

Coin Chronicles

The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

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European Silver Coins prior to World War II

-John Janeczek

This article will discuss some European silver coins struck prior to World War II. I have selected an assortment of ten pieces from different countries that I hope you will find interesting. I will present the coins in chronological order.



The first coin is this 1906 Danish 2 Kronor. It bears the image of the present King, Frederik VIII, on the reverse, surrounded by his titles in Danish and his personal motto which translates

to 'The Lord is my aid.' The reverse shows his father, the late King Christian IX, with the date of his death. This coin was struck to honor the deceased King and commemorate the accession of his son. The initials VBP next to the date are the initials of the Master of the Copenhagen Mint, Vilhelm B. Poulsen.



The next coin is this 1912 Bulgarian 2 Leva. It bears the image of Tsar Ferdinand I, who ruled from 1887 until 1918, along with his titles. The reverse simply bears the denomination and date within a wreath. The language is Bulgarian which uses the Cyrillic alphabet.



Next is another coin using the Cyrillic alphabet, this Russian 1 Ruble from 1913. This coin commemorates the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty ruling Rus-

sia. It bears the dual images of Tsar Michael, the founder of the dynasty, along with the current Tsar, Nicholas II. The reverse shows the two-headed Imperial eagle with the dual dates 1613-1913 and the denomination.



The next coin was struck after World War I. It is a 1927 5 Lire from Italy. It portrays King Vittorio Emanuele III on the obverse with his titles in Italian. The reverse shows the date, 'R' mint mark of the Rome Mint along with the denomination and an eagle perched on fasces, the symbol of Fascist Italy. This coin serves as evidence of the economic distress that World War I caused in Europe, as before the war the 5 Lire was a large crown sized piece while this coin is about the size of a quarter.



This next coin also exemplifies

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COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

**February 2017
LOCAL SHOW SCHEDULE**

PARSIPPANY February 5th at Sunday 9 AM – 3 PM
Pal Bldg 33 Baldwin Road Parsnippany NJ

BURLINGTON February 12th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Burlington Mason Lodge Route 541 Burlington, NJ

TREVOSE February 19th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Trevose Fire House 4900 Street Road Trevose, PA

TRI-STATE COIN & STAMP SHOW February 26th Sunday 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Sheraton Bucks County 400 Oxford Valley Road Langhorne, PA

WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES March 3rd to April 7th Thursday – Sunday
Thursday – Noon – 6 PM Friday – Saturday - 10 AM – 6 PM Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM
Baltimore Convention Center One W. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD

GSNA 42nd Annual Convention 2017 Thursday May 18 - 12PM to 6PM
Friday May 19 - 10AM to 6PM Saturday May 20 - 9AM to 4PM Ukrainian Cultural
Center - Somerset, NJ

2017 EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS (EAC) April 20 – April 23
Thursday – Sunday Thursday – Dealers Only Friday – Saturday – 9 AM – 5 PM
Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM
Doubletree by Hilton Phila. Center City 237 Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA

the devaluation of currencies which followed the war. It is a French 10 Francs from 1929. Before the war, a 10 francs coin was a small gold coin, containing about 1/10 oz. of gold. This 10 francs coin contains less silver than the pre-war 2 Francs piece did. It bears a female head representing Liberty on the obverse with the words "Republique Francaise" or 'French Republic' on the obverse. The reverse bears the denomination, date, and the republican motto "Liberte, Egalitie, Fraternite" or 'Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood' on the reverse between stalks of wheat.



The next coin is a 1932 2 Kronor from Sweden. This coin honors King Gustavus Adolphus, who was a great military leader killed in battle during the Thirty Years War. The obverse shows his portrait. The 'G' to the left is the initial of the Mint Master, Grabe, while the image below it is the head

of St. Erik, the patron saint of Stockholm which was used as the mint mark of the Stockholm Mint. The reverse bears the present King's name and titles along with the date and denomination around the outside while in the center is an inscription that translates to '300th Anniversary of King Gustavus Adolphus' death at Lutzen 6 November 1632.'



Next is this coin from a country that was part of the Russian Empire prior to 1918, a 1936 Lithuanian 5 Litai. The obverse shows the denomination and the head of Jonas Basanavicius, a doctor and journalist highly influential in the Lithuanian independence movement. The reverse shows the Lithuanian national arms and the country's name along with the date.



The next piece is also from one of the new countries founded after World War I, a 1937 Czechoslovakian 20 Korun. This coin commemorates the death of President Thomas Masaryk, who appears on the obverse along with his name and the years of his birth and death. The reverse shows the Czechoslovakian arms surrounded by the words "Czechoslovak Republic" and the denomination.



The next coin was struck in 1939, the year that World War II broke out. It is a Shilling from another new country, Ireland. The coin bears the Irish harp on the obverse with the country's name: Eire, and the date. The reverses of all Irish coins of this period portray animals, in this

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Articles Wanted

If you have a topic you'd like to be covered in the Newsletter... write an article or submit your idea. Don't be shy....do it. All entries are welcome. Articles will appear in the Newsletter as soon as possible and might be edited for space consideration, not editorial content.

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case a bull. It also shows the denomination both as 1 S. which is the British abbreviation for shilling, as well as in Gaelic, the national language of Ireland.



The last coin I will show you tonight was also struck in 1939. It is a 5 Lire from Vatican City. The image of Pope Pius XII appears on the obverse, with his title in Latin, "Pontifex Maximus" or 'High Priest.' The inscription "Anno I" indi-

cates that the coin was struck during the first year of his reign. The reverse shows St. Peter steering a boat with the inscriptions "Stato della Citta del Vaticano" or 'State of Vatican City' with the date and denomination.

John



Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship.

Benjamin Franklin

Meeting Schedule

The Trenton Numismatic Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
 ONE JUSTICE SAMUEL A. ALITO JR. WAY
 HAMILTON , NJ 08619-3809

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