



Japanese Obang

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ORIGINAL BY COURTESY
OF THE OWNER, H. H. VREELAND SEE PAGE 22.

The Elder Monthly

THOMAS L. ELDER, *Editor*

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Editorials

Dates and Minor Varieties.

Since Numismatics is the science of coins and medals, does it not follow necessarily that anything having to do with coins, the method of their striking, composition, dates, errors in dies, inscriptions, and much else comes legitimately under that head? Coins being of necessity small, is another reason why their most insignificant details should be worthy of note. As we go back over the long centuries through mediaeval times and into the realm of ancient coins and

ancient history, it becomes more important—it is indeed imperative that the student take careful note of the slightest variance in type, mintmark and legend. The history of the Romans and Bactrians would have many dimly lit pages were it not for the revelations afforded us through coins. The subject of Greek and Roman coins alone offers an almost limitless field for critical study and research.

Nowadays it is almost affrontery to ask a man if he likes art or beauty. Nevertheless there are good men with plenty of unbogged ideas on art—in fact there are artists of our personal acquaintance—who collect coins—coins neither artistic nor historical, but just homely United States mintmarks, dates and die variances. And have we not seen their eyes sparkle like those of a youngster on being handed a new bauble, upon the discovery of a “ ’39 over ’36,” or a “ ’99 over ’98.” To such numismatists the systematic collecting of historical and artistic pieces and the effort demanded by historical research means simply to drudge and cudgel their brains. While the quest for dates and minor die differences may seem the veriest nonsense to Dr. Burke and others, yet it gives pleasure and relaxation to many—and are not pleasure and relaxation good?

If a numismatist does not take kindly to history he naturally takes to dates and minor varieties, and admitting his temperament and tastes, wherewithal shall he be blamed?

Mintmarks, dates and die varieties have always been collected and probably always will be, and while we are not recommending the general collecting of these, we believe for the good of the science there should be some specialists in this line.

The Rothschilds were Coin Dealers

One of our friends, Louis Kirsch, gives us a bit of interesting data as to the famous Rothschild family.

The founder, Amschel Moses Rothschild, kept a coin store at 152 Judengasse—or Jewish quarter—Frankfort on the Main. Before this shop was displayed a *red shield* (hence the name—Rothschild). Amschel dealt also in curiosities, art goods and old gold and silver. His son, Mayer Amschel, was born in 1743 and died in 1812; He, like his father, continued in the coin business. In the course of his coin business he met a collector, the court banker to the Landgrave of Hesse. This banker was so impressed by Mayer's business ability that he loaned him money for investment, and it was in this way that the great banking firm of Rothschild was established.

The *New York Evening Post* has contributed two able and interesting articles recently, entitled "Housing of Rare Coins," and "Medals and Insignia." We shall print the latter, in our next issue. The *New York Sun* also is doing some fine work of this kind. We are glad to have these noted newspapers take an interest in our science.

The political pot is boiling in New York State. At present writing, the greatest "coin collector" in the Empire State is one Murphy. While recent revelations show that Hearst, his ally, believes in corporations (such as the "Journal") yet he continues to denounce them roundly. Just at present this man Hearst is doing a lot to make "coin collectors."

We are glad to have a Philadelphia newspaper copy our editorials, but when it essays to denude our "Cornering Coins" article of arms and legs and invest it with members new and strange—deliberately adding a Quaker City origin even—we object, naturally.

The poem, "An Old Coin," which appeared in our August number, we now learn, was written by Thomas S. Collier, a poet of some note who died at New London, Ct., in 1893.

In our last issue, through a slip of memory, we accredited the work on "Colonial Medals" to Benjamin Betts. Of course it was C. W. Betts, who had to do with this work.

We find our first issue of March last has been exhausted and we will pay five cents per copy for any that may be sent to us.

Eighth Public Auction Sale.

My seventh sale, held October 3rd and 4th was a good one, and my eighth sale, taking place in November will be still better and particularly strong in private and U. S. gold, including rare U. S. gold, \$3, \$5 and \$10. I need only to mention uncirculated gold dollars of 1864 and 1870 San Francisco mint, 1853 and 1857 Dahlonga mint, 1858, '66, '68, '71 and '83 \$3 gold. There will be items to please all classes of collectors. A few choice ancient, including the extremely rare gold double stater of Alexander the Great, will be offered. Send early for a catalogue.

—Editor.

 Upon the Collecting of Portrait Coins

A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever.

Written for the MONTHLY by Martin Burke, M. D.

A hobby needs a plea and sometimes an apology. In collecting coins there must be, it seems to me, an excuse for any reasonable man wasting time and money in their acquisition. I have seen it stated by those who pretend to know that there are in these United States five thousand collectors of coins, but of these forty-five hundred collect American coins only. The other five hundred are miscellaneous collectors, being more catholic in their taste. I can admire a beautiful specimen of any die, but I can see nothing but a trivial waste of time in collecting different years of the same coin, when the difference is but slight and the coins not in themselves beautiful. Here then, in my opinion, is the head and front of the offending. These collectors collect neither for beauty, nor to increase their knowledge of historical facts pertaining to coins. They possess in their knowledge of dates, minute differences of the die and the rarity, a sort of learned ignorance. On the other hand what a field of knowledge opens up to a collector of portrait coins! I care not whether these be images of imaginary gods, mythological heroes or actual portraits. What an education and constant delight! If he collects for beauty the coinage of Greece alone would serve as an intellectual stimulus for a man's life time. It would at once increase his knowledge of art to an amazing degree and furnish him with an intellectual culture not to be overestimated. For years employed in the collecting of prints I did not think of coins until one day my friend Mr Vogrich opened a cabinet of Roman portrait coins. The accuracy of the portraits and the splendid lustre of the patination was to me at once a wonder and delight. I felt like stout Cortes in Keat's poem upon reading Chapman's Homer and was stricken dumb with astonishment. Here indeed were the first Caesars absolutely painted in my eye never to fade again.

Usually the collections of portrait coins in museums are not in fine condition and it is as if a man were shown a number of poor impressions of Rembraudt and asked to admire his genius. The result would be appalling. Hence in my opinion *the very great importance*, of fine condition. There are no portrait coins of Hannibal, but there is an unusually fine statue of this Carthagenian hero in Rome. What a great boon to collectors it would be, if some of the expert French

medalists would design a medal from this statue and give to collectors a picture of the greatest hero of the antique world! Some of the little tournois of French coinage are exquisitely beautiful. I have a Henry III, the last of the Valois, that almost breathes. I have a Henry IV that reproduces the great Bourbon to the very life, with his eagle beak and curled mustache. The great Henry lives again in a small piece of brass. These are indeed a pair of contemporary portraits beautifully engraved and well worth preserving. Here is Louis XIII in the same series with his foolish, hesitating face. And again the baby countenance of Louis XIV shows, as fresh as if struck but yesterday. We even see in this infantile face pride carried to the height of madness. Mr. Elder, who collects portrait coins for me in the condition that I wish for, one day offered me a small portrait coin beautifully preserved and exquisitely designed, of Johannes Sforza, tyrant of Pesaro, struck about 1490. Mr. Elder was told that this was the work of Benvenuto Cellini, but as I recognized the coin from an engraving in Hazlitt, I knew it was not by Cellini, but looking up the subject I found that Johannes Sforza was the first husband of Lucretia Borgia and was marked for destruction by Caesar Borgia, but escaped by proclaiming that his marriage with Lucretia was not legal and relinquishing the honor of being the husband of this celebrated woman, he escaped death. This coin is indeed a work of art and is worthy of any medalist.

Another beautiful coin in copper is that struck in Italy for Napoleon. It brings so forcibly to ones mind the wonderful pen picture of Heine. Compare another finely designed coin of Achille Murat, King of Naples. I mean the copper coin called a grano. The portrait shows him with his hair in long curled ringlets and his selfish, vain smooth face like one of the Incroyables of the Directoire. It is a somewhat strong face and bold withal but without much depth or evidence of reflection. Another fine coin is the silver thaler struck by Wallenstein one time lord of Mecklenburg. What a noble forehead is here, with a melancholy face filled with resolution! Does it not recall that wonderful picture of Piloty in which the dead Wallenstein is seen lying on the floor with the scattered remains of his magic quest about him and the trembling faces of two attendants glancing at the silent figure cold in death. The pusillanimous emperor of Germany feared this wonderful man, hence his assassination, and Protestant Europe at his death lost its greatest enemy. A half-penny of George the Fourth in mint bloom is worthy of any collection. The face of the 'first gentleman of Europe' seen in profile, while beautiful, shows his character at once. Compare it with the first George and see the difference.

How Thackery's essay on the Georges would be made more thoroughly interesting by examining a series of fine copper portraits of these sovereigns! How interesting to anyone must these portraits seem, and in copper, in my opinion, better than in any other medium. What a wonderful face is that of Julius II, the warrior pope who rode in armor at the head of his army! A beautiful devout head is that of Julius II, by Francia, and how it shows the evidence of strong religious feeling joined to a stern will! A beautiful series is that of the Sforza, tyrants of Milan. I should recommend to anyone who admires the strange beauty of that period Mr. Astor's "Sforza," a book that shows the evidence of genius and brings the epoch to life in a most amazing manner. The silver testoon of Ludovico Sforza, who was supposed to have murdered his nephew, exhibits a most spirited portrait, his thick hair is cut low in front, combed well over his forehead and being well puffed out behind completely covers the nape of his neck. His nose is aquiline and well shaped but his cheek is heavy and his lips unusually full and sensual, the eye being fine and bold. He resembles Vespasian somewhat, but while Vespasian's face is full below it is well governed by his noble forehead and his mild yet resolute eye.

Who has not read that graphic and wonderful account of Renaissance life as told by the great Florentine Goldsmith, Benvenuto Cellini? And has he not told us that he has "engraved the die for the first duke of Florence," that illustrious but fearful tyrant of the unhappy city upon the Arno? The portrait is that of a somewhat strong Greek face and the execution is conventional, but worthy withal of one of the strangest geniuses that the Renaissance has produced. Do we not remember how evenly matched was the great Henry of Navarre with the illustrious Alexander Farnese—and here indeed is the portrait of the Italian warrior upon a coin showing his greatness in this graven image. What an endless chain of historical facts of absorbing interest does not this small piece of silver bring to mind! What a severe, almost savage, simplicity of expression is rendered in this portrait! The face is Milesian in its type and courage and severity are here legibly written in no uncertain character. Thinking upon this coin I must recall that exciting little tale of the life of Julian Romero, Spanish adventurer, a famous hireling of Henry VIII, which is so beautifully narrated by Martin Hume.

Mr. Lang has just written a most interesting book concerning Mary Queen of Scots. Her head upon a testoon struck in Scotland gives us a most remarkable portrait and would do much to prove which is

the really authentic likeness of that enigmatic woman. It resembles, in my opinion, the early portrait of Mary drawn by Francis Clouet, executed shortly after her marriage with Francis II. Her portrait upon the coin seen in profile is as follows: A well shaped head, well set upon a slender neck, the forehead well arched but slightly protruding, the nose long but well shaped, the chin firmly modeled, altogether a pleasant face but one of no great beauty. It exactly calls to mind the drawing by Clouet. The most beautiful female head I ever saw on a coin was on a small piece of copper beautifully patinated, struck in Syracuse between 300 and 400 years B. C. The expression of the face on this coin is nobly beautiful above anything I have ever seen and resembles the wonderful head of Aphrodite recently acquired by the Boston Art Museum, and which is well worth a journey to Boston to see. I know of nothing in the Metropolitan Museum that can compare with this statue. Does not Maeterlinck say that the abstract love of beauty is a proof of man's immortality?

Leaving Sicily about 275 B. C. Pyrrhus relegated his authority to one of his officers who was afterwards known as Hieron II, King of Syracuse. His portrait, struck in copper about 240 years before Christ, is one of the most exquisitely beautiful coins that I have ever seen. This coin was secured for me by Mr. Seltman and he states that it is as fine as the one in the British Museum. The profile is bold yet exquisitely modeled, the head is laureated and the clustering hair reminds one of the later school of Greek art. The coin is well-centered beautifully patinated and has no blemishes. The reverse shows the figure of a horseman and is as artistically rendered as the portrait. I have a beautiful half-penny of Charles II, mint-bloom, and showing signs of a beautiful brown patination that is as speaking a likeness of that careless monarch as could well be imagined.

Mr. Elder recently sold me a small copper coin struck for the Austrian Netherlands and stamped with the charmingly girlish face of the great Maria Theresa. The portrait is perfect and it is beautifully designed. I can scarcely imagine Maria Theresa being ever as ingenuous as this portrait shows. A most curious portrait is that of Christina of Sweden. She has an enormous wig and while the execution of the die is not of the happiest type, still it is an interesting coin, and would no doubt add to the charm of reading her strange history. The superb daler of Charles XII of Sweden, with his firm chin, with high sloping forehead shows us at once the character of this mad warrior. He reminds us of Achilles and we can easily see why he fought Peter the Great to the bitter end. Truly a northern Charles the Bold! Christiau IV of Denmark, who reigned so long and fiercely, shows

well on a small silver coin dressed in the costume of the period. We might say periods, for I believe he reigned until 1648, over half a century. I know of nothing more interesting for a collector of portrait coins than the period which commenced with the crowning of the great Napoleon as Emperor of France. What an amazing subject is the history of this Corsican adventurer traced through the coins of his family and which touch intimately almost all the countries of Europe! We have the magnificent portrait of Joseph as King of Spain. The King of Holland is ably delineated on an exquisite silver dollar. Jerome, King of Westphalia, crowned with laurel, is a capital imitation of his august brother. Elisa, duchess of Lucca, is finely delineated on the same coin with her inglorious but handsome husband. The magnificent Murat, king of Naples, looking like a Greek god, is rendered to the very life in both gold and copper. Even Napoleon himself is struck for Italy as king of Rome.

The list of entertaining faces on coins is almost interminable and what a wealth of historical facts do they not bring forth! Would it not be charming if Mr. Carnegie would be good enough to donate \$100,000 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the purpose of establishing a department of coins and medals. These coins and medals could be selected with care and discrimination and would be an initial movement in forming a department of the greatest interest not only to collectors but for those who had no idea what a wealth of art lies hidden in cabinets. When all is said and done I must confess that I have no fault to find with collectors of any kind. I would much prefer a man who collects to one who does not, for the man who collects objects of slight artistic importance in themselves has yet the germ of commencing artistic development. It has been justly said that we are a nation given more to a love of the useful than to an appreciation of the beautiful. Now while this may have been true of the past I do not believe it is true of the present. I can remember as a boy the artistic life in New York was exceedingly meagre, but now it has spread a thousand fold and people are really beginning to appreciate all kinds of beautiful things.

I do wish, however, that collectors of coins would have commenced their artistic career with an appreciation of good engravings. Then it would be that they would never be satisfied with a poor impression of any coin no matter how rare. For the beauty of a coin lies solely in its condition. A badly struck coin or a coin that is terribly worn is a thing to be abhorred. Better to pay a large price for one coin of perfect beauty than to possess a thousand that are artistically imperfect.

Mineralogical Composition of Arrow and Spear Points

Written for the MONTHLY by Forest Gaines, Glendive, Montana.

Upon request, I will endeavor to give a description of some of the more common forms of quartz, used in the manufacture of arrow and spear points. The subject is a very difficult one owing to the great diversity of forms found in different sections. I hope to hear from some of our other friends of the collecting fraternity who are interested in this line.

In chemical composition all quartz has the general formula of six oz. of silicon dioxide. It is the most common mineral in existence and forms about one half of the solid crust of the earth. Sandstone, sand, soil, etc., are all composed principally of silicon dioxide, with other elements in varying proportions. The quartz molecule is composed of one atom of silicon united with two others of the common gas, oxygen.

I will describe only the common forms which have come under my personal observation. Those forms of quartz which I have seen used in the manufacture of arrow and spear points are the following: flint, chert, hornstone, obsidian, jasper, granular quartz, crystalline quartz and agate. These forms are all distinguished by special modifications, as fracture or cleavage, color, and other physical properties.

Each archaeological section usually has a distinct kind of material used for its points. Thus in one territory the points will probably all be manufactured from obsidian, while in another region jasper may be the prevailing quartz used.

It is an utter impossibility to give an adequate conception of each of these various forms of quartz without seeing and handling the specimens themselves. Illustrations would be valuable, but even they would have their limitations. For a detailed description of all of these forms I can only refer the reader to Dana's "Complete Mineralogy."

Arrowheads found in this section of Montana were principally manufactured from jasper, as there is rather a superabundance of that form of quartz hereabouts. Spearheads up to four inches in length, found by myself hereabouts, have been manufactured of the same material.

In Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Washington and California, and in fact throughout the entire lava district, obsidian or genuine volcanic glass is the prevailing form used. Some of these little gem points are of almost faultless manufacture, and with all our improved modern methods we would have difficulty in chipping anything so delicate.

The great extinct volcano beds of the above states are also one of the most interesting geological studies on the continent. The decomposed lava furnishes much valuable soil for homesteads.

In the middle states, flint and jasper are the most common varieties used, with occasionally a few made of granular or crystalline quartz. Those which I have picked up on the prairies of Iowa and Illinois in past years were principally of flint. Agate is most rarely used, and I have never seen a spearhead made of this material. These latter arrowheads are found almost wholly in the western states.

There are no extensive beds of flint and jasper in the middle states and these forms of quartz are principally found in the form of isolated glacial pebbles of varying size. Some of the points of New England are made of a rough granular quartz, notably of the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

What memories of the distant past one can conjure up when he happens upon one of those mute reminders of an almost forgotten people!

The Pinkerton Case

F. M. Pinkerton, of Marshallton, Iowa, in September of last year sent us bids on some American gold coins to be sold at auction, giving the names of S. H. & H. Chapman, of Philadelphia, as his reference.

His bids secured over \$43 worth of coins, all gold with two exceptions, and all of these were sent to him by sealed registered mail.

Several days after getting his personal receipt for the package he returned to us by registered mail *one of the silver coins without a word of explanation and enclosed in an envelope bearing TEN cents in postage, the letter weighing less than one ounce*

Pinkerton's idea was evidently to *throw out the impression that he had returned ALL the coins, which weighed about three ounces.*

We never got a remittance for the coins and subsequent investigation proved Pinkerton did not return them

Investigation by the Post Office Department resulted in affidavit being made by the Postmaster at Marshalltown, Iowa, that the envelope in which Pinkerton returned the silver coin *contained less than one ounce.*

Mr. Elder submitted affidavits of himself and his clerk and conclusive proof to the Post Office Department that the coins had been sent to Pinkerton—in fact Pinkerton admitted to counsel that he had received the coins.

Mr. Elder submitted all papers, including the envelope in which

Pinkerton returned the half dollar, to the Post Office Department.

The Post Office Department labeled the case "Alleged rifling of registered letter mailed by F. M. Pinkerton, Marshalltown, Ia."

This would make it appear that Pinkerton was the one making the complaint, which should have been more correctly labeled as "Alleged theft of \$43.50 of gold and silver coins by F. M. Pinkerton, of Marshalltown, Iowa."

The Post Office Department, after it was proved conclusively that the coins were kept by Pinkerton, *dropped the case*.

The complainant, Mr. Elder, then asked the Post Office Department for a return of his papers and got part of them after considerable difficulty. *The Post Office officials refused to return the envelope bearing ten cents on postage in which Pinkerton returned the half dollar to Mr. Elder, stating, "It is not the practice of the Department to surrender evidence upon which the investigation in cases of this kind was based."* This action was taken after an official at the Post Office Department New York had promised Mr. Elder that his papers would be returned if left with the Department.

We thought there was a law against *defrauding through the United States mails*.

In view of the evidence brought out, why was it that the Post Office Department dropped the case and why did it refuse to return the envelope belonging to Mr. Elder? These are the points in the matter of most interest to our readers.

A side light is thrown on the character of this man Pinkerton by the fact that several years ago cataloguers in Philadelphia offered at auction sale a canceled check of *William McKinley*. This check was purchased by Pinkerton, but *he returned it, declining to pay for it because it had a cross cut canceled on it, having been paid. Had the check been uncanceled it would have been recoverable.* Pinkerton's letters at the time were indifferent to any sense of honor in the matter, he adding that in making payment he would do his way or the cataloguers "could whistle for it."

New Elder Card

The Editor has just issued a new card, struck in aluminum, brass, copper and other metals. There will be several *extreme rarities* in silver and other metals before the die is destroyed! A specimen may be obtained by our readers for the asking. The entire issue will not be over 700 pieces.



Housing for Rare Coins

The American Numismatic and Archæological Society has received a site for a new home in Audubon Park, as a gift from its president, Archer M. Huntington, who recently built the home of the Hispanic Society, of which he is also president, in the same neighborhood.

Two stories high in its northerly front, on elevated ground, the numismatic building will practically contain four stories in the rear, on One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Street, rising there about fifty-six feet from the street level. The front will be thirty-six feet high from the terrace, and will have a classic facade, with Ionic columns. Designed to be fireproof, the structure will be built of reinforced concrete, with a finish of cream-colored stucco, that will harmonize with the limestone exterior of the Hispanic building, to which the general lines of the architecture will correspond. It will have a frontage of forty feet, and a depth of sixty-five. The principal room on the main floor, an exhibition and meeting hall, will be about thirty feet square, and it is to be lighted from above, being two stories high with a balcony. On the second floor will be the library at one end and an exhibition room at the other. Plans for the structure were drawn by Charles P. Huntington, the architect of the Hispanic Society's building. Its cost, estimated at about \$50,000, will be defrayed by the Numismatic Society. Work of excavation has been in progress since early in June, and it is hoped that the building will be completed in the coming autumn.

THE SOCIETY'S CAREER

The American Numismatic and Archæological Society, which adopted that name when incorporated, on May 16, 1865, was originally organized as the American Numismatic Society, on April 6, 1858, at the house of August B. Sage, No. 121 Essex Street. In its earlier years its meetings were held at various places, including the house of

Dr. George H. Perine, who was one of the vice-presidents; the Hall of Education, then at Grand and Elm Streets; the old Free Academy, now the College of the City of New York; Mott Memorial Hall, No. 64 Madison Avenue; No. 38 Lafayette Place, No. 101 West Twentieth Street, and the building of the Academy of Medicine. In April, 1902, the society moved to No. 1271 Broadway, where it retained rooms until last spring. It then removed to temporary quarters, placed at its disposal by the Hispanic Society of America, in the latter's new building.

Immediately after its incorporation, the society caused a medal to be struck in commemoration of President Lincoln. It also had a membership medal struck and others in honor of the organization. Since then the society has issued various medals on anniversaries and in honor of events of large importance. Its collections of coins, medals and tokens now include about 30,000 specimens, many of which are extremely rare. The present membership of the society is about 300.

FEATURES OF THE COIN COLLECTION

One of the most valuable of recent additions is a gift from a member of the society, Charles Gregory, of a collection of Oriental coins (especially rich in Chinese and Japanese), comprising more than 1,600 specimens. Among these is a complete set of the "bullet" coins of Siam, including two gold ones, which are very rare, indeed. Also of great rarity is a pahang of the Malay Peninsula, a hat-shaped coin of lead, with floral ornaments on each side. It is about two and a half inches square, and is one of the oddest of coins. Then there is a large number of Siamese porcelain coins, of various shapes, sizes, and colors, all of which are ancient, as this style of coin is now obsolete. There is also an interesting collection of Annam coins, one of which, a silver coin of about 1850, bears an inscription that, translated, reads: "For the use of the people. Will make them rich for a long life. Inherited virtue. Current money."

The Chinese specimens include the very ancient coins known as razor, spade, and bridge money, on account of their shapes. Some of the razor money belongs to the Ming series—B. C. 300-225. There is a sample of the Chinese sword or key money, A. D. 14, of bronze, inlaid with gold, which is in perfect condition. It is shaped a good deal like a modern flat latch-key. Other ancient Chinese bronze pieces are shaped like turtles and fishes' tails. One coin is a helmet-shaped ingot of pure silver, weighing twelve and a half ounces and of \$13.75 coin value.

THE LARGEST GOLD PIECE

In the Gregory collection the largest gold coin is an ancient one of Japan, bearing the imperial autograph in black lacquer and also many mint marks. It measures six by three and one-half inches, weighs 105 pennyweights. A much bigger and heavier coin is a Japanese one of bronze, five inches in diameter, of the date of 1637. The largest coin of any kind is Chinese, made of bronze, seven and a half inches in diameter, and was made in the first year of the reign of Emperor Mo, whose crest and seal it bears.

A SWEDISH CARTWHEEL

The biggest rectangular coin among all the society's specimens is a Swedish dollar of 1747, in the reign of Frederick I. It is of pure copper, and measures five and a half by five inches. A member of the society, who was born in Sweden, said his grandfather told him that *his* grandfather told him about selling a farm and requiring three days to cart home the price, in this kind of money. It was the custom of people who were well supplied with this Swedish "plate money," as it is called, to store it in the cellar, fearing that it would break down the floors if it were kept upstairs.

In striking contrast to such specimens is the smallest gold coin known, a sixty-fourth part of a ducat, coined by the city of Bremen in the eighteenth century. Its diameter is three-sixteenths of an inch.

J. Sanford Saltus, a member of the society, recently gave to it complete sets of American gold dollars from 1849 to 1889, of original half-cents from 1793 to 1857, and of American cents for the same period, including all the varieties of the 1793 coinage. One of the latter is the famous "clover-leaf" cent, which is valued by collectors at about \$200. Mr. Saltus also gave the rare Confederate cent of 1861, and a Confederate half dollar of the same date. The obverse of the latter coin is a fac-simile of the United States half-dollar (the die having been taken from the New Orleans mint), and the reverse is inscribed with a shield of seven stars and seven stripes, surmounted by a liberty cap, and surrounded by the words "Confederate States of America."

SOME ENGLISH SPECIMENS

The society has a complete proof set of the coronation coins of King Edward VII, of which four are in gold and nine in silver; also a beautiful gold medal struck to commemorate the coronation, with

the heads of the King and Queen on the obverse. Among the old English gold coins is a guinea of 1656, struck under the protectorate, which bears the head of Cromwell, crowned with a laurel wreath. It looks as if it had just come from the mint. "The Commonwealth of England" and the motto "God with Us" are among the inscriptions on a gold coin of 1653. Other English gold coins represent the reigns of the Stuarts, William and Mary, Queen Anne, and the Georges. There is also a complete set of the money minted to commemorate the fiftieth jubilee of Queen Victoria.

In the society's cabinets is a good collection of Greek and Roman coins, of various dates, in gold, silver and copper. It has many early German coins, including some silver ones of very large size, among which is a ten-crown piece, of 1665, measuring three and three-fourths inches in diameter.—*New York Post*.

* * *

William Poillon, curator of this Society tells the editor that he is desirous of making the collection of things masonic belonging to the Society as complete as possible. Over 200 medals and chapter pennies of this class have been donated.



The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 33rd regular meeting of the above named Society was held on Friday evening, Oct. 5th, in their rooms, 1123 Masonic Temple with President G. W. Tracy in the chair. There was a marked increase in attendance and enthusiasm, indicating a successful season.

Communications were received from Ohio Numismatic Society and Henry Chapman.

Chester F. Dunham was elected to membership.

Under Exhibits, Mr. Brand displayed uncirculated auri of Hadrian and Alexander Severus, and a silver medallion of Anthony and Cleo-

patra. Mr. Tracy showed a number of superb Russian coins and Mr. Blumenschein some Chinese and English pieces.

The Librarian reported receipts of Hoffmann's rare work on Royal French Coins. Magazines received since last report were Numismatist and Spink's Numismatic Circular for July, August and September; Elder Monthly and Philatelic West for June and August; Numismatische Correspondenz Nos. 236 and 237, and Numismatischer Verkehr for June. Catalog No. 1, with fixed prices was received from St. Louis Stamp and Coin Co., the Star Coin Book from B. Max Mehl and auction catalogs from Chapman, Elder, Green, Low, Otto Hess Nachfolger and St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co., also a paper on Ohio Banks by Arthur B. Coover.

Mr. Baldwin was present as a visitor.

Adjourned to meet Nov. 2nd, 1906.

BEN. G. GREEN, Secretary.



The Ohio State Numismatic Society.

The First Annual Convention of the Ohio State Numismatic Society will be held in Columbus, Wednesday, October 24, 1906. First session at 1.30 P. M., second session at 7.00 P. M.

We regret that we cannot announce a complete program; but several papers are now in preparation which will be read at the meeting.

An exhibition and sale of coins at fixed prices will be one of the attractive features.

At this meeting officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

If possible for you to attend this meeting kindly communicate

with the Secretary at once. When you arrive in the City report to the Secretary's office for information as to place of meeting, etc.

Bring some of your choice specimens with you for exhibit. If you have any broken Bank Notes or Store Cards issued in Ohio don't fail to bring them

Come and get acquainted with your brother collectors.

Fraternally yours,

J. M. HENDERSON,

13½ East State St., Columbus, Ohio.

Secretary.



Montreal Numismatic Notes.

A collector wide awake to the interests of the Montreal Society is P. O. Tremblay of Montreal. There is no more favorably known collector in Canada.

* * *

Mr. John Dow will sell by auction here a large portion of his collection of coins and medals. The sale will comprise about 700 lots and will take place about the beginning of November.

* * *

R. W. McLachlan, whose collection of Canadian coins and medals is probably the largest and most important in Canada, and who has been contributing interesting papers to the British Societies, will offer our readers an article in the near future.

* * *

Mr. P. N. Breton, author of the best works on Canadian Coins, opened a store on September first and he will deal in coins, medals,

postage stamps and antiques. Since opening this new business he has not been inactive having already bought and disposed of two very extensive collections. The first purchased was that of Mr. Charles E. Belanger being the finest collection of war medals in Canada, the many hundreds of specimens in it were mostly British and Canadians among the latter are fine and rare examples including Chateaugay, Fort Detroit, Crystler's Farm and the 2 Bar Medals of "Fort Detroit & Chateaugay," and "Crystler's Farm and Chateaugay," this was sold complete to Mr. W. W. C. Wilson, the wealthy paper manufacturer.

The second collection bought by Mr. P. N. Breton was that of Mr. L. G. Casault of Ottawa (for 51 years the respected librarian of the government library) this being a beautiful and large collection of Canadian coins, medals and tokens, the careful gathering of half a century; this has also found a fit resting place in Mr. W. W. C. Wilson's magnificent library. This last collection being the 47th which Mr. Breton has bought and sold during his numismatic career and he is still on the war path.

Mr. Vreeland's "Obang"

The "Obang" pictured in this issue of the MONTHLY is perhaps the largest and finest specimen in America, weighing 106 pennyweights and 9 grains, and of the same size as the reproduction herewith. This piece has a melting value of \$76 and in Japanese the coin is known as the KEI-CHO-DAI-BAN. A striking feature is that it is handpainted, having the Emperor's autograph painted on it with India ink, like a laundry ticket. The reverse has three official stamps, on the face are four. These remarkable and rare pieces were coined in the 17th and 18th centuries and were more of the nature of a royal presentation coin and were seldom used in commerce except in payment of taxes. They vary somewhat in quality of workmanship, the ones of later issue being of the best execution. Mr. Vreeland resides in Paterson, N. J., and his cabinet of the world's coinage is varied and interesting. There is an "Obang" almost identical to the above in the cabinet of the Numismatic Society of New York.

Stamp Notes

Written for the MONTHLY by Charles E. Jenney.

The new Canada postage due stamps are beginning to be seen here. They are handsome stamps of the machine design, broader than high and much resembling the postage due set of Uruguay.

* * *

The advance sheets of the new Scott's catalogue are being sent out to those who care to pay \$5.00 for a few week's advance knowledge of the fluctuations in stamp prices. There are those who are not content to await the general distribution of the catalogue, but want a chance to work off at present catalogue prices those stamps they hold which have declined in the new catalogue and to pick up at present values those stamps which will have a smart advance. \$5.00 is the price of this knowledge and doubtless many dealers make huge profits on the investment, taking advantage of the general ignorance.

* * *

One cannot but ponder on the changed conditions of philatelic journalism to-day from fifteen years ago. At that time there were from a dozen to a score of good philatelic monthly magazines, containing matter of interest to the younger and medium collectors, which had a fairly wide distribution. I may mention the Philatelic Era, the Eastern Philatelist, the Post Office, the Southern Philatelist, the Metropolitan Philatelist, the Philatelic Californian, and there were many others, all of which have disappeared and with none to take their places. These magazines were one of the great factors in keeping up and increasing interest in stamp collecting and I believe that their total disappearance is a cause for regret. To-day we have one scientific monthly, which was also published in those days, and a weekly stamp paper which with a circulation probably as great as all of them put together, still can hardly fill the place they occupied in the education of the young collector.

* * *

A new value, viz. 17½ centimes, has been issued by Netherlands, in current type. The color is violet.

Haiti has a new issue of stamps, issued on a gold basis. They are large, and represent different designs such as public buildings and a portrait of Gen. Nord-Alexis. The values are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 15, 20 and 50 centimes and 1 piastre, the piastre having a value of \$1.00 in U. S. gold.

* * *

In *Collier's Weekly* of June 30, appeared a story of much interest to stamp collectors. In his series "Real Soldiers of Fortune," Richard Harding Davis tells the story of Baron Harden Hickey, famous in philately for his occupation of the Isle of Trinidad and issue of a set of stamps for his principality. The whole story was told in the philatelic press ten years ago, at which time it occurred. The set of stamps was tabooed by stamp collectors, as wholly unnecessary and issued for sale to collectors only, and as a result they rapidly disappeared from sight and have been almost forgotten. One of the stamps is illustrated in the article. They are of handsome design and good workmanship and present a picture of the island of Trinidad (not the large English island off the Guianas, but a smaller uninhabited island off the coast of Brazil). Davis, in his article, states that he found, when he tried to procure one for illustrating, that they were worth many times their face value.

* * *

It may not be generally known to collectors that all the portrait paintings of Washington acknowledged as authentic, are shown on our postage stamps. There are three. Stuart's Washington is shown on the 10c 1847, on the 1861 and the current issue 2c stamp. The original painting is in the Athenaeum at Boston. On the 3c green of 1872 and the 2c brown of 1885 is shown Houdon's Washington copied from the statue, the original being in the capitol at Richmond, Va. On the 90c stamps of 1857 and 1861, appears Trumbull's portrait of Washington in military dress, the original of which, I believe, is in Yale College, New Haven.



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