this past summer, our ENS *Planchet* won the RCNA's award for the best local newsletter for the third year running. We have raised the bar as far as it goes for club publications; I don't think there's a better one in all of Canada. Of course I'm a little biased, and I'm very proud of what our editor Joe and a few others have created. So without further ado, we have conjured up another wonderful *Planchet* issue; enjoy the read! 



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@ the Next Meeting

Edmonton Numismatic Society



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Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 255

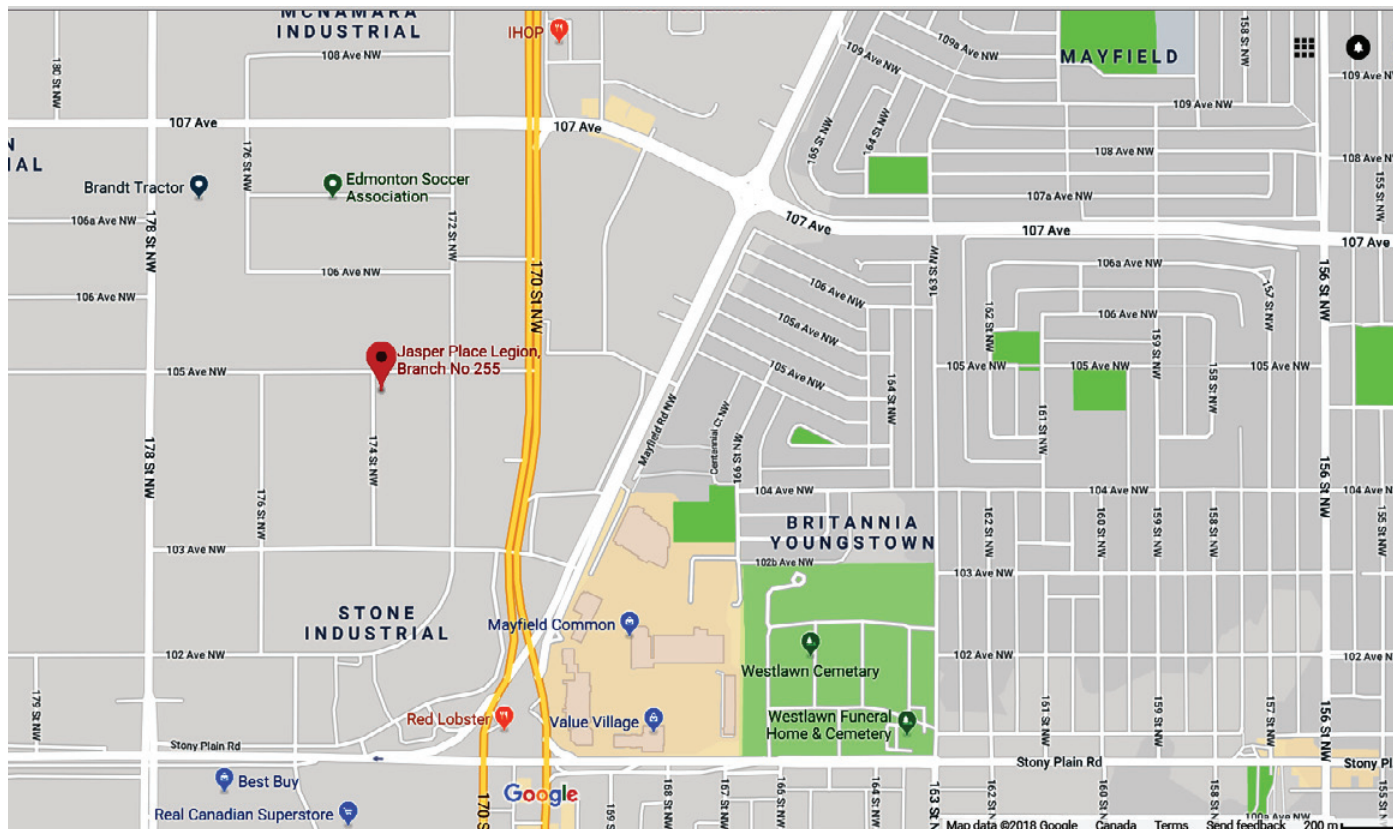
10427 - 174 Street NW. Edmonton

Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm

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

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

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



About Your Society

by **Mitch Goudreau** ENS Secretary

June 13, 2018 ENS Meeting Minutes

Pierre Driessen, the ENS Treasurer, opened the meeting at 19:20 hrs. There were 41 members in attendance.

This was the last ENS monthly meeting at the Royal Alberta Museum. Paul Purdie, the ENS Vice-President, briefly talked about the 14 venues that were visited in the search for a new meeting place. A decision on our new location, beginning in September 2018 will be made this Saturday, after a visit to the Canadian Serbian Club. The other contenders previously visited are the Orange Hub building which offers a classroom style set up and the Royal Canadian Legion in the west end. The Legion offers free parking as well as a restaurant and bar.

Pierre thanked Mirko Dumanovic for successfully hosting our annual BBQ this past Saturday.

ENS June 9, 2018 Board Meeting

The members were briefed on some of the items discussed at the executive board meeting held before the BBQ.

A membership special for new members will be offered at our coin shows. It will be \$5 for the entry and \$10 for the membership.

The coin show entry fees will be \$5 each day. There will no longer be advanced tickets available.

The club will be donating \$1000 to the Canadian Association for Numismatic Education (CAFNE) at the upcoming Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) convention. CAFNE's mandate is to educate the public about numismatics on the study of coins, currency, medals, tokens, paper money, and related objects primarily from Canada, but also including other cultures.

The ENS coffee table book initiative first brought up by Mirko has been discussed several times in the past but not much has happened to date. We must get it going before we lose the opportunity to capture the memories and stories of the ENS over the course of its existence since 1953. Biographies of long-term members are essential in achieving this. Mirko will be the project manager and is tasked to move this forward with the assistance of our members.

Terence Cheesman was allocated \$200 to give a seminar on ancient Greek coins at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Club Matters

Marc Bink, the ENS President, arrived and took over the meeting. He thanked Mirko once again for hosting the club BBQ.

Alvaro Rodriguez will represent the ENS at an upcoming coin show in Arequipa, Peru.

The ENS is close to launching the newly designed website. This will happen no later than September 2018. There will also be areas for announcements, potentially a "Coin of the Month" article and space for blogs.

A template will be created for the Google Optimizing project. The authors of articles going forward, will enter key words into the template. This will make it easier for the person we are going to hire to do the optimizing, as he/she will not have to read the complete article unlike those previously published.

Presentation

Marc Bink gave a lecture on the Sherritt Mint from Fort Saskatchewan.

Conclusion

Tickets were drawn for the door prizes, the silent auction lots were sold, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:55 hrs. 

RCNA Awards

2018 Awards Presented by the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

Dan Gosling receives Paul Fiocca Award

The Paul Fiocca Award is the highest distinction presented by The Royal Canadian Numismatic Association, and the second highest award in Canadian Numismatics. The award is presented annually for "Long term meritorious service or major contributions to the RCNA" and is an award not just to recognize the elite of the hobby, but any individual who may have worked behind the scenes, often for many decades, for the betterment of the Association.

This award is strictly an RCNA award for RCNA members, and is not to be confused with the J. Douglas Ferguson award, the highest award in Canadian numismatics, which does not require membership in the RCNA.

Paul Fiocca was publisher of Canadian Coin News from 1989 until his retirement, remaining a supporter of Canadian numismatics and giving freely of his own time and expertise. He served as editor of The CN Journal for a number of years, and was serving the RCNA in that capacity at the time of his death in 2007. The award that bears his name is funded by donations from Trajan Publishing Corporation and others that were his friends.

The President of the Association presents the Paul Fiocca Award at each year's annual RCNA convention to a Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA) member.

An Independent Board of Award selects the annual recipient. The Board consists of



Henry Neinhuis (left) and Jeff Fournier (centre) present the Paul Fiocca Award to Dan Gosling (right) at the 2018 RCNA Annual Convention in Mississauga Ontario.

five members. 1. The current RCNA President. 2. A senior Executive of Trajan Publishing Corporation. 3–5. Three other senior RCNA members appointed by the RCNA President and Trajan Publishing Corporation, at least one who is a past RCNA President. The board selects a chairman each year and calls for nominations. Nominations are welcomed from any member of the RCNA. The award is given exclusively to a living RCNA member who had not previously received the award.

The award consists of a walnut plaque with a gold plated inscription and with two current year RCNA Convention

medals imbedded, and a separate framed Certificate of Award listing the accomplishments of the recipient.

The Paul Fiocca Award Past Recipients:

2018	Dan Gosling
2017	Yvon Marquis
2016	John Regitko
2015	William K. Cross
2014	J. Graham Esler
2013	Norman Williams
2012	Ronald D. Green
2011	Dr. Marvin Kay
2010	Tim G. Henderson
2009	Geoffrey G. Bell
2008	James E. Charlton

– RCNA website

RCNA Awards

Awards Presented by the
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

ENS receives Best Local Newsletter Award for 2017



Brett Irick (left) presents the Best Local Newsletter Award to Howard Gilbey (right) on behalf of Joe Kennedy at the 2018 RCNA Annual Convention in Mississauga Ontario.

Photo: Dan Gosling

Every year the RCNA recognizes the efforts of member clubs and associations. An award is given for the best newsletter published by a local coin club and also for the best newsletter published by a regional or national association. To participate to the selection, clubs must send samples of their newsletter to the RCNA Club Services Chairman. A committee of at least three persons reviews all the entries received and select a winner in each category. The following criteria are used to determine the winner:

Numismatic content = 20%

Diversity of the content = 25%

Quality of presentation = 15%

Improvement from previous year = 10%

Consistency of publication = 15%

General appreciation = 15%

Winners are announced at the Club Delegates Meeting held during the Annual Convention and at the closing banquet. To be eligible, clubs must submit their newsletters for the previous calendar year.

The Best Local Newsletter Award for 2017 was awarded to the *Planchet*, a publication of the Edmonton Numismatic Society – editor: Joe Kennedy

– RCNA website



RCNA Annual Convention Opening Ceremony

Photo: Dan Gosling



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Fall 2018 Show

Canada's largest fall / winter numismatic event

Sat. Nov. 10, 2018 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. Nov. 11, 2018 10:00am – 4:30pm



HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL

15540 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta. T5P 3Z2

780-484-3333 for hotel room reservations

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

Admission: \$5 at door (youth under 16 years of age free)

- ATM on premises
- Parking: free (parking at side and rear of hotel only)
- Transportation: easy access, centrally located, bus service with Jasper Place transit hub nearby.
- Families Welcome!

Special events:

- **Free appraisals** of your coins, medals, paper money, tokens, watches and other time pieces
- Educational coin and medal **displays**
- **Door prizes** including gold coin draw
- **Silent auction** with bidding open to everyone

Coin Auction for Kids

Hosted by the ENS Youth Program

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

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

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



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2018

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We accept cash,
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Fill out the membership
form on page 10

**Thank-you for
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**Edmonton
Numismatic
Society**



Coming Events

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

October 12: Deadline for edited Planchet article submissions for Issue 6.

November 2: Issue 6 of the 2018 PLANCHET

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

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

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

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RCNA

Photo credit: Scott Cornwell

ENS Launches New Website!

edmontoncoinclub.com

On July 26, 2018 the ENS announced the posting of a new website design. The re-vamped website will allow the club to grow its online presence, with greater functionality, ease of use and easily searchable content.

The idea to change the website has been a long time in the making. Our previous website was designed

in time for the 1998 CNA convention that was held in Edmonton that year. Dan Gosling was the driving force in modernizing the club's web presence at the time. This site soldiered on until we replaced it with the new site, 20 years later, which attests to the staying power of the original site.

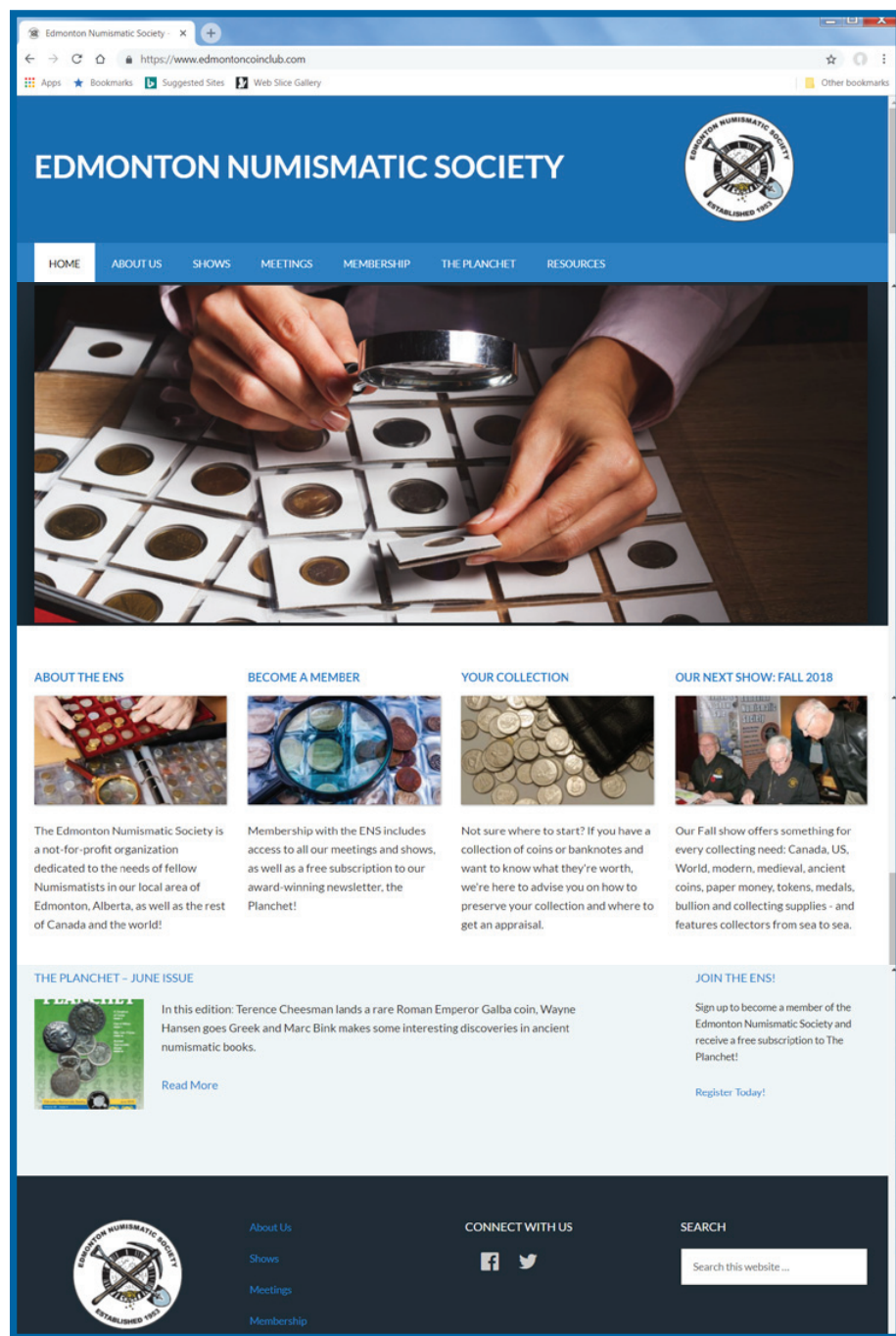
In 2015 the Executive decided to modernize the site, and struck a large committee to deal with the issue. Our webmaster, Markus Molenda, had reported back that updating the site required a sort of reverse-engineering process which was time consuming and if not done carefully enough, rife with errors. As the support for the original platform became obsolete and difficult to maintain, the Executive realized that things would have to change before the site crashed for good.

In early 2018 the ENS Executive hired Break Tag Media out of Toronto to modernize and update the site with the most current software, which is the Wordpress platform. A sub-committee consisting of Pierre Driessen and Markus Molenda worked with Thomas Bink of Break Tag Media to get the content nailed down and the look of the site modernized. Break Tag Media fulfilled their obligations on time and on budget, the launch was delayed by issues within the club, mainly to deal with updating the content and migrating the site across from Wordpress to the existing address. This was completed by July 26, 2018, when the site went "live" for the first time.

What's nice about the Wordpress platform is that it's easily updatable, access and permissions can be easily transferred and the content can be rotated. Right now the site is static, but the architecture does allow for rotating articles and media. Break Tag Media remains at arm's length to assist with training as required.

We'd like to make the ENS website a numismatic destination. Besides being the only way to access the Planchet online, we'd like to add articles and media content to it in order to get the ENS's word out to the world at large.

We're looking for quality numismatic content to put on the website, so if you have any suggestions, feedback or links you'd like to see, please contact either Pierre or Marc. We look forward to hearing from you! 



Edmonton Numismatic Society

Membership Form

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

☐ New ☐ Renewal Date: _____ *Please print clearly*

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State _____

Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

- ☐ Regular Member (18 years and over) – Canada, USA*, Foreign* \$15.00
- ☐ Junior Member (Under 16 years) – Canada, USA*, Foreign* \$5.00
- ☐ Family Membership \$15.00
(spouse and/or children at home 16 years and under)
- ☐ Life Membership* \$300.00
- ☐ **Canada Only** (not available for USA or Foreign addresses)
If you would like THE PLANCHET mailed, please add +\$25.00

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

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

Application / Payment Methods



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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5T 6A1



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



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



Kassander

A Player in the Macedonian Game of Thrones

You Don't Get to be King Without Breaking a Few Eggs

by **Wayne Hansen**



**Obverse of Kassander
Tetradrachm**

Struck at Ouranopolis Mint
(310–298 BC)

If I hadn't bought a rather intriguing tetradrachm from an unusual little mint recently, I wouldn't have bothered checking further into the story of Kassander. I had obtained a few of his coins over the past couple of decades, but everything else about him was circulating somewhere beyond my radar. This is partly because I thought Kassander's coinage was, by and large, fairly pedestrian. It seemed to be mostly odd, jointly attributed Alexander type tetradrachms and a few of his own small bronzes, so there apparently wasn't much to investigate. He did have a catchy name (picture this, 'Kassander's Olive Emporium' or 'Kassander's Brake and Clutch'), but not as neat as one of his Macedonian predecessors, Archelaos. It is only when you dig into Kassander's history that his deeds become magnified and his coinage finds a context. Along the way, you discover that there are actually more coin types assigned to him than I had surmised.

A quick look at Kassander's exploits leaves you with the impression that he was aggressive, ruthless and driven. As a result, however, he was able to consolidate power in his region and improve the life of his subjects. Too bad that he didn't focus more at the time on his own distinctive coinage, but then he ruled just before other Macedonian successor kings began issuing new coin types that included their own portraits. Kassander portrait coins would have made him a more recognizable figure. Instead, this article presents one of Kassander's early Alexander type tetradrachms that offers a unique style of Herakles profile. It was struck at a little known Macedonian mint that must have had a limited output. The obverse is so unique that I would not preclude the possibility that it was a real attempt at a portrait of either a semi-deified Alexander as Herakles (as was done by Lysimachos soon after) or maybe even a likeness of Kassander himself. This is one of the joys of ancient coin study – one can speculate and postulate but we will never know. The portrait angle is unlikely but at least plausible.

Figure 1 – Map Showing the Enlarged Territory Ruled by Kassander

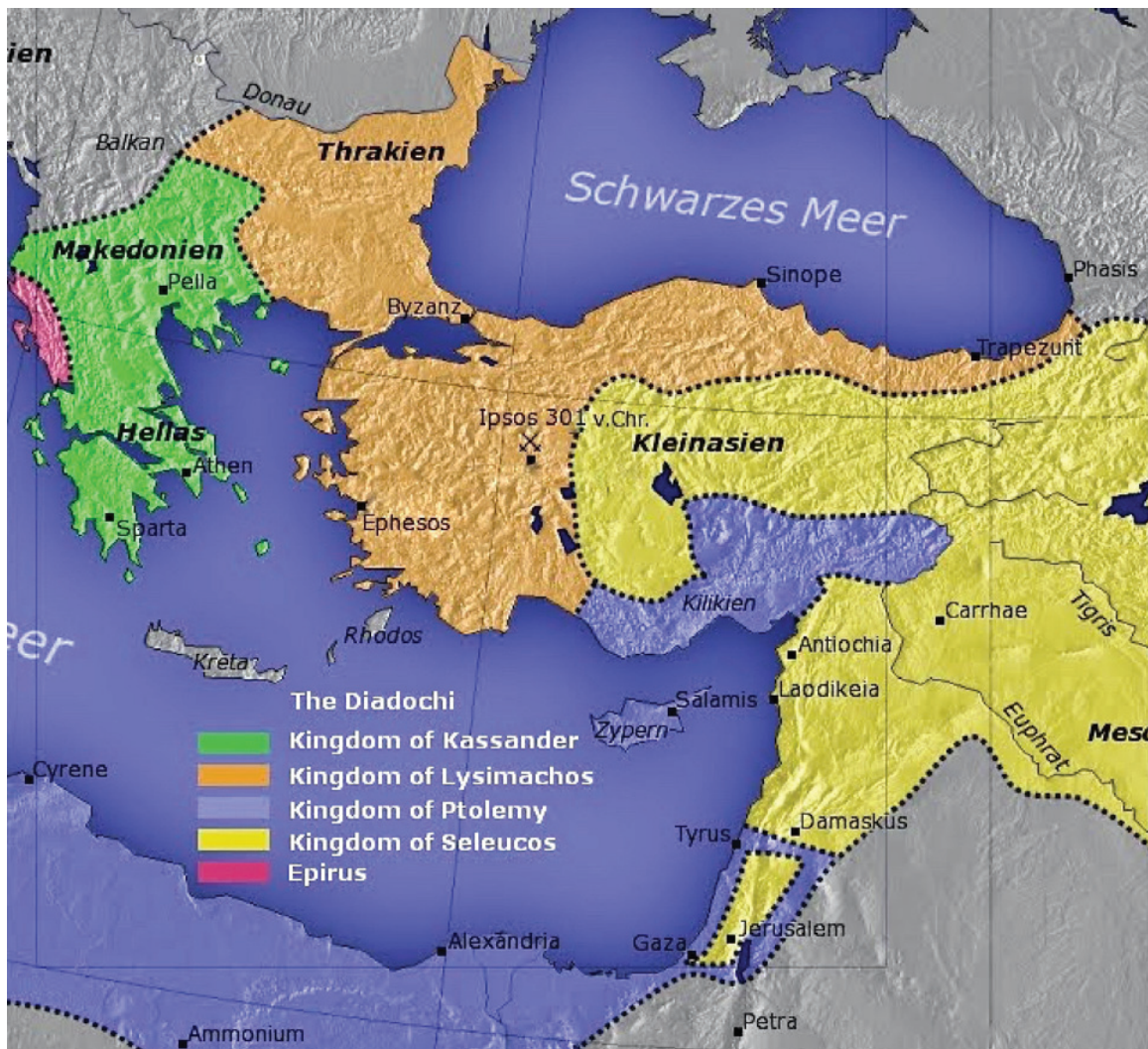


Figure 1 – With the help of Antigonos I Monophthalmos (The One Eyed), Kassander seized control of his Macedonian homeland in 317 BC to become its local regent. Later, around 305 BC, all of the Alexander successors declared themselves to be kings, including Kassander. In 301 BC, Kassander joined other Diadochi to defeat Antigonos at the Battle of Ipsos in Asia Minor, which allowed the victors to commandeer more territory. This map shows the new configuration of power after that battle. Lysimachos was able to expand from Thrace into western Asia Minor and hold it until his death at Korupedion in 281 BC. Simultaneously, Kassander expanded his new kingdom from Macedon south into Greece, but he held the realm for only three years until he died in 298 BC. Demetrios I Poliorketes then murdered Kassander's son and heir, Alexander V, and took over Kassander's hard won lands. (Base map courtesy Wikipedia.)



Kassander's Game of Thrones

Kassander's father, Antipater, was a trusted general of Philip II who was left to serve as the local regent of Macedon and strategos of Europe in 334 BC, when Alexander the Great embarked on his Asian conquest. Kassander was a slightly younger contemporary of Alexander who grew up in the Macedonian court and was also taught by Aristotle. As a military commander, he was sent to Babylon by Antipater in 323 BC to join Alexander – possibly to support his father's shaky position by acting as a guarantor (Alexander had begun to suspect Antipater of treason). Fortunately Alexander died before dealing with Antipater. Several Alexander successors, called the Diadochi, sub-divided Alexander's former empire such that they also ended up as satrapal type regents governing various parts of the realm under the figurehead authority of Alexander's brother, King Philip III. Central control of the empire rested, however, with the Macedonian general Perdikkas who was regent to Alexander III's unborn child. The child, Alexander IV, was born two months later and immediately became a nominal co-King, but Perdikkas remained the real ruler. Perdikkas immediately displaced Antipater from his regency of Macedon, but Perdikkas got into trouble when he invaded Egypt and he was killed by his troops in 321/20 BC. Antipater then declared himself as Perdikkas's replacement, but then he died the next year of old age. Antipater hadn't appointed his son Kassander as his own successor, possibly because he was still young (he was born about 350 BC and was in his early 30's). Instead, he appointed an older military officer named Polyperchon. Kassander was incensed at this and enlisted the help of other Diadochi, including Lysimachos, Ptolemy I and Antigonos I Monophthalmos (a former general under Philip and Alexander, and an Asian

satrap since 333 BC), to wage war with Polyperchon. Antigonos helped him destroy Polyperchon's fleet then establish a power base in southern Greece from which he could launch attacks. In 317 BC, after two years of fighting, Kassander was victorious and took over the local regency of Macedon.

After 317 BC, the usual Diadochi, Ptolemy I, Seleukos I, Antigonos I Monophthalmos and Kassander (together with smaller players Pyrrhos of Epiros, Lennonatas of Pharygia and Demetrios I Poliorketes) came into increasing conflict with one another over territory and power. With both Perdikkas and Antipater gone, central authority had eroded. Antigonos I Monophthalmos, began creating problems, so in 315 BC Lysimachos allied himself with Kassander, Ptolemy and Seleukos to attack Antigonos but they failed.

Kassander continued to rule Macedon, founding and restoring several cities and improving the comfort of his people. Two of the cities he restored were Thebes in Boeotia, which had been destroyed by Alexander III, and Sani, which had been destroyed by Philip II. Sani is thought to have been renamed Ouranopolis, where my new coin was minted. Kassander also re-founded Therma as the current Thessalonica, named after his wife; and Kassandreia, named after himself, which was built on the ruins of Potidaea. On the other hand, Kassander could also be ruthless, especially in dealing with his enemies. Among the Diadochi, Kassander was the only one who really hated his former king and master, Alexander the Great. To consolidate support and gain influence over people in the countryside, Kassander murdered Alexander's mother, Olympias, and married Thessalonike, who was not only the daughter of Philip II with an

earlier Thessalian wife, but also the half-sister of Alexander himself. To further secure power, he also murdered Alexander III's widow, Roxana, and Alexander's only son, Alexander IV. In the end, Kassander became estranged from his own family as a result of his overriding ambition and his tendency to be unscrupulous.

Wars among the Diadochi continued. Antigonos I felt threatened by Kassander's success, so he constantly tried to destabilize his regime. It didn't work. In 305 BC, Kassander joined other Diadochi by naming himself King of his Macedonian realm (taking the title of 'ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ' – basileos or king). Then, in 302/301 BC, Kassander's control was cemented when he joined his former allies and finally defeated and killed Antigonos at the Battle of Ipsos. Antigonos's original Asian territories were divided among the victors as seen in the Figure 1 map. With this, Lysimachos expanded his Thracian base into western Asia Minor, while Kassander expanded into Greece and the Peloponnese. Kassander had not only realized his dream to rule Macedon, but he managed to enlarge his kingdom through minimizing opposition and pursuing threats. His achievement did not last long since he died from natural causes three years later in 298 BC. In the end, Kassander had ruled Macedon for nineteen years, first as local regent and then as king. Kassander's children, Antipater II and Alexander V, fought for the throne and Antipater II initially won. The young Alexander then appealed to another ambitious Macedonian, Demetrios I Poliorketes, 'the Beseiger' and son of Antigonos I, for help. Demetrios drove off Antipater, but in a nod to the ruthlessness of Kassander, he killed Kassander's remaining son and heir, Alexander V, and took the throne. Demetrios Poliorketes is a whole other story.

Figure 2 – Map Showing Location of Ouranopolis – Mint of the Featured Coin



Figure 2 – The ancient Ouranopolis townsite was located on the Chalkidian peninsula at the base of the Athos sub-peninsula and close to Mount Athos. Some ruins have been found underwater near the current town of Ouranopoli. It was said to have been founded as an ideal city by Kassander's brother, Alexarchos, around 315 BC, possibly on the former site of ruined Sani. Very little Alexander III type coinage was struck west of the Bosphorus, outside of Alexander's most prolific mints at nearby Amphipolis and Pella in Macedon proper. Kassander used those two main mints for his posthumous Philip and Alexander coins, but he also briefly commissioned a mint in this new town of Ouranopolis in the Chalkidice, where my featured coin was struck.

Figure 3 – View of Current Ouranopoli with Medieval Tower



Photo: courtesy Edal Anton Lefterov



Kassander's Coinage

If you pull up a list of Kassander's coinage on Wildwinds, you will find a number of AE15-AE20 bronzes that feature a Herakles, a lion and/or a Macedonian horseman. The dates are specific to the period after his regency started, mostly 319-297 or 306-290 BC. Similar to the bronzes of Philip and Alexander before him, they had his name inscribed on the reverse, but Kassander's bronze coins were the only ones that did that. His bronze issues probably also included the late Alexander B-A type and the Macedonian shield/helmet type that were produced by an unknown Macedonian mint.

The range of potential Kassander high denomination coins is quite large (see Figure 4). His gold and silver coins are often credited to a combination of possible other rulers since control of his home territory changed over the period of issue and specific production dates for each issue cannot be pinpointed. Another complication is that

the Amphipolis Mint in Macedon was the most prolific mint for standard Alexander type coinages, for both Alexander himself and any successors controlling the area, while his other main mint in Pella was not far behind. Kassander used both mints interchangeably, at times striking posthumous coins of Philip II in gold and silver, and at other times striking posthumous coins of Alexander the Great in gold and silver. A few Philip issues had begun while his father was the local regent, but both types also continued after Kassander took over. The weights of his silver tetradrachms conformed to the norm for each type, so that the Philip coins were 14+ grams and the Alexander coins were 17+ grams, obviously serving differing needs in the countryside. Kassander did not mint any large denomination coins in his own name, including his most common tetradrachms. Other Macedonian successors generally started using their own names on coins after 305 BC when they started adopting the 'king' title. In this, he differed from other

Diodochi who soon stopped their Alexander type issues in favor of coins with their own portrait or special theme (Lysimachos is an example – see my recent article "Lysimachos, From a Jack to a King, From Ugliness to a Pretty Thing", *The Planchet*, March 2018).

As noted above, many of Kassander's earlier precious coinages are usually attributed jointly because of dating uncertainties. The problems of attribution can be seen in the two auction listings for my featured coin in Figure 5. In the 2009 auction, it was given to the general Kings of Macedon, saying it might have been by 'Kassander, Philip IV, Antipater or Demetrios I Poliorketes' (300-290 BC), with the mint possibly being 'Uranopolis'. Other rulers sometimes added to the potential list are Polyperchon and Antigonos II Gonatas. By the 2018 auction, the attribution was narrowed to Kassander, 'struck under Alexarchos' (317-305 BC), at the 'Ouranopolis' mint.

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Figure 4 – Examples of Kassander Precious Coinages

323–315 BC



Philip Stater
(Pella)



Philip Tetradrachm
(Pella)



Alex One-Quarter Stater
(Pella)

316–305 BC



Philip Tetradrachm
(Amphipolis)



Alexander Stater
(Amphipolis)



Alexander Tetradrachm
(Amphipolis)

310–297 BC



Philip Tetradrachm
(Amphipolis)



Alexander Tetradrachm
(Amphipolis)

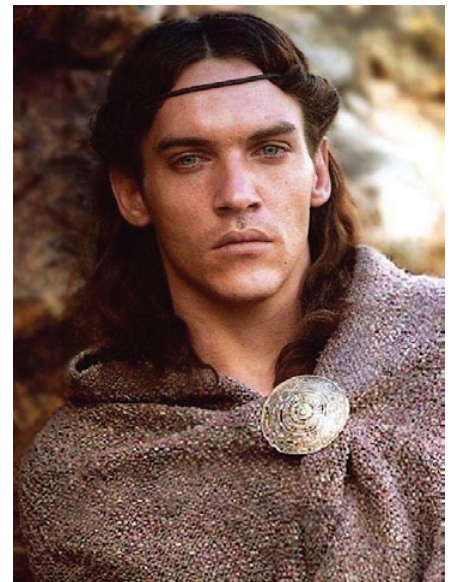


Alexander Tetradrachm
(Ouranopolis)

Figure 4 – Kassander is credited, along with Antipater and Polyperchon, with minting posthumous gold staters and tetradrachms of Philip II at the Pella mint soon after Alexander III died (issues from 323–315 BC). Antipater was regent most of that time, but Philip had already been dead for 15–20 years. Kassander is also given credit for minting other posthumous Philip II tetradrachms, Alexander III tetradrachms, Alexander gold staters and some unusual 1/5 tetradrachms between 317 BC and 297 BC, when he was first regent and then king. These later ones were struck at both Pella and Amphipolis, plus a few struck at Ouranopolis. The Appendix shows my example of his posthumous Alexander gold stater from Amphipolis, while Figures 5 and 6 show two of his tetradrachms from Ouranopolis and Amphipolis. While he was regent and/or king, he also minted smallish bronzes that were the only ones approved to carry his name.

(Photos courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group).

Jonathan Rhys-Meyers played Kassander in the movie 'Alexander' (2004).



Featured Tetradrachm

This article is as much about the unusual mint at Ouranopolis, and the featured tetradrachm's particular obverse die, as it is about Kassander himself. Ouranopolis issued very few coins in a short period during Kassander's reign. Perhaps the newly founded city was not a success. This obverse is among a few that stand out from the hundreds of typical Herakles styles and dozens of Alexander mints at the time. It is the distinctiveness of its style, combined with the level of artistry and execution, and the rarity of the mint that makes the coin desirable (see Figure 5).

Ouranopolis was an ancient town in northern Greece. It was situated in the Chalkidice at the base of the district's finger-like northern projection called the Athos peninsula. Founded by Kassander's brother, Alexarchos, in the 4th century BC, its name translates as 'City of Heaven'. Alexarchos was a character. He apparently was 'eccentric and megalomaniac', plus he saw himself as the sun god, Helios. He also crafted his own laws, tax system and dialect complete with newly invented words.

There is a notion that Kassander had his brother create Ouranopolis as an idealized city. Few mints west of Asia Minor actually produced Alexander type tetradrachms, and those few were only in Macedon. The two major mints at Amphipolis and Pella struck most of the

Alexander issues in their own distinctive, evolving styles. The other mint was at Ouranopolis, but it seems production did not last long, possibly because the city itself faltered. Kassander and/or Alexarchos alone instructed this new town to strike Kassander's coins beginning with this Alexander type. An independently minded celator then carved these dies based on the normal Alexander designs but with a finely tuned sense of style. The mint's output was not likely very high given the scarcity of known coins. This is understandable given the high production level at the other two mints – perhaps Ouranopolis was more of a hobby mint, a little project of the idealized town. The control mark 'A' on the reverse may represent Alexarchos as the city's founder and moneyer at the time. After 300 BC, individual Macedonian usurper kings such as Kassander tended to issue their own coin types.

I am struck by the simplified treatment of the obverse figure and the streamlined nature of Herakles's lion skin headdress on this coin. The headdress is reminiscent of early 20th century Art Deco design, with its emphasis on rigorous geometry, smooth surfaces and curves. The lion's face and ear are relegated to a small arc on the upper rim of the composition, and yet they too are streamlined and fully recognizable. In the mid to lower section, the lion's jaw and

two canine teeth are abnormally tiny, balancing the miniature lion face above. Being small, these elements don't distract from the enhanced curves of the lion's mouth and cheek. It would take more investigation to see if this decorative approach was replicated in any other contemporary artworks of the late 4th century BC. Nonetheless, the carver of this die was obviously a master at his craft.

Herakles's facial features are equally impressive. They have lost the generic sameness of many other dies – replaced by a sternness in the brow ridge, eye and mouth. The large eye makes it personal. Perhaps this Herakles reflects the king's own strength in dealing with adversaries or celebrates some battlefield victory. It is a portrait of defiance and conquest, not submission. Altogether, the Herakles is quite a 'modern' interpretation and a good example of Hellenistic inventiveness.

The reverse is typical, except that the 'Alexander' legend is drawn large with curvy letters. The starburst/lighthouse-like symbol and Theta control are specific to the mint. If you scrunch your eyes, the lighthouse can be equated to a comet (the tails of comets can extend in any direction as they stream away from the sun). Many collectors would like to have a coin with this symbol, especially collectors specializing in Alexander varieties.

Art Deco Design – Did the Ouranopolis mint's celator tune-in to a deco vibe?

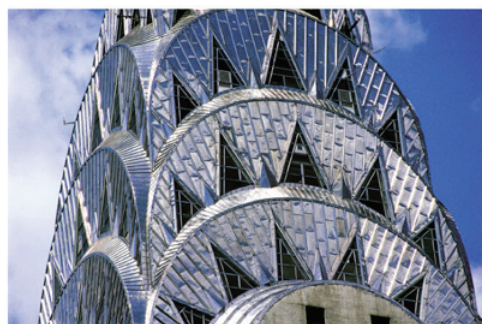


Figure 5 – Featured Kassander Tetradrachm from Ouranopolis



**Tetradrachm of Kassander – 317–305 BC as Regent or 305–298 BC as King
Alexander III Types (Struck 310–297 BC by Alexarchos)**

Obv: Head of Herakles wearing lion skin headdress.

Rev: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ; Zeus seated on throne, holding eagle and scepter; A under throne; to left, star on conical base, or comet, or lighthouse with Theta (Θ) below.

Data: 17.07g, 28.5 x 27.8 mm, 3h.

Mint: Ouranopolis, Chalkidice, Greece.

Reference: Price 518.

Acquired: CNG Electronic Auction, January 2018 (ex CNG Electronic, Dec. 2009).

(Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Figure 5 – This one coin, among two or three similar obverse dies, stands out against other Kassander examples. Alexander tetradrachms can usually be easily grouped to period and mint by their style and fabric, but some specific dies such as this go further by providing a unique interpretation of the subject. This obverse has minimal problems and the centering is perfect, perhaps a function of low mintage numbers. The reverse strike was, however, less carefully managed being a bit off-center. The photo highlights two detractors that are not as obvious in hand. There is a small scrape across the center of the starburst and a non-obstructive area of hard encrustation on the edge at 5 o'clock. The encrustation was larger when originally sold in 2009 (from 3–7 o'clock), so it was recently cleaned. The encrustation did not affect the metal or surface quality, which are nonetheless excellent and uncorroded. There is some wear but it isn't a big problem.

This example is noted as being struck by Alexarchos, brother of Kassander and a military officer. He founded

the city of Ouranopolis around 315 BC, the city where this coin was likely minted. The city was purportedly established on ideal principles, including the striking of coinage, but production didn't last long and the city was not well known. It is conceivable that the 'A' under the throne is for Alexarchos, the moneyer in this case.

This coin would be popular in any sale although the two reverse detractors would deter some bidders. The scrape on the symbol is serious since the symbol defines the mint, but the symbol here is still clear. This coin last sold over 30% above its generous estimate of \$500, equaling \$651 US, plus the usual fees and shipping. I won it only by the skin of my teeth as they say – \$1 over the previous bid, at the last moment, which must have driven someone crazy, but I have often lost coins by one bid. It was some satisfaction to know that the winning bid at its previous sale in 2009 was \$1,850 US on the same \$500 estimate.

Figure 6 – Kassander Tetradrachm from Amphipolis



Tetradrachm of Kassander – 310–294 BC

Alexander III Types

Obv: Head of Herakles wearing lion skin headdress, extra teeth in lion mouth.

Rev: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ; Zeus seated on throne, holding eagle and scepter;
Λ above torch in left field; tripod symbol under throne.

Data: 16.98g, 26.8 x 26.2 mm, 2h.

Mint: Amphipolis, Macedon.

Reference: Price 460v (obv), 461v (rev).

Acquired: CNG Electronic Auction, December 2009.

(Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Figure 6 – Another Kassander tetradrachm, but this one is from the very productive Amphipolis mint in Macedon and it is reasonably typical of the later type. It is attractive overall, though the detailing on this obverse dies tends to be less precise and the shapes more amorphous. The face of Herakles is well rendered, presenting the Hero as a finely featured young man – perhaps representing any number of Macedon's youthful warriors.

This obverse die is somewhat unusual because the jaws/lips of the lion skin are lined with small teeth on either side of the canines. Not only would these smaller teeth not appear on the lips (it is of course a lion skin and the canines shouldn't appear either), but there are way more of them than the run-of-the-mill, go-out-and-kill-your-own-food, lion would have. The effect is a little unnerving. Then there

are the eyelashes, or perhaps misplaced whiskers, near the top of the lion's face which don't seem to correlate. In its entirety, the image reminds me of what could be a dragon head which is kind of neat. The celator probably either didn't get out much or he enjoyed doodling – a little dose of character doesn't hurt anyway.

Many of Kassander's Amphipolis tetradrachms have this Lamda (Λ) control over the torch symbol. I just realized that I bought this Figure 6 one in October 2009, in the same sale where my featured Figure 5 Ouranopolis coin was first sold (for a lot more than I paid nine years later) – cue the *Believe It or Not* theme music! Quite a few of these Lamda issues have become available at lower prices in recent years, although quality is often lacking.

In Closing...

Kassander fits the pattern of a roughly hewn, forceful, ambitious Macedonian king. His success in gaining control of his homeland brought conflict with other powerful rulers, plus deadly consequences for Alexander the Great's remaining family.

Ironically, since Kassander subsequently adopted Alexander's usual imperial coin types for his tetradrachms.

My featured tetradrachm is different in style from the more numerous examples struck

in Kassander's main mint at Amphipolis. Production at Ouranopolis was limited and only a few of its dies managed to convey such a smoothly orchestrated boldness. Being conventional is so over-rated.



Addendum

It has recently been suggested by learned sources that my one and only Alexander gold stater, purchased back in January 2002 as an Alexander LIFETIME issue ('330–320 BC'), is actually a posthumous issue struck by Kassander. Its fine style does seem to infer such a date and it does sport a 'KA' (Kassander?) monogram in the reverse field, so it probably fits. However, it is still disappointing to not have a direct connection to the Alexander period.

This stater is extremely well preserved, with sharp details, smooth surfaces and lustre. It's a fine product of the Amphipolis mint. Curiously, the joined KA monogram faces forwards on mine, which is opposite to most of this type. The other irregularity is the handling of the trident symbol. The trident is extra bold and points downwards, much like others; however, there

are remnants of a more lightly carved, left pointing trident underneath. The carver was able to use some of the same lines, but a couple of the previous ones that don't match still stand out. Left pointing trident types do exist, so I assume that there was a significant administrative or military transition, either at the time this

die was carved or early in the die use, that caused the direction of the trident to be changed. I originally thought the trident change may have been related to before and after the death of Alexander, which would have pinpointed the date of issue, but now the series has been down-dated by a couple of decades. ☒



Gold Stater of Kassander – 317–305 BC as Regent or 305–298 BC as King Alexander III Types (Struck 310–300 BC)

Quote on Ruthless:

*An ordinary man gets
arrogant with beauty,
conceited with knowledge
and ruthless with power.*

— Amit Kalantri

Obv: Head of Athena wearing triple crested Corinthian helmet.

Rev: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ; Nike standing left, holding wreath; KA monogram in left field.

Data: 8.61g, 19.5 x 18.0 mm, 2h. Mint: Amphipolis, Macedon.

Reference: Price 180 (monogram reversed).

Acquired: CNG Triton V Auction, January 2002.

(Collection of the author and photo by the author).

50¢ Coins

Canadian Retail Coin Prices

by Dean Silver



Victoria 50¢	G 4	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1870 no Shmrck no Lcw	790.87	1,603	2,394	3,861	4,836	5,811	6,786	7,761	10,249	15,225	19,969	29,455
1870 with Shmrck no Lcw	790.87	1,603	2,394	3,861	4,836	5,811	6,786	7,761	10,249	15,225	19,969	29,455
1870 with Shmrck & Lcw	47.29	87.96	147.50	252.67	328.87	405.06	481.26	557.46	798.56	1,281	2,451	4,790
1871	63.47	125.62	228.28	529.45	657.15	784.85	912.56	1,040	1,475	2,344	3,873	6,929
1871H	100.16	189.42	356.34	755.85	1,011	1,266	1,522	1,777	2,258	3,218	5,635	10,469
1872H	47.45	88.62	166.10	333.74	421.51	509.29	597.06	684.84	858.17	1,205	2,354	4,651
1872H A/A ReginA	62.84	135.30	220.00	381.41	481.73	582.04	682.36	782.67	980.77	1,377	2,690	5,315
1872H 2/2 in date	62.84	135.30	220.00	381.41	481.73	582.04	682.36	782.67	980.77	1,377	2,690	5,315
1872H A/V in Victoria	248.07	485.06	956.65	1,699	2,677	3,656	4,635	5,614	7,321	10,735	15,908	26,255
1881H	66.18	120.04	193.14	386.97	508.77	630.57	752.36	874.16	1,270	2,060	3,885	7,536
1888	186.51	417.59	634.73	1,258	1,515	1,773	2,030	2,287	2,995	4,411	7,184	12,730
1890H	892.37	1,943	3,242	5,123	6,186	7,250	8,313	9,376	11,485	15,702	21,322	-
1892	65.14	158.84	251.89	509.46	643.79	778.11	912.44	1,047	1,626	2,784	4,556	8,099
1894	354.63	660.15	1,153	2,380	2,776	3,172	3,569	3,965	5,187	7,631	11,348	18,781
1898	62.92	125.20	261.92	570.47	721.54	872.62	1,024	1,175	1,828	3,135	6,259	12,507
1899	135.84	317.44	556.77	1,092	1,446	1,799	2,152	2,506	3,407	5,209	9,376	17,710
1900	49.00	91.31	165.69	368.22	477.51	586.79	696.08	805.36	1,178	1,923	3,520	6,713
1901	51.93	115.77	213.09	440.26	569.46	698.65	827.85	957.04	1,379	2,222	3,936	7,364

Edward 50¢	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1902	37.14	74.04	137.94	201.84	258.86	315.89	372.92	429.94	582.66	888.10	1,189	1,791
1903H	46.32	102.44	178.05	253.66	345.90	438.13	530.37	622.61	734.29	957.65	1,381	2,229
1904	240.72	453.47	628.99	804.51	987.56	1,171	1,354	1,537	1,870	2,536	3,402	5,134
1905	271.76	514.18	830.78	1,147	1,349	1,550	1,752	1,953	2,713	4,232	5,979	9,474
1906	27.88	59.93	114.52	169.11	243.06	317.01	390.96	464.91	604.19	882.75	1,273	2,053
1907	30.84	57.59	105.76	153.92	227.35	300.78	374.21	447.64	564.70	798.83	1,227	2,082
1908	48.99	121.78	216.79	311.80	406.30	500.80	595.29	689.79	788.60	986.23	1,229	1,715
1909	37.59	120.20	219.49	318.79	434.30	549.82	665.33	780.84	1,052	1,595	2,205	3,424
1910 Edwardian Lvs	25.54	49.33	91.44	133.55	205.25	276.96	348.66	420.36	531.91	755.03	1,234	2,191
1910 Victorian Lvs	41.84	79.06	141.88	204.70	317.11	429.53	541.94	654.36	841.23	1,215	1,686	2,629

George V 50¢	VG 8	F 12	F 16	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	EF 45	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60
1911	37.86	125.82	268.92	412.03	517.12	622.21	727.30	832.40	970.20	1,246	1,610	2,339
1912	22.05	43.98	108.29	172.60	232.12	291.64	351.16	410.68	535.47	785.06	1,136	1,836
1913	20.38	53.50	133.59	213.68	268.83	323.99	379.14	434.30	577.12	862.76	1,335	2,279
1914	46.99	97.24	197.50	297.75	436.29	574.83	713.38	851.92	1,214	1,938	2,683	4,174
1916	16.07	29.59	60.28	90.98	129.46	167.94	206.42	244.90	318.24	464.91	618.16	924.65
1917	15.82	27.39	45.57	63.76	94.48	125.20	155.92	186.64	240.93	349.50	490.98	773.94
1918	15.42	25.05	38.61	52.17	78.97	105.78	132.59	159.39	219.23	338.91	456.08	690.44
1919	14.56	25.05	35.91	46.77	74.93	103.08	131.24	159.39	203.45	291.57	406.90	637.58
1920	19.12	30.05	48.41	66.77	107.74	148.70	189.67	230.63	302.23	445.43	580.92	851.89
1921	40,218	49,581	53,067	56,552	58,587	60,623	62,658	64,693	67,888	74,278	76,276	80,272
No 1922 to 1928 50¢	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1929	15.23	29.62	44.49	59.36	90.87	122.38	153.88	185.39	246.86	369.78	506.36	779.51
1931	29.51	50.11	97.71	145.31	219.77	294.22	368.68	443.14	572.27	830.53	995.52	1,325
1932	208.05	327.18	457.21	587.24	780.19	973.15	1,166	1,359	1,838	2,795	3,626	5,288
1934	40.53	59.02	109.21	159.39	217.68	275.96	334.25	392.53	492.75	693.20	835.18	1,119
1936	43.41	68.90	114.98	161.07	208.35	255.64	302.92	350.20	422.98	568.55	675.99	890.86

George VI 50¢	VG 8	F 12	VF 20	VF 25	VF 30	VF 35	EF 40	AU 50	AU 55	MS 60	MS 62	MS 63
1937	7.52	12.42	17.53	19.32	21.12	22.91	24.71	35.22	42.68	57.59	104.89	128.54
1938	8.28	16.70	28.80	37.81	46.82	55.84	64.85	89.40	118.67	177.21	365.59	459.78
1939	6.96	13.88	20.48	24.25	28.02	31.78	35.55	69.98	86.56	119.73	277.52	356.42
1940	5.19	8.31	12.67	13.54	14.41	15.28	16.15	22.16	29.82	45.15	77.25	93.30
1941	5.19	8.31	12.67	13.65	14.64	15.62	16.61	23.83	31.77	47.66	81.42	98.30
1942	5.19	8.31	12.67	13.65	14.64	15.62	16.61	23.83	31.77	47.66	81.42	98.30
1943 High/Low Near 3	5.19	8.31	12.67	13.65	14.64	15.62	16.61	23.83	32.16	48.83	100.17	125.84
1943 High/Low Mid 3	5.19	8.31	12.67	13.65	14.64	15.62	16.61	23.83	32.16	48.83	100.17	125.84
1943 High/Low Far 3	5.19	8.31	12.67	13.65	14.64	15.62	16.61	23.83	32.16	48.83	100.17	125.84
1943 High/Low Far Dbl 3	9.62	15.42	23.50	25.33	27.16	28.98	30.81	44.20	59.66	90.58	185.81	233.43
1944	5.08	8.31	12.67	13.70	14.74	15.78	16.81	22.16	29.82	45.15	81.70	99.97
1945	5.25	8.98	13.51	14.58	15.65	16.72	17.79	23.94	32.18	48.66	94.52	117.45
1946	5.19	8.89	18.41	20.33	22.24	24.15	26.07	42.61	58.05	88.93	169.46	209.73
1946 Hoof in 6	36.65	52.36	90.57	133.12	175.67	218.22	260.77	592.05	1,104	2,129	3,165	3,684
1947 Long 7 left	5.42	10.84	16.87	19.76	22.65	25.54	28.43	54.13	68.86	98.31	246.41	320.46
1947 Short 7 right	6.29	17.97	28.07	31.70	35.34	38.97	42.61	75.13	99.82	149.22	303.21	380.21
1947 ML Long 7 left	35.18	60.40	80.54	97.31	114.09	130.87	147.65	201.34	248.49	342.80	494.58	570.47
1947 ML Shrt 7 right	1,505	2,039	2,458	2,732	3,005	3,279	3,552	4,588	5,443	7,153	10,564	12,270
1948	125.86	188.80	214.76	228.19	241.61	255.03	268.45	335.57	369.12	436.24	525.72	570.47
1949	5.37	9.32	13.79	14.82	15.85	16.88	17.90	26.73	40.60	68.36	145.83	184.56
1949 Hoof over 9	18.81	27.59	52.34	65.36	78.38	91.40	104.42	244.98	370.26	620.80	1,191	1,476
1950 Design in 0	5.37	7.11	12.56	14.45	16.33	18.22	20.10	26.18	29.15	35.09	50.29	57.90
1950 Half Design in 0	7.15	10.74	13.67	15.97	18.27	20.57	22.88	28.86	38.06	56.46	79.95	91.69
1950 No Design in 0	16.04	25.06	28.38	33.39	38.40	43.41	48.41	89.11	122.90	190.49	269.09	308.39
1951	5.37	7.11	9.22	11.05	12.88	14.71	16.54	20.05	22.06	26.07	35.04	39.53
1952	5.37	7.11	9.22	11.05	12.88	14.71	16.54	20.05	22.06	26.07	35.04	39.53

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1953 NSF Large date	8.02	10.03	14.02	18.36	22.70	50.69	101.13	150.33	199.54	248.75	733.88	-
1953 SF Large date	6.02	7.02	8.02	11.52	15.03	21.11	30.05	39.47	48.90	58.32	136.17	803.00
1954	5.53	6.28	7.40	12.30	17.20	20.03	35.04	42.55	50.06	57.57	100.12	375.21
1955	5.53	6.28	7.33	10.67	14.01	16.93	21.12	26.32	31.52	36.72	83.51	378.83
1956	5.03	5.78	6.65	8.83	11.01	15.38	18.15	19.92	21.69	23.46	78.50	393.82
1957	5.03	5.78	6.65	8.08	9.50	12.59	15.36	17.73	20.09	22.46	38.40	178.80
1958	5.03	5.78	6.65	8.08	9.50	12.59	15.36	17.56	19.76	21.96	38.40	210.41
1958 Dot	12.03	13.53	15.16	16.35	17.54	20.05	25.06	30.58	36.09	41.60	99.45	298.24
1959	5.03	5.78	6.65	7.95	9.25	11.37	13.14	15.16	17.18	19.20	35.89	193.10
1960	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.40	14.24	16.07	30.26	170.61
1961	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.40	14.24	16.07	27.76	148.53
1962	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.05	13.53	15.02	25.03	89.17
1963	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.05	13.53	15.02	25.03	127.16
1964	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.05	13.53	15.02	25.03	102.58
1965	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.05	13.53	15.02	25.03	86.68
1966	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.05	13.53	15.02	25.03	126.16
1967	4.52	5.03	5.53	6.03	6.53	7.04	10.57	12.05	13.53	15.02	25.03	117.90
1968	0.75	1.01	1.26	1.51	1.76	2.01	2.25	3.34	4.42	5.51	16.27	85.11
1969	0.75	1.01	1.26	1.51	1.76	2.01	2.25	3.34	4.42	5.51	16.27	85.11
1970 thru 1979	0.65	0.90	1.16	1.41	1.66	1.91	2.15	3.27	4.39	5.51	13.77	78.10
1978 Round Jewels	2.51	3.02	3.52	4.02	4.52	5.03	6.57	8.55	10.53	12.52	25.03	82.58
1980 thru 1989	0.65	0.90	1.16	1.41	1.66	1.91	2.15	3.27	4.39	5.51	12.52	44.43
1982 Flat Bust	7.54	12.56	17.59	21.95	26.32	32.58	41.74	47.86	53.98	60.10	97.50	204.01
1990 thru 1999	0.65	0.90	1.16	1.41	1.66	1.91	2.15	3.27	4.39	5.51	12.52	41.18
2000 thru 2009	0.65	0.90	1.16	1.41	1.66	1.91	2.15	2.77	3.39	4.01	9.01	31.29
2010 thru 2016	0.65	0.90	1.16	1.41	1.66	1.91	2.15	2.58	3.01	3.44	8.39	21.28



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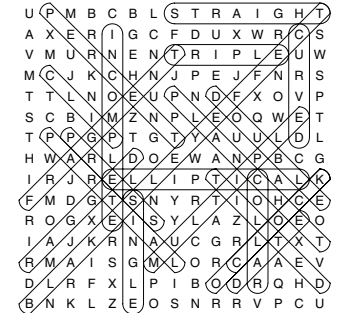
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Error Coins

by Joe Kennedy

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

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



annealing	error	mistake	rimmed
broken (die)	flaw	mule	spacing
bubble	foreign (planchet)	offmetal	streak
collar	hub doubling	overpolished	style
contamination	humorous	planchet	thick (planchet)
date	imbedded	plating	thin (planchet)
denomination	lamination	press	(copper) wash
design	major	resurfaced	wrong (planchet)
die	minor	retained (lamination)	

It's not the Maine Event...

by **Marc Bink**



Denier of Herbert 1

This is a nice example of a denier of Herbert 1 “Wakedog” of Maine (circa 1020 – 1030 AD). My coin does not look this nice.

The coin this month is a rather nondescript thing; barely legible and the devices seem to make no sense at all. If one didn't look at it closely, they'd be tempted to just dismiss this thing as a piece of old metal that must have fallen off a car somewhere and been run over a few times. But it's not; it is in fact one of the oldest medieval coins in my collection.

To uncover the story behind this piece we have to go back to France. We're going back to a time where the big cathedrals are being laid down and built, a time when people either worked for the church or worked in the fields or in the service of some nobleman. It is a time when noblemen were encouraged to be chivalrous, but in actuality were anything but. The year is 1030 AD.

France during this era hardly resembled what is there now. Paris was the largest city, but it only had a population of about 200,000, and that is estimated. The city was centred on an island in the middle of the Seine River. It was from here that the

King of France ruled his kingdom, and it extended as far as the eye could see. There were no nice street-side cafes or good restaurants. In fact, if one was not prudent enough not to be in motion while on the street, he was likely to have the contents of a chamber pot dumped on him. It was not the “city of light” or the romantic place it is now. It probably served as a prototype for one of Dante's levels of hell.

There were merchants, thieves, drunks of all shapes and sizes, including knights and priests, prostitutes, and street-urchins all wandering about doing their thing. People of all shapes and sizes milled about on the streets; which typically would have a vile



Hugh Capet

This is a contemporary illustration or facsimile of Hugh Capet, the first of the Capetian dynasty of French kings and father of Robert II.

slurry filled ditch running in the centre of it which ran into the Seine. Animals roamed almost at will; pigs and chickens mucked about in front of houses, Horses would be parked everywhere, some in front of carts, others stood around in mill lines or were waiting to go into the fields nearby. Workhorses in many cases keeled over and were left where they died, someone would eventually pick up the carcass or what was left of it, but only after the vermin and the poor went at it. Carcasses and filth were everywhere, one had to be careful of where he tread. In front of the houses, reeds used for flooring were regularly being turned out, while smoke from the cooking fires oozed out of glassless windows. Dogs and vermin such as rats competed and frequently beat out any local cats for any scraps. Looming large in the smoky distance would be the rising facade of the Notre Dame cathedral, then under construction. The Church was first and foremost in a people's lives and frequently contributed to their death. Sickness and pestilence was rife, as was the stench of millions of unwashed people and open air toilets. It was not a nice place.

But, for all of its shortcomings, it was home, and more importantly, it was the home of King Robert (the Pius) of France.

If his kingdom extended as far as the eye could see, rumour had it that the King of France in the 1020s was pretty myopic, because Robert the Pius's kingdom extended just to the Ile de France and a few little specks to the north, otherwise there wasn't much. Robert was the second Capet to be addressed as the King of the Franks, his father Hugh was the first one. Hugh Capet was elected to the throne in 987 after a hard fought struggle and was succeeded by his son Robert in 996. Hugh's goal was to build an



Robert II

This is the tomb of Robert II and his wife Constance d'Arles, in the Basilica of St. Denis in Paris.



Abbey of St. Germain des Pres

The Abbey of St. Germain des Pres was around in the time of Herbert and Robert II of France. Besides the colours fading a bit, it hasn't changed much and is a stellar example of early Gothic architecture.

empire out of West Francia that would rival that of his cousin, Otto I of the Holy Roman Empire next door in Germany. It would take another 500 years for the Capetian family to finally secure all of France from the feudal lords who nominally reported to them and the English, who

through family connections in France had a strong claim to the throne. The late medieval period in France was one of almost constant fighting and bloodshed.

The Capetian family did descend from the Carolingian line that traced itself back to



Map of the county of Maine in Herbert's time

Note Normandy to the north and Anjou to the south.

Charlemagne. Charlemagne was the first person to unify all the Frankish kingdoms and got the Pope to endorse him as the successor to the Roman Empire. That was in 800 AD, almost 400 years after the Roman Empire's demise in the west. That was the first high point and the only point in time when the Franks were on top of the known world; it's been in a steady decline ever since. By the time Hugh Capet managed to wrestle an election away from his other cousin and get declared the King of the Franks, the large swath of territory had been reduced to

the Ile de France and not much more. But Hugh was playing it smart; he was in for the long haul and he knew it. The one thing he had was a consolidated economic power base. He also understood that there was no way he could ever raise an army, so he had to make deals to keep the other dukes happy and on his side. This meant slapping some of the more ambitious ones around a bit, and marrying sons and daughters into the others. It also meant learning diplomacy and tact; to know when to interfere in the Estates and when not to.

Robert was all about keeping the status quo. He was too busy trying to get marriages legitimized and squabbling over lands where the inheritance was indistinct to worry about getting into wars. Like his father, he realized he needed peace around his kingdom. So he set about trying to keep the neighboring dukes happy. One of these was Fulk III of Anjou, and another was Herbert I "Wakedog" of Maine.

Maine in this case is a county in Old France, and not a state on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Maine is situated in the northwest corner of France, just under Normandy and above the centre in Anjou. The capital of Maine was LeMans. The city of LeMans is still there, but Maine is divided up between the current Departments of Sarthe and Mayenne. Maine had the misfortune of being between two constantly warring families, the Normans in the north and the Angevins in the South.

The coin I have is from Herbert I of Maine. It is one of his common silver Denier issues, issued between 1020 and 1030. It features his monogram on the obverse surrounded by the legend "COMES CENONANNS", and the reverse has a cross surrounded by "SIGNUM DE VIVI". The coins of Herbert I were all made by a local mint in LeMans; a small thin silver coin about the size of a dime.



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Herbert was likely born somewhere around 985 AD. He succeeded his father in 1017. One thing that Herbert had to contend with was constant intrusions and wars. He was nominally a vassal to Fulk III "Nerra", (the Black) the Count of Anjou. As such, he was constantly being invaded. To add to his troubles, the Bishop of LeMans, a certain Avesgaud de Belleme didn't much like him and tried to depose him. Being that he was almost constantly under attack by someone, he earned the sobriquet "Wake-dog" for his ability to sense and be prepared for any kind of an attack.

Herbert didn't much help his own cause. He went after the Bishop constantly, whenever the Bishop wasn't going after him. The one tool the Bishop had that Herbert didn't was the power of excommunication. Herbert was excommunicated in 1025 after

a series of nocturnal invasions which caused the Bishop to turn tail and take flight to his brother's castle. As was the way of the world in those days, both parties soon came to a "peace", Herbert had the excommunication lifted and then soon resumed sniping at the Bishop. In the meantime, Herbert got himself into some trouble with his fief, Fulk III Nerra and spent 2 years cooling his heels in captivity. It ended up costing him some territory, not to mention the humiliation of being held. Fulk took over Maine and ran things for him while he was gone. After Fulk decided he'd had enough, he returned Herbert to his place. What Herbert didn't quite seem to get was that Fulk was allied with the Bishop, and had to choose which ally would be more beneficial to him. Herbert lost out and got his wrists slapped, which is far easier than what Fulk was known to do to people who really displeased him.

The one contribution to posterity that got Herbert immortalized was these Denier coins. They were the best of the age, all made with a degree of fineness and constant weights. They were readily accepted all throughout medieval France and into England. They were minted starting in around 1020, and were discontinued between 1030 and Herbert's death in 1035.

The Denier was the archetype for the Penny; it seems that around this time most of the dukes, counts, and whatever else there was for nobility started making coins to this standard. Prior to around 600 AD, there wasn't much of anything circulating as the Church had essentially deemed money the root of all evil and more or less prohibited it. But as the large empires started up, it soon became apparent that in order to trade, a new monetary system would



1: German knight, 1000-1150
2: Lotharingian infantryman, 1100-1150
3: Veronese infantryman, c.1109

Artist's conception of what knights or soldiers would have looked like in the time of Herbert 1

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have to be developed. The Carolingians under Peppin the Short created a new system of coinage. It was based on the old Roman denarius-solidus-libra system. It didn't take long for these new coins to spread. The English were already making pennies in the Anglo-Saxon period, ostensibly to trade with the French and the Vikings. The French nobility started striking coinage again around the same period. The only coin minted as a unit of actual exchange was the denier or the silver penny as it became known in England. It took 12 denier (12 d) to make a Sou, or solidus. It took 20 Sou (Solidi) to make a Livre. The Sou and the Livre were still units of account in France, as where the Shillings and the Pound sterling in England. As the Middle Ages wore on, the denier was augmented by the Liard, (3 d) the Douzain (12 d) and then eventually larger coins made from silver or gold as inflationary pressures took over and things changed. The denier became worth less and less, minting denier coins more or less stopped by the 14th century. The lowly denier was finally cashed out when the French revolutionary government changed the currency in 1797. By then it was a unit of account and the Sou was the lowest denomination circulating. In England the medieval based Penny-shilling-pound system soldiered on until morphing into its current form in 1970.

Coins were used by government and the merchant class. They

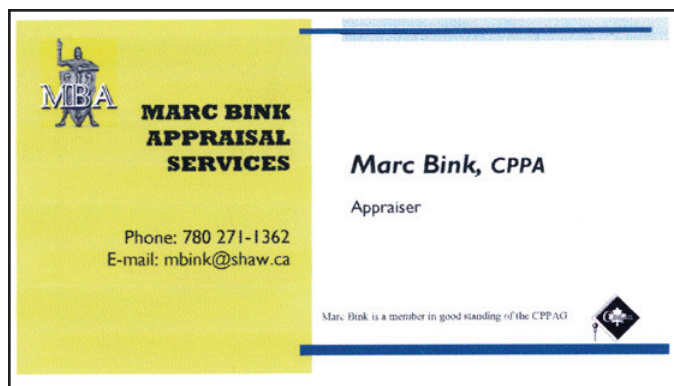
were generally not used by serfs or peasants. The only reason a peasant would need coins was to pay for his taxes. Generally they lived by trading goods and services for what they needed and only rarely took money. So there aren't many of these coins minted. Merchants would use coins to pay government and for trade between states and city states. It all revolved around weight. In order to be called a "denier", a coin had to be a certain weight of almost pure silver. This made them universally convertible and trusted. As long as the coin didn't look undersize it was almost assured to be within the correct weight range. Therefore it made the coin a perfect medium of exchange for trade.

The rich held their silver in the form of plate; and, in many cases, even ate off of them. Whenever they needed cash they'd send the plate to a moneyer who would then coin it in the name of the local noble. The moneyer would get a cut, usually the cut silver shards or powder, and the rich noble would then have his cash. It was a rather difficult and time consuming way to make a withdrawal, but this was all in the era before there were banks. When accumulating wealth, the noble would then have the coins all melted down and reconverted to plate which was easier to store. Or he could choose to have it all in a strongbox. Gold was handled in the same way, except that it was very scarce. Even as late as

the 10th century, it is rumoured that old Roman coins and gold still circulated, although most by the end of the 13th century would have been melted down and recoined.

The one thing that kings and nobility needed was money. They had enough cows and serfs (slaves, more or less) but in order to field armies they needed plate and coin. So the main focus of the nobility was to plunder and raid from whom-ever and whatever they could. It also meant plundering from each other and usually it was the poor that usually took it in the ear. This the nobility did with alarming frequency and incredible cruelty. People walking along rural roadways and highways would be easy target practice for drunk and bored knights; the poor victim usually ended up headless in a ditch. And it didn't matter what gender or age the victims were; life was cheap and there were plenty more of them where the last one came from. As the old saying goes, life was coarse, brutish and short in the Middle Ages.

Herbert of Maine wasn't one of the worst; he was just typical of his age. Fulk III Nerra of Anjou on the other hand, was much worse. He was known to be brutal and unforgiving. So when Herbert insulted his soon to be wife, he was actually lucky to have escaped with his life. He only suffered 2 years of imprisonment and humiliation; he could have easily been tortured

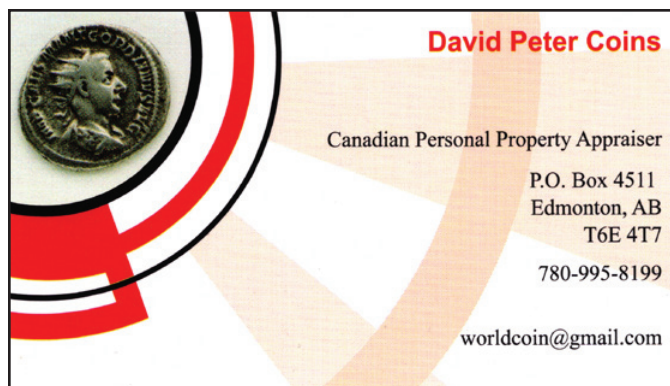


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to death. He was able to rule his county for a few years more. But the Angevins would eventually wear him and Maine down and take over a few years later, during a succession crisis.

And this is where things get a bit interesting. Maine was in the middle of a power struggle between two large opposing forces. The Angevins to the south and the Normans to the north. Each wanted to retain control of Maine as a buffer against the other. In the end, the Angevins got control over Maine. This was unacceptable to the Normans. William (the Bastard) of Normandy besieged Maine in 1063. He eventually beat Fulk IV of Anjou and poisoned a couple of his allies to gain control of Maine in late 1063. With Maine in firm control as a buffer to the Angevins, William then was able to launch his successful invasion of England in 1066. William brought a lot of these coins with him when he invaded, which is why so many turn up in England, even to this day.

The Normans conquered England, and replaced the old Saxon ruling family with their own. They also brought with them a lot of French troubles which would soon become English ones. The family William had started was soon dying out. They managed to marry into or become part of a few French families, the most prominent being the Plantagenets. (Don't say you weren't warned about things getting interesting!)

And what of the Angevins? The family name of the Angevins was Plantagenet, and through a lot of wheeling and dealing they managed to wrest Maine from the Normans and give it over to Henry II of England, another Plantagenet. The Angevin Empire was by the year 1200 a lot larger than the Kingdom of France. But after a series of very bad decisions, John I of



Map of England and France (1066 AD)

This map illustrates how the destinies of England and France became intertwined after William the Conqueror took over England in 1066. The seeds for the conflict were laid in Herbert's time.

England (Lackland) managed to lose Normandy, which gave the struggling House of Capet all the impetus it needed to take on the English and start the long battle to win France. It took them and

their descendants another 500 years to finally secure the entire region of what is now France.

Maybe it was the Maine event after all...

A Denarius of Otho

by **Terence Cheesman**



As I have mentioned before, the New York International Numismatic Convention is a great place to find really nice coins. As I was wandering the bourse floor with some money burning a hole in my pocket, I saw a very nice denarius of the Emperor Otho sitting in a dealer's tray. After very brief but intense negotiations, my surplus money problems were simplified and I was now the proud owner of that coin.

Marcus Salvius Otho was born 16 April 32 A.D. into a noble Etruscan family. He became one of the Roman emperor Nero's BFFs. As emperor, Nero enjoyed going out on the town and indulging in adolescent high jinks including robbery, break and enter, rape and murder. Otho certainly joined in the high jinks. It is very likely that he was heavily involved in the plot organized by Nero to murder Nero's mother, Agrippina Minor. Things were just about perfect until he fell madly in love and married the wrong woman. Her name was Poppaea Sabina. Poppaea's

mother was reputed to be the most beautiful woman of her day, and perhaps her daughter inherited her good looks. According to Tacitus, she used Otho as a stepping stone to get closer to Nero. One story has it that on the night Otho married Poppaea, Nero demanded that she go to bed with him. Otho refused. Needless to say Nero's relationship with Otho soured and he was sent off to become governor of Lusitania, which is part of modern day Portugal. Poppaea happily divorced him and later married Nero. She was later kicked to death by her new

husband ('be careful what you wish for...'). Otho on the other hand flourished in Lusitania. Despite his rather appalling record in Rome, he gained the reputation of being a good governor and ruled with moderation for over ten years. He joined Galba in his revolt against Nero in 68 A.D.

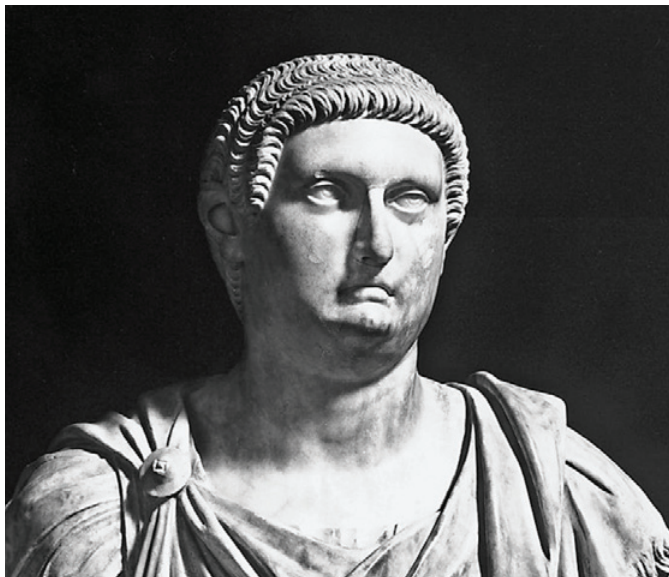
Galba was successful and overthrew Nero and became emperor and it is here that the story gets a bit weird. Despite his rather dubious credentials, Otho began to entertain the thought that he could be emperor. Perhaps the high life he enjoyed while being best buds with Nero that made him crave the job. Another possibility could be the mountain of debt he had accumulated necessitated a substantial pay raise to solve that problem. At first, he thought he would be Galba's successor, but that didn't happen. At heart, Galba was a Roman from the old school and did not find any qualities that would recommend the former playboy, Otho, as his successor.

So as soon as Galba designated another man to be his successor, Otho began to actively plot against him. However, what transpired showed Otho to be quite amateurish. He managed to bribe some 23 guardsmen, and with this token force he entered the Praetorian Guard's camp and declared himself Emperor. At first, the Guard's were surprised and there was a rather ominous silence. Then somebody remembered that Galba had declined paying them a bonus, so they all declared their allegiance to Otho. Otho then dispatched a force of cavalry to kill Galba and that was the end of him (15 January 69 A.D.).

Otho did not last long. The Roman Legions on the Rhine had, on 1 January 69 A.D., proclaimed Vitellius as emperor and were marching down towards Italy to wrestle control from Galba. The accession of Otho did not change anything. On 14 April 69 A.D., the two armies met and the army of Vitellius defeated that of Otho. Two days later, though still in command of a formidable army, Otho elected to commit suicide. It was generally thought by Romans that by doing this, he would spare the country from civil war. Most Romans were shocked that a man who was a companion of Nero and had such a dissolute lifestyle would choose such an admirable end. He had reigned for 91 days.

Despite the brevity of his rule, Otho did manage to mint coins. He minted both gold aurei as well as silver denarii. His gold aurei are quite rare but not excessively so as about 80 have been offered in auctions over the last twenty or so years. The silver denarii are much more common. No bronze Otho aes

coins from the mint of Rome have ever been discovered. On 9 March 69 A.D., Otho took the title of chief priest or Pontifex Maximus and all coins minted after that date reflect his change in titulature. My coin is part of the initial issue of these coins. The obverse legend reads IMP. M. OTHO CAESAR AVG. TR. P. In full, this legend would have read IMPERATOR MARCUS OTHO CAESAR AUGUSTUS TRIBUNICIA POTESTAS.



Bust of Otho

Roughly translated the legend would read: The Victorious army commander Marcus Otho rightful heir to Julius Caesar and the revered Octavian with the power of tribune of the people. He is depicted as a rather heavy set man with a double chin and a small mouth set in a frown. His hair is combed forward from the back of his head, however above his ear his hair is shown in four large waves running across his forehead. Otho suffered from thinning hair at an early age and was forced to wear a wig. This wig was described as "so carefully fashioned, and fitted his head, that no one suspected it". Maybe they were just being polite. This is, as far as we know, the only time an official portrait of a Roman emperor included a

wig. In some ways his portrait does remind us of those commissioned for Nero.

The reverse legend reads VICTORIA OTHONIS, which translates as Otho's victory. Victory is depicted holding a laurel wreath and palm and alighting on a small globe. As this coin type was initiated most likely before March 9, there is no obvious event for which Otho could claim some form of military success. He might have been trying to take credit for some of the military successes in Judaea, but the most intense military operations had ended at the end of 67 A.D. and there were no major military operations during the next year. Another was an anticipated success against the armies supporting Vitellius in the north, but this too is unsatisfactory. Romans generally don't like to celebrate victories over other Romans. When Octavian celebrated his victory over his rival Marc Antony, he pre-

ferred to emphasise his victory over Antony's ally, Cleopatra VII of Egypt. One also has to consider Otho's recorded aversion to civil war, something that he was willing to commit suicide to prevent. It would seem unlikely that he of all people would want to advertise his success in such a conflict. So we are left with something of a puzzle and our sources can offer little help.

After Otho's death, Vitellius marched on Rome and became emperor. However, the army that had supported Otho did not remain quiet. They then supported a new contender Vespasian and, along with other units, they defeated Vitellius who was later executed under less than ideal conditions. 

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the members of the Edmonton Numismatic Society,

This Fall's coin show will be the last time I will attend your coin show as a dealer.

Let me explain.

In April of this year, I was involved in a major car accident returning from a coin show in western Canada. My car was totalled and I could have been killed. I feel lucky to be alive.

After much soul searching, I have decided to stop attending coin shows outside Saskatchewan. Instead, I will spend more time with my loved ones and less time on the road.

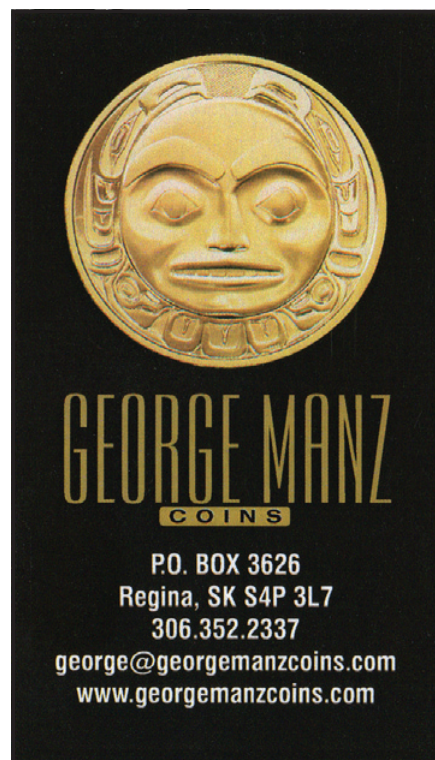
While I will no longer attend coin shows outside Saskatchewan, I will continue to sell coins from my website and at coin shows in Regina and Saskatoon.

I have attended your coin show as a dealer for many years. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the members of your coin society as well as the general public. I would like to thank the many volunteers that it takes to host such a well-organized coin show.

I will cherish the many memories of your coin shows for the rest of my life.

Best regards,

George Manz
Fellow, Royal Canadian
Numismatic Association
Owner, George Manz Coins



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- conduct some research into your collection
- receive the *Silver Maple Leaf Volunteer Award*, given to volunteer writers and become eligible for the *Reach for the Gold* draw at the end of every year.

Contact: **editor_ens@yahoo.ca**

Edmonton Numismatic Society



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