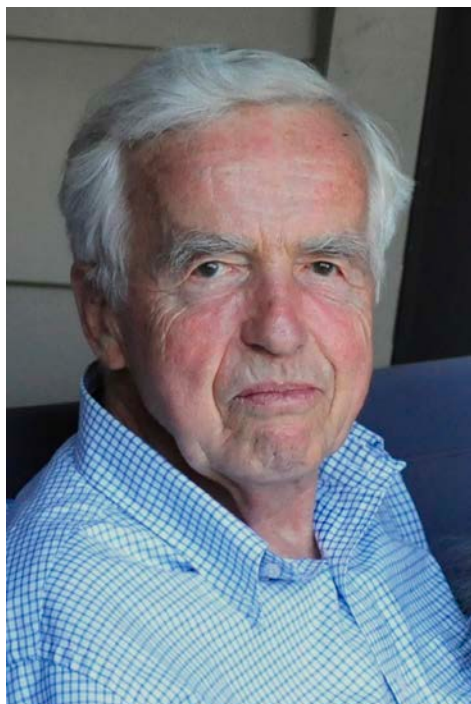


WORLD NUMISMATICS NEWSLETTER

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD STUART



APRIL 23, 1926 – JUNE 20, 2016

Well known Central American specialist and collector Richard Stuart passed away on June 20, 2016 in California at age 90. Mr. Stuart began collecting in the late 1940's with a broad interest in Latin America. From the early 1980's onwards, Richard's sole focus was Central America as he sold his South American holdings. Most of the latter series (although not identified as such and now widely known as the "Americas" collection) were auctioned by Kagin's at the 1983 ANA convention and that sale catalog remains a reference in its own right. Over the years, Richard was able to gather what will in all probability remain the greatest collection of Central American coinage ever assembled. Richard was active at coin shows and directly participated in many notable sales including H. Gibbs (H. Schulman 1966), F. C. C. Boyd (Superior 1975 ANA sale), Norweb (Christie's Dallas 1985), Eliasberg (ANR 2005) and Caballero de las Yndias (Aureo 2009). Exceptional in both quality and comprehensiveness, Richard's collection has

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RARE DATE/ASSAYER INITIALS COMBINATIONS

1783FM

By Carlos Jara

Rare date/assayer initials combinations for the Charles III Mexico City bust types: some considerations.

The series of 8 Escudos and 8 Reales of the bust type minted in Mexico City between 1772 and 1789 contain 3 major rarities: the 8 Reales 1778 Mo-FM and 1783 Mo-FM, and the 8 Escudos 1784 Mo-FF.

Whilst the numismatic community is well aware of the rarity of these issues – generally recognized as the key-dates of their respective types –, the circumstances behind their mintage seems to be rather poorly understood. We hope this short article will serve to clarify these circumstances, while also showing that most apparently random occurrences at the Mexico (or any Spanish Colonial mint) have a perfectly logical explanation.

Introduction

It is useful to recall the sequence of date/assayer initials combinations in the bust 8 Reales series for the 1778-1785 period minted in Mexico City.

Date/assayer initials combination
Mo-FF 1778
Mo-FM 1778
Mo-FM (?) ¹ 1779
Mo-FF 1779
Mo-FF 1780
Mo-FF 1781
Mo-FF 1782
Mo-FF 1783
Mo-FM 1783
Mo-FM 1784
Mo-FF 1784
Mo-FM 1785

Table 1: Sequence of the Mexico City Mint 8 Reales between 1778 and 1785.

When analyzing the previous table, the issues of 1778 Mo-FM and 1784 Mo-FF seem to break a logical continuous sequence and, as such, are generally explained as the result of old reverse

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anchored many books and articles including Carlos Jara's recent works "Historia de la Casa de Moneda de Guatemala" (2010) and "Central American Provisional and Provincial Mints" (2007). For any Central American coin, the Stuart provenance now represents a more desirable pedigree than any of the aforementioned famous names.

Mr. Stuart was known for his extreme generosity in sharing his collection with fellow scholars and collectors. Dozens of us have made the pilgrimage to Northern California and spent many enjoyable hours with Richard, reviewing and discussing the coinage of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and British Honduras.

Richard was born on April 23, 1926 to Gilbert Stuart and Sara Norwood in Medford, Oregon. Richard obtained a B.A. and Ph.D. in Physics at UC Berkeley and served as staff physicist for Lawrence Livermore Labs from 1952-77, and as a lecturer at UC Berkeley. From 1978 on, Richard was a Consulting Physicist in accident reconstruction. Richard is survived by his wife Elizabeth, sons Paul and John, daughter Amelia Schaller and 6 grandchildren. Richard is preceded in death by his son Eric and sister Graecha. Richard will be fondly remembered by the numismatic community.

ABOUT US

World Numismatics is located in Carefree, Arizona and owned by Kent Ponterio, Benjamin Bell, Cory Frampton and Max Keech. Scott Drummond manages the office which is open from 8 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Carlos Jara manages our Latin American operations and lives in Chile. Carlos travels throughout Central and South America and attends the major shows here. We are a leading buyer and seller of Mexican, Latin American coins and currency along with World and Ancient coins, and we stock one of the largest inventories in North America. Our primary focus is on quality material and rarities dated prior to 1930. Our inventory consists of hundreds of certified coins along with thousands of raw coins and thousands of notes. We are the publishers of "Mexican Paper Money", a 424 page color reference book on Mexican currency which is available directly from our website. We attend many of the major shows, including Mexico City, Long Beach, New York International, and the Money Show of the Southwest and others.

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UNITED STATES - 1807
5 Dollars
PCGS MS62 - KM38
SKU# 34966

Mintage: 51,605

Ron Guth: Despite being the first year of the new design, demand for this date remained steady- probably because of the coin's high face value and the dearth of collectors during the early 1800's. Circulated examples are easily obtained across all grade levels, and even Mint State examples can be found with ease. The usual Mint State grade falls at MS-62 or MS-63; gems are very rare.

David Acres: Although popular as a type coin, the 1807 Half Eagle designed by John Reich is relatively common and is seen rather frequently in choice uncirculated condition. Most specimens are very sharply struck. Along with the 1809/8, 1810 Large Date, Large 5, and 1812, this is the most common date of the type.

John Danreuther: Estimated mintage 42,500-47,500 (50,597-51,605 total for date). R-2. 500-750 Known. 1990-2005 Auction Appearances: 250.

World Numismatics: This first year of issue type coin shares the date with the 'Capped Bust Right' ("Heraldic Eagle") type, which had a mintage of up to 33,496 pieces. Resultantly this date, known from only two die pairings, is the second lowest mintage of the six years in which the coin was struck, although the 1808/7 is far scarcer than this or the 1809 (2nd scarcest year). Due to the popularity of the preceding type, this piece does not receive as much attention as it deserves for its comparatively low mintage. We feel that this coin represents good value, as it is a fresh coin that has not been auctioned, with a paucity of CAC verified examples in the marketplace for this grade. The PCGS price guide places a regular MS62 (without CAC) at a retail value of \$17,000-\$18,000. A nice wholesome coin with good original color and only natural bag friction marring otherwise satin to proof-like luster with frosty accents on and around the devices.

Price is \$15,750.-

dies (with the previous assayer initials) being use to strike them. This was not the case, as we will see following.

Chronology of related events, per the contemporary documentation.

The main and second working assayers at the Mexico City mint at the end of 1777 were Francisco de la Peña y Flores and Francisco de Arance y Cobos (both identified by their respective first initial "F" in the coinage issued in that period). Early in 1778¹, one Mariano Rodriguez was ascended to Second Supernumerary assayer (effectively the first in line after the aforementioned two assayers in post). The decision to designate Rodriguez as such was made in late 1777, following an episode of illness of both working assayers². Due to his illness, 2nd assayer Francisco Arance y Cobos was effectively replaced (ad interim) by Mariano Rodriguez for the first issues of 1778, and only retook the 2nd assayer position in late 1778³. This accounts for the very rare 1778 Mo-FM 8 Reales, minted during the short period when Rodriguez acted as 2nd assayer in that year⁴. The presence of the "F. M." assayer initials on that issue is thus not a result of aleatory events (such as the possible use of old reverse dies) and instead corresponds exactly to the strict coinage Ordinances in force at the time which enforced the respective initials working assayers to appear in the minted coinage.

In 1780, Rodriguez requested the restitution of the portion of his salary that was retained during this interim period, and the corresponding document⁵ mentions a 2nd *ad interim* period in 1779. The latter event and another related document could account for the existence of the 8 Reales 1779 Mo-FM issue, which we have not been able to verify.

In late 1783, Mariano Rodriguez again acted as 2nd assayer *ad interim*, following the proposed nomination of 1st assayer Francisco de la Peña y Flores as Treasurer of the Mexico City mint. During that period, previous 2nd assayer Francisco de Arance y Cobos acted as 1st assayer, and it is the first initials of de los Cobos ("F") and Rodriguez ("M") that appear in the very rare 1783 Mo-FM 8 Reales, again another coin resulting from the strict coinage regulations of the period.

At the end of 1783 and when the nomination of Francisco de la Peña became a certainty, the mint decided to instruct that the "F. M." initials of the newly appointed 1st (Francisco Arance y Cobos) and 2nd (Mariano Rodriguez) assayers *"be placed in the trussels for the gold and silver that are to be engraved from 1784 onwards"*⁶. However, a small portion of coins from metals assayed in 1783 by Francisco de la Peña y Flores and Francisco de Arance y Cobos were struck in early 1784. Naturally, these issues

– which included the very rare 8 Escudos 1784 Mo-FF - featured the correct "F. F." assayer initials. Later issues of 1784 and all of the 1785-dated issues would feature instead the "F. M." assayer initials.

Conclusions

While perhaps a specialized topic, the close study of these legendary rarities also provides a chance to show, yet again, that most if not all of the events taking place at the Spanish Colonial mints result from logical causes: the previously shown sequence in the series of 8 Reales of the 1778-1785 period appears entirely logical when considering the documented events of that period.

(Footnotes)

- 1 I have been unable to examine an example of this date/assayers combination.



UNITED STATES - 1879
\$1 Dollar
NGC PF66 - KM Pn1710
SKU# 35012

J-1626. Hubbell's goloid metric alloy pattern by Charles E. Barber.

Price is \$7,950.-



CELTIC - GAUL, CARNUTES
2nd - 1st Century BC
AR Drachm
NGC AU*
SKU# 34576

obv male hd rv dog over horse + stylized triskeles, scarce in this quality.

Price is \$1,250.-

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1 Rodriguez replaced one Jose Ignacio Bartolache, who was ascended to another post. See Archivo General de la Nacion (AGN)-Casa de Moneda - Volumen 133 - Expediente 7, pp. 48-50.

2 See AGN-Casa de Moneda-Volumen 133 - Expediente 4, pp. 30-34v.

3 See AGN-Casa de Moneda-Volumen 133 - Expediente 6, pp. 44-46.

4 See AGN-Casa de Moneda-Volumen 133 - Expediente 6, pp. 44-46.

5 See AGN-Casa de Moneda-Volumen 133 - Expediente 8, pp. 51-52. The aforementioned additional document, dated March 6, 1779 indicates that on that date, Manuel Rodriguez was accepted as working assayer at the mint: see AGN-Gobierno Virreinal-Reales Cédulas -Volumen 116 - Expediente 101, p. 1.

6 See AGN-Casa de Moneda-Volumen 389 - Expediente 9, pp. 153-156.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ORIGINAL FRENCH REVOLUTION (1789 - 1799)

By Benjamin Bell

When tasked with writing an article on the French Revolution, I realized that I knew very little about the topic and its complexities, which unfolded quickly over a relatively brief period of time. As the information published on the subject could probably fill up a small public library, it was necessary to quickly devise a summary that would inform our readership on the historical period in an interesting way. What follows is a summary of the dozen or so most pertinent Wikipedia articles laid out in a more linear fashion, followed by an explanation of the coins and currency that were issued in the period.



Executioner Samson displaying the King's head before the guillotine in Place de la Revolution.

SKU: 34851

To the average American, the French Revolution may seem like a historical moment of abrupt transition from unjust tyrannical rule to a sudden adoption of democratic principles of liberty. Several images come up: the guillotine, the storming of the Bastille, peasants with pitchforks, a couple lines from Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*, or perhaps even the street scenes from the musical *Les Miserables*. Sometimes the French Revolution is viewed as simply a copy of the American Revolutionary war, forgetting the strong French role in that struggle. However, upon closer examination, the French Revolution is a period of extended social experimentation, ongoing political trial and error, and clearly it became much more of a global phenomenon than an isolated incident. Understanding this period, in fact, lends to a better understanding not only of French numismatics, but all of subsequent human social history. The complexity of the period is subtly echoed by the complexity and diversity of French coinage of the times.

During the middle-ages, and into the pre-industrialized modern world, France was an agrarian based society with a feudal system of government. Although a central government existed with the monarchy, the country was very regional and provincial in nature, having had numerous counties, duchies, principalities, bishoprics, Imperial free cities, and even an alternate Papacy at the beginning of the Renaissance. In a way, France was like Germany (the German States, to collectors), with the average

18th Century citizen experiencing the feudal lifestyle of medieval times. In numismatics, this is evidenced by all of the numerous towns and polities that struck their own coins, as catalogued by Poey d'Avant, Boudeau, de Mey, and Duplessy. Similarly, the continued existence and operation of some eighteen mints at the outset of the Revolution attests to the regional mindset of the French governance and people.

The organization of French society within the Ancien Regime (or "Old Regime") reflects the medieval hierarchies seen elsewhere earlier in European history. In the centuries leading up to the French revolution, society was viewed as being made up of three estates. These estates were: The First Estate (The Church), The Second Estate (the Nobility), and the Third Estate (the commoners, or everyone else). The First Estate was roughly 1% of the population, the Second Estate represented 4%, and the Third Estate was the remaining 95%. However, the Church owned 10% of the land, the Nobility owned 25%, and the other 65% was owned by the property owners within the remaining citizenry. The Clergy had taxation rights through the practice of Tithing (collecting 10% of the moneys and agricultural produce from Church lands), the Aristocracy collected rents, and the monarchy had extensive powers of taxation across society. The result was a system where the Third Estate could be taxed by multiple authorities, often owned little or nothing in terms of land, and depended heavily upon the outcome of the annual harvest. The clergy and aristocracy, however, had numerous exemptions leaving the Third Estate a heavy burden to carry the national debt and fund foreign intrigues.

Prior to the French Revolution, there was an ever increasing gap in the understanding and interaction between the royal family and the workaday citizens of the Third Estate. During the reign of Louis XIV 'the Sun King', the royals took on the philosophy of demonstrating their wealth, magnanimity, and elevated status by the construction of the great palace at Versailles. The opulence of the palace created distinction from the commoners by filling them with awe, much as church architecture created a distinction between the sacred and the profane. Furthermore, the physical isolation created by the vastness of the royal estates resulted in a disconnect between the royals and the citizenry. Up until the mid-18th Century, the Royal Court pontificated over public policy and made national decisions from the comfort of Versailles, with the rest of society obligingly following its dictums & copying its cultural trends. By the 1780's, the public sphere had stopped relying upon the court to decide cultural questions, saying that it understood nothing. This would soon translate into the making of political decisions as well.

Financial Causes of the Revolution

By the time of the French Revolution, France was in a sorry economic state. The coffers had already been taxed heavily by the long term struggle against Britain in the Seven Years War (the "French & Indian War" in the U.S.). Thus France was already in a financial crisis when Louis XVI ascended the throne in 1775, nearing bankruptcy from excessive spending and an only average Gross National Product. The antiquated banking and finance system in France could not deal with large debt nor the lack of gold & silver specie. Subsequently, much of the excess wealth of the nobility had been poured into the American Revolution, beginning in 1778 when France acknowledged the nationhood of the American colonies and allied itself with America against Britain. France had already been sending supplies covertly to fund

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the war effort and undermine British authority. Two Comptroller Generals of France noted that the tax system was broken, that the lower classes paid too heavily, and that the country could not be taxed higher. Both Jacques Necker and Charles Alexandre de Calonne proposed new tax codes, both of whose propositions were shot down by Parliament. Even the King realized that something must be done, but could not get the cooperation of Parliament. Thus he called a meeting of the Estates General, an action that had not been taken since 1614. This cry for help gave the French people a sign that there was weakness to be exploited in making its demands, and set the stage for the meetings of commoners that would quickly evolve into the revolutionary movement.

Myths and Misapprehensions About the Revolution

Although much of the French Revolution centered around economic injustice and the plight of the common man, its momentum was not actually started by mobs of enraged peasants carrying pitchforks. The philosophical rationale for Revolution was already developing during earlier decades of the 18th Century, during which the Enlightenment movement was well underway. Enlightenment thinkers, such as Voltaire, Denis Diderot, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, David Hume, Adam Smith, and Immanuel Kant created the awareness of the inequities of the times. Less famous figures included myriads of pamphleteers, authors, speakers, scientists, and some clergy who published and discussed these topics in the public arena. Various sorts of places served as a forum for these discourses, such as scientific academies, Masonic lodges, literary salons or coffee houses in which readings were done and ideas were presented. Thus the symbolism of the Enlightenment period drew from these influences and informed the symbols of revolution. The Enlightenment thinkers opposed absolute monarchy and religious dogma, while supporting ideas of liberty, personal freedom, religious tolerance, constitutionally-based governance, progress, equality, and fraternity. By circulating these ideas, the Enlightenment influenced public opinion against the French monarchy. Other European rulers such as Catherine II 'the Great' of Russia, Frederick II "the Great" of Prussia, and Joseph II of Austria had already applied some of these notions to their rule, resulting in "Enlightened Absolutism". Meanwhile, Great Britain already had moderated the authority of the Royals with Parliament and the Prime Minister, while the United States of America was founded primarily upon Enlightenment ideals. The French Royals were not completely numb to these reforms, but their good-faith attempts at reform had been confounded in the political system and by the time of convening of the Estates General, the King's efforts were too little and too late.

One of the most seemingly insensitive and perhaps malicious quotes attributed to the Royal Family in fact proves to be mere legend, not even just rumor, but a justification for Revolution spread after its conclusion. This is, of course, the quote "let them eat cake" attributed to Marie Antoinette. The actual quote "Qu'ils mangent de la brioche" or "Let them eat brioche" is the alleged reply to hearing the plea of peasants who said they had no bread to eat. Brioche was the enriched bread of the upper-class that also contained eggs and butter, unlike the bread common to the lower classes. In archaic English, this would be generically translated as "cake" just as coin descriptions in the British Museum Catalog alternately refer to Roman officials feeding "cake" or a "roll" to a ceremonial serpent. Even so, the phrase implies a certain level of either callousness or a complete lack of understanding of true hunger and want. However,

modern historians trace the statement back to the court of Louis XIV, perhaps uttered during a bread shortage at the time. The quotation is most likely attributable to Marie-Thérèse (not even Marie Antoinette's mother, Maria Theresia- featured on the Maria Theresa Thaler), but the wife of Louis XIV nearly 100 years before. The phrase already appears in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's autobiography, *Confessions*, written in 1765 and published in 1782. However, the turn of phrase did serve as a summation of the public opinion of the Royals at the time, particularly then opposed to Marie Antoinette. She was unpopular because of her Austrian birth (a nation that the French eyed with suspicion), the belief that she was a frivolous spendthrift, and her supposed naivety. Most of these ideas were probably the result of a general smear campaign, because the Princess/Queen actually had some genuine concern for her adopted people. Furthermore, there were no full-scale famines during the reign of Louis XVI. There were, however, two major bread shortages around his reign, one just prior to his Coronation in 1775 resulting in the "Flour War" or *La Guerre des Farines*, and the second taking place in 1788, just a year before the French Revolution. As bread was the main staple of the lower classes (some 30% of expenditures for country folk, and over 50% of expense for the urban poor), its lack left a bad taste in the peoples' mouths. This was clearly unfortunate timing for the monarch. The good intent of the royals towards their people is evident in one of Antoinette's quotes drawn from one of her personal letters to her Royal relatives in Austria, translated "It is quite certain that in seeing the people who treat us so well despite their own misfortune, we are more obliged than ever to work hard for their happiness. The King seems to understand this truth." (*Lettres De Marie-Antoinette (in French)* 1. Nabu Press. 2012. p. 91).

The notion of the Guillotine as a terror weapon is also a bit of a misconception, taken from the excesses of its use in the Revolution and the way in which it was used. In Europe, prior to the time of the French Revolution, public torture and execution was a common occurrence popular since the time of the Roman Empire, and still embraced by most monarchies. All sorts of "cruel and unusual" punishments such as disfigurement, blinding, disembowelments, branding, hangings, quarterings, and gibbeting were known. Many executions took hours or days, whether the method of torture was explicitly a death sentence or merely implied by the severity of the torture. Early in the French Revolution, some enlightened thinkers in the National Assembly proposed that capital punishment should be the same for all condemned people, and that the means by which it would be done should be solely to end life rather than for inflicting pain. In 1789, Doctor Joseph-Ignace Guillotin proposed that all executions should be in the form of decapitation "by means of a simple mechanism". A committee was established to come up with a prototype, using pre-existing decapitation machines from centuries past. Prior to the institution of the Guillotine, Revolutionary executions took the form of hangings (usually from lamp posts), burnings at the stake, and stonings. Pre-revolutionary executions of royals were done with axes or swords, while commoners were hung. The Guillotine was instated on April 25, 1792 and used for most official executions afterwards. It is believed that the innovation of using the slanted blade even came from King Louis XVI himself, who had input in its creation. The new method of execution was tantamount to a human rights victory at the time, as the method was considered so humane that it was maintained as the official method of execution in France until 1977. However, the tens of thousands

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of executions that took place during the revolutionary period and the great jubilation with which the public spectacle was created, has caused the guillotine to be popularly viewed as a weapon of terror ever since.

The strategic significance of the Bastille is perhaps overrated in the psyche of the popular imagination. It did not hold hundreds of unjustly charged prisoners, but symbolically, the fortress was everything wrong with the Ancien Regime; namely a prison, an armory, and a depository for the crown jewels. At the time of the insurgency, the dungeon only contained seven prisoners, two of whom were noblemen, and one was a murderer- both groups punishable by revolutionary standards. Interestingly for numismatics and scripophily, the other four were all forgers! However, the fortress did contain a magazine replete with gunpowder and a large cache of weapons- which provided the immediate strategic justification. The attack was conducted by a mob instead of an organized militia, and was a reaction to the supposed intent of the government based on observed troop movements of mercenaries. Resultantly, the attackers conducted themselves as a mob, rejecting a ceasefire, instead beating, stabbing, and beheading the man who ordered the royal troops to stand down. Then the insurgents accused the mayor, Jacques de Flesselles, of treachery and butchered him as well. Nevertheless, in France, Bastille Day is celebrated as Independence Day, much as the 4th of July is celebrated in the U.S.- finding a specific watershed moment as the point of no return in the Independence struggle. This is perhaps also appropriate because of the numerous later reorganizations of French government, and declaration of subsequent republics, plus liberations from foreign invaders.

Interestingly, the two literary works that best inform the American popular view of the French Revolution were both written long after the event, and one is not even about the French Revolution. Dicken's 'A Tale of Two Cities' was written some seventy years after the onset of the Revolution, by a resident of London (one of the two cities), perhaps not qualified to narrate the freedom struggle in which Great Britain had a stake against. The other work, Victor Hugo's Les Miserable takes place in the period of 1815-1832, culminating in the 1832 'June Rebellion' in Paris. Although not about the French Revolution, the Musical adaptation by Cameron Mackintosh has played so long on Broadway and in other venues, that many not savvy in history take it for granted that the action takes place during the French Revolution. Indeed, Revolutionary symbols like the 'cockade' and 'tricolor' figure prominently in the work, capturing some of the imagery of revolutionary fervor in much the same way as the original French Revolution.

In a condensed modern public view of the French Revolution, the Bastille was stormed, the royals were dethroned, the King was beheaded, a Republic was declared and "there was much rejoicing." However, the French Revolution was a social movement beginning with philosophy and conviction that turned into action, then reaction, and then chaos, and finally lasting societal change. The idealistic thoughts that began the movement created discourse and led to constitutional proceedings. The weakness in the old government and shift in power enabled opportunistic rioting, and great unnecessary bloodshed resulted from a lag in communication or a lack of understanding of what was going on. The newly created power vacuum allowed for idealists to try out new ideas, but also spawned a series of despotic dictators with political vendettas and ambitions of power who

took over for brief intervals. Meanwhile, no matter who was at the helm of the ship of state, the French war machine was on the offensive- fighting abroad all across Europe, and into Africa and the Middle East, and seeing maritime action in the Americas and Asia. To show the evolution of the French Revolutionary movement in a more object and linear fashion, the following shows the "Timeline of the Revolution":

Timeline of the Revolution

-France Supports the American Revolution (February 1778-1783).

-National Assembly (10-27 June 1789) of the French Estates-General.

-Tennis Court Oath (20 June 1789), the National Assembly vows not to disband until a constitution of the Kingdom is drafted. This oath is the watershed Revolutionary act, having similar significance to the drafting of the Declaration of Independence for the 13 Anglo-American Colonies. This was the assertion of the political authority of the people.

-The King dismisses Comptroller General Necker, restructuring the finance ministry (11 July 1789). This inflames the public, who misinterpret the move as an attack on the National assembly, rather than a correction for a bad finance department that issued a falsified report. This causes riots, chaos and looting- spreading to the 'French Guard' who were trained soldiers.

-Storming of the Bastille, (14 July 1789). The most iconic single event of the revolution.

-National Constituent Assembly abolishes feudalism (4 August 1789) via the "August Decrees" taking away the seigniorial rights of the Nobility and the Tithe collecting privileges of the Clergy. In several hours the traditional privileges of nobles, clergy, towns, provinces & companies all lost.

-'Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen' made (26 August 1789), later serving as a preamble to the French Constitution.

-Women's March on Versailles (5-6 October 1789). Huge procession of women armed with cannons and side arms storms the palace, forcing eviction of the royals- compelling them to move into Paris to be monitored and for greater accountability.



FRANCE - 1791
15 Sols
NGC MS64 BN - KM604.1
SKU# 34365

Louis XVI; Constitutional period.
François Bernier, engraver.
Alexandre-Louis Rœttiers de Montaleau, mint director.
Dually dated 1791-A and L'An 3, 2nd semester. Head of Louis left. Reverse: Winged genius inscribing the constitution on a pedestal, REGNE DE LA LOI. (Rule of [the] Law). Duplessy 1721; Ciani 2243; VG 36; KM 604.1. A flashy gem BU example of this popular type, usually encountered in lower grades with discoloration due to its 0.666 fine silver composition. Amongst the finest available.

Price is \$1,500.-

Continues on page 7



FRANCE - 1791
30 Sols
NGC MS63 - KM606.1
SKU# 34362

Louis XVI; Constitutional period. 30 Sols (1/4 Ecu) Paris mint; privy marks: leopard/lyre. François Bernier, engraver. Alexandre-Louis Rœtters de Montaleau, director. Dually dated 1791-A and L'An 3, 2nd semester. Duplessy 1720; Ciani 2241; VG 39; Gadoury 39; KM 606.1. Finest graded at NGC (tied with Lissner example), Pop. 2/0. A snowy white BU example, clearly superior to the other MS63 with rather dull mottled toning. The stunning quality of the planchet- devoid of haymaking, and the sharp clarity of strike on the genius ("angel") makes this example arguably the finest available in the certified market, easily surpassing the lone MS64 in eye appeal.

Price is \$2,250.-

This may be the second military action of the Revolution, aside from the posting of Royal guards or movement of Royal troops.

-Armorial bearings and other symbols of the Ancien Regime abolished, and then King & Royal family participate in mass at the Fete de la Federation swearing an oath of fidelity "to the nation, the law, and the King." (14 July 1790).

-Royals' Flight to Varennes: The King and his family flee Paris for the Austrian border, seeking protection with General Bouille at Montmedy. They flee the Parisian Tuileries Palace under the cloak of night, dressed as servants- only to be arrested at Varennes when being recognized. The King is believed to have been recognized from his likeness on a coin, as few French citizens had seen him in person. (20 June 1791).

-A slave rebellion begins in Haiti on the night of 21 August 1791, signaling the beginning of the Haitian Revolution (ending 1804), but also the first of many civil wars, revolutions, or wars for Independence in the French Colonies.

-A constitutional monarchy is declared, making the King a figurehead obliged to enforce & defend the constitution, thus ushering in the 'Constitutional Period' (30 September 1791). The 'Constitutional' coin type

suspends the monarchy in an extraordinary session. (10 August 1792).

- The Jacobins ('Jacobin Club', or 'Society of the Friends of the Constitution') shortly thereafter renamed the 'Society of the Jacobins Friends of Freedom & Equality' begin to factionalize:

- Girondist faction of the Jacobins, led by Brissot, and including American Patriot Thomas Paine, forces a war against Austria to legitimize the Republican Government as a player on the world stage.

- The insurrectionary Commune begins a purge of potential traitors in the prisons, beginning in Paris and then expanding to other cities, creating the "September Massacres" (September 1792). This directive creates allegations of terrorism and wild rumors creating factions within the assembly, resulting in a constitutional crisis.

- French Republican army experiences first victory, over the Prussians, at the Battle of Valmy (20 September 1792)

-Constitutional Convention officially declares Republic (22 September 1792).

-National Convention Period of First Republic, 1792-1795.

-The French Republican Armies see victories in Belgium and the Rhineland, then defeating the Austrians at the Battle of Jemappes (6 November 1792).

-At the beginning of 1793, the Imperial (Holy Roman) and Prussian armies threaten to attack the French population if it resists their advance and does not reinstate Citizen Louis Capet (former King Louis XVI) to the throne. This foreign intervention is not received kindly, and is interpreted as subterfuge by the King himself. Louis is condemned to death for conspiracy against the public, by a vote of 361 to 288, plus other abstentions and conditions (17 January 1793).

-King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, and the Royal Family are executed (21 January 1793), causing international outcry. This galvanizes most European nations to align themselves against France in the ensuing wars.

-France retreats from most of its newly won territories (spring 1793)

-Maximilien de Robespierre leads the 'Mountain' faction of the Jacobins to stage a coup (May 1793) to gain control of the government, maintaining control until July of 1794. The name 'The Mountain' perhaps was derived from the man-made mountain on the Champ de Mars, that was a central meeting place of Robespierre's 'Cult of the Supreme Being.'

-Universal Male Suffrage (right to vote for all males) passes with the creation of the French Constitution of 1793, (24 June 1793).

-The Jacobins gain control of the 'Committee of Public Safety', creating the "revolutionary dictatorship" (10 June 1793).

- Reign of Terror (The Great Terror) led by Robespierre begins (September 1793). Some 21 Girondist dissenters guillotined,

continued to be struck for 6 months after the proclamation of the Republic, finally desisting after the execution of the king in 1793 (Guillard, pg. 6).

-The Legislative Assembly convenes on 1 October 1791, attempting to govern the new Constitutional Monarchy. This assembly consists of 165 Feuillants or Constitutional Monarchists, about 330 Girondists and Jacobins (liberal republicans & radical revolutionaries, respectively), and 250 unaffiliated deputies. Some of the goals of the Revolution were met through this assembly, but it failed to maintain law & order.

-The French Republic declares war on Austria, initiating over 20 years of revolutionary and Napoleonic wars in Europe. (20 April 1792). The wars continue almost without cessation until 1815.

-Insurgents attack the Tuileries Palace and massacre the Swiss Guards protecting the King. The royal family is then imprisoned as a minority of the Legislative Assembly headed by Jacobins

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FRANCE - 1793
Medal
NGC MS64 BN - Julius-254
SKU# 34851

Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. 51mm Bronze 'Evil Fate' Medal by Conrad Heinrich Kuechler, depicting their beheading on January 21, 1793. Reverse depicts Executioner Samson displaying the King's head before the guillotine in Place de la Revolution- a fairly believable rendition of a square filled with people cheering with revolutionary fervor, while holding their finely-detailed Republican flags. This sympathetic royalist medal was produced on the behalf of the Bourbon monarchy in one of Britain's private mints, Matthew Boulton's Soho Manufactory. It instead laments the passing of the monarchs, condemning the execution. Choice chocolate-brown toned Prooflike fields with cameo contrast. Several die breaks attest to the difficulty in striking this large medal- perhaps few were produced subsequently. Probably one of the finest examples available, although we could not find them listed in the NGC census.

Price is \$1,500.-

while political opponents numbering in the tens of thousands are executed nationwide to suppress the Vendee Insurrection and the Federalist Insurrections, during the War of the First Coalition. This begins the de-Christianization of French society, replacing Church festivals with Civic festivals, and introducing the 'Cult of Reason' (Dismantled 24-28 March 1794), then the 'Cult of the Supreme Being' (loses prominence with the execution of Robespierre on 28 July 1794) in place of the Church. These philosophy-based humanistic cults get overzealous in their attempts to punish the clergy, leading to massacres and desecrations. This does not go over well with the largely Catholic French society, which reacts and rejects the new system.

- France deals with internal rebellions against the Republican regime, repelling the allied advance into France (Autumn 1793).

-France begins to suffer from famine and food shortages, brought on by price fixing of foodstuffs in September of 1793. The situation is exacerbated by the Committee's dragoons going into the countryside to arrest farmers, seizing their crops. This despoiling of the countryside was to save Paris, but by Spring 1794 was shown to be insufficient in itself.

- The Thermidorian Convention (27 July 1794) elects to execute Maximilien de Robespierre & Louis Antoine de Saints, ending the radical phase of the Revolution (the Terrors). Robespierre is first shot either by a guardsman or by his own hand, but survives, and faces the guillotine the next day. The Girondists, seeking reprisals for the Jacobins' terrors, banned the Jacobin club and set about executing many of its former members, in what is called "The

White Terror".

-French military fortunes reverse in Summer of 1794, resulting in an allied defeat at the Battle of Fleurus.

-The French army conquers the Dutch Republic, expelling the House of Orange and setting up the Batavian Republic creating a French satellite state (early 1795).

-Prussia signs peace treaty with France in Basel, (April 1795).

-The 'Constitution of Year III' is ratified by the Convention (22 August 1795). This constitution was voted upon with over 1 Million votes for, and a mere 49,000 against. The result was the establishment of a new regime called 'The Directory'.

The Directory, 1795-1799

The Directoire established a bicameral legislature, Republican in name, but opposed to true democracy. This government bluntly wielded power, crushing the opposition, censoring the press, and exiling opposition leaders. The directory had the 'Council of Five Hundred' forming the House of Representatives, and the 'Council of Elders' with 250 senators, but executive power was wielded by 5 directors. Universal Male Suffrage was abolished, devolving the vote only to the landed citizenry.

-French invasion of Britain attempted as a few ships land and attack Wales near Fishguard (February 1797). This invasion was easily repelled, and is not usually mentioned.

-Technical end of the French Revolution, as Napoleon overthrows the Directory in the 'Coup of 18 Brumaire' (9 November 1799), establishing the Consulate and ending the Republican period.

-France conquers: Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, and much of Italy (1797-1799), resulting in another Coalition of Great Britain, Russia, Austria, and the Ottomans, in alliance against France.

-The French Revolution establishes a multitude of puppet states, bringing about new legal codes and abolishing their traditional feudal privileges. From these newly formed countries, Napoleon levied heavy taxes and troops for the maintenance of the French Metropolitan government and Army. However, some social reforms modernized administrative & economic systems, and the Jews were freed.

The Consulate, 1799-1804

-Napoleon's Concordat of 1801 reinstates formal relationship between French Government and the Catholic Church. Napoleon's 'Law on Cults of 18 Germinal, Year X' officially bans both the Cult of Reason and the Cult of the Supreme Being.

-Republican Calendar Abolished (9 September 1805)

The French Revolution in Numismatics and Scripophily

The numismatic evidence of the French Revolution is at first lacking, and betrays the reality of the political situation at the time the first coins were issued- if the coins are taken at face value. Royal issues continued to be produced at some mints, and the King's image remained on coins longer than he

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retained power. This is because coins take longer to propose, design, test, approve, and strike in the first place, while expensive and labor-intensive metal dies not only take a while to prepare, but are often used even after their date or mandated period of issue. Thus, paper currency often reflects political change more quickly and accurately than coinage. This is especially the case with the French Assignat currency and its successors, which were often crude and basic. Engravers and printers of newspapers, magazines, lotto tickets, bonds, and books could be employed in the process. Those workers were used to quickly editing and preparing their work to meet deadlines, and thus could quickly prepare currency for immediate issue.

Assignats, Mandats Territorial, Church Properties, and their relation to Coins

The assignat was a monetary instrument devised after 2 November 1789, literally to 'assign' Church lands that were "at the disposal of the nation" to private bearers. These came into play as first Monastic vows were abolished, and then religious orders were dissolved. The original issue of assignats was structured as a bond, because the value of land was viewed as more stable than gold or silver. Assignats were authorized as legal-tender in April 1790, when they became 'assignats-monnaie.' Initially the new national properties 'biens nationaux' taken from the Church and later the nobility were auctioned by authorities at the district level. This was initially a successful strategy to alleviating the national debt, as some specie (hard coin) was taken in to pay for the properties, while assignats were paid out. However, the denominations of

the assignats were generally too large for general commerce, as they were based upon the value of real estate or other large properties.

Another problem with assignats is that the value of remaining properties backing them diminished over time, while the issues proliferated and the population of notes increased. This problem was like modern day stock dilution, where more and more shares are issued without a cap or ceiling for the maximum issuance. This is a very simple recipe for inflation. Furthermore, coins of the old regime continued to circulate at par value, so Gresham's law would dictate that either the coins were driven out of circulation and hoarded, or the assignats would be discounted. Both seem to be the case; rural and religious people boycotted the assignats as desecration of the Church, and inflation began to devalue the assignats- which were accepted at discounted rates. Inflation had already reached 7.5% by Autumn of 1790, and was in excess of 20% by late 1791.

These fundamental problems with the issuance and acceptance of the assignat were not the only problems with their viability as a currency medium. In addition to the decision of counter-revolutionaries to boycott them, foreign conspiracies to counterfeit them emerged. In a move very much like the Nazi German attempt to devalue the British Pound in the famed



FRANCE
18 Nivose l'an 3eme (7 January 1795)
2,000 Francs
AU+ - PA81
SKU# 34284

1st Republic. 18 Nivose, l'an 3 (January 7th, 1795). Assignat de deux mille francs - 2000 Francs. Pick A81. The second highest denomination assignat issued. This example is essentially gem mint state, with the exception of the marginal stain. All examples appear to have the figure of justice at the left margin truncated by way of a slightly waved 'indenture'- probably acting as a counterfoil of sorts. The right margin (when present), shows a spindle mark outside the frame that always pierces the paper in the same location. Every example we have seen of this note has a slight central crease. However, this gem example retains the complete original margin, and very clear, sharp embossing. The faint stain at bottom is forgivable, as the majority of these notes have trimmed margins or no margins at all.

Price is \$350.-



FRANCE - 1793
750 Francs
VF+ - PA79
SKU# 34283

1st Republic. (7 January 1795). Assignat de Sept cent cinquante F(rancs), or 750 Francs. Series 51, number 688. Pick A79. VF+ apparent, with a small tear in the left margin extending to the frame, with several pinholes noted internally. Reputedly the scarcest issued denomination of the regular assignats, and certainly one of the most unusual of the high value notes.

This appealing note shows generally white and fresh paper quality, with ample margins. An interesting feature is the large watermark 'LIBERTE EGALITE, NATION FRANCAISE', surrounded by an appealing 'Greek Key' or 'meander' patterned frame. The sobering warning contained in the frame states 'The law punishes the counterfeiter with death- The nation rewards the informant'. The internal texts state that this note is a 'Mortgage on the National Properties (Domains)'- meaning the Royal estates. Far superior to the Net VF20 example sold by Heritage Auctions, showing trimmed margins, staining, evidence of former mounting, and yellowing.

Price is \$1,750.-

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Operation Bernheimer, the governments and private citizens in Britain, Belgium, and Switzerland began forging the notes in "industrial scale" counterfeiting operations. There were 17 simultaneous operations employing over 400 workmen in London alone! During the Jacobin dictatorship, the 'Maximum Price Act' of 1793 created price caps on foodstuffs. It attempted to curb devaluation of currency, rising prices of food, and food shortages. However, one unforeseen consequence was refusal to sell food at the artificially low prices, resulting in widespread famine. The Thermidorian Convention lifted the act, which resulted in the currency going into a freefall. By 1793, the inflation rate surpassed 3000%.

At some point, the value of the paper of assignats (which were sometimes printed on old lotto ticket paper and other repurposed paper stock) surpassed their face value. At that time, the French Directory government decided to replace the assignats with Mandats Territoriaux, which was similar to a 10:1 reverse stock split- in terms of the numbers of outstanding Francs represented. Although the Mandats redeemed many of the outstanding assignats and provided a brief reprieve from the economic tailspin paper money had experienced, the Mandats proved to be just as notionally faulty as assignats- but easier to counterfeit than the notes they replaced! In February of 1797, all of these revolutionary currencies lost their legal tender status, and were generally worthless by May of the same year. Collectors of coins and other curios were already saving assignats by the 1830's and 1840's as mementos of the excesses of the Revolution.

Despite the failed experiment of the assignat, this did not prevent the young French Republic from foisting them on its satellite states in Italy. They were used in the former Church lands of the Roman Republic between 1798 and 1799, and also used with little success in Venice during the same time period. A similar system was also employed in modern times at the dissolution of the Soviet Union, resulting in scrip intended to divide the infrastructure into parts payable to the populace- as the new Russian Federation was being created. Similar problems there resulted in the devaluation of the bonds, whose purchase by the sophisticated resulted in the creation of a new elite class in Russia, known in English as the "New Russians". This is interesting, as the Assignatsionny rubl (assignation ruble) was the predominant form of currency in Russia from 1769-1849, although that currency had nothing to do with the French Revolution.

Bridging the gap between assignats and metallic coinage are the Bons de Confiance issued by the Monneron Freres (Monneron Brothers) and others in Paris in 1791-1792. These large tokens or small "medals" were redeemable in assignats. These were designed by Dupre, and struck abroad in London- but did not enrich their issuers in the long run. These are listed in the Mazard and Krause Catalogs, not to mention others references.

The re-appropriation of Church wealth did not merely end with assignats, but also resulted in a number of Essais or proposed 'monetary projects' and patterns for coins that never saw issuance. Numerous pieces with the inscription 'METAL DE CLOCHE' (literally "bell metal") were designed and struck from bell metal taken from bells confiscated from churches throughout the country. These types usually bore a combination of revolutionary and enlightenment emblems (sometimes one in the same). Although bell metal was used in the issuance of regular issue Decimes and 5 Centimes, none of the 'metal de cloche' patterns went into regular production. It was perhaps seen as advisable to distance the circulating medium from direct reference to the persecution of the Church.

Although certain aspects of religion were formally abolished, outlawed, or re-appropriated, the application of the new laws concerning religion was not uniform and evolved over time. Initially, the 'State' took on many of the traditional responsibilities of the Church, paying the clergy, and caring for the poor, sick, and orphans. The initial intent was to set up a state religion similar to the Church of England, where former Catholic clergy became employees or wards of the state. However, this came with the condition that the clergy had to swear an oath ('Civil Oath') of loyalty to the Constitution and the State. As traditionally the King and the State swore fealty to the Church and derived their power from the Church or attributed it to God directly, this new juxtaposition proved unpopular and a large number of priests refused to take the oath. This is where imprisonment, torture, executions, banishments, and massacres came into play, enforcing the anti-religious provisions of the new governments with prejudice and without uniformity. Some clergy were executed merely due to the stature and power of their former positions, some were jailed or exiled for not cooperating with the new regime, others were massacred in prison or harassed or killed by mobs. The outcome varied depending upon the time of the persecution, where it was done, and the level of participation in the high-minded but shoddily assembled state cults or religions. This resulted in a backlash against Republican policy and numerous revolts in the rural areas and more remote provinces of this heavily Catholic



FRANCE
28 Ventose An 4eme (18 March 1796)

250 Francs
CU - PA85a
SKU# 34285

Directory. Law of 28 Ventose An 4eme (March 18, 1796). Mandat territorial de 250 Francs. Signed and numbered, without Series number. Pick A85a. Printed in a delicate bistre to dark buff colored ink, described as 'olive' in the Standard Catalog. This piece was carefully preserved in an album, as evidenced by the paper hinge remnant at bottom. Interestingly, the paper upon which it is printed was taken from the National Lottery of the Republic, as evidenced by the watermark: 'Loterie NATIONALE R. F.' in script, with NATIONALE in bold capitals.

The Mandats Territoriaux were created by the directory as a currency instrument promising Royal and Church lands to the bearers. This series replaced the excessive issuance of the inflated assignats at a 1:10 Francs ratio. However, this new series proved to be easier to counterfeit and soon fell into disuse.

Price is \$300.-

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nation. Many clergy were later pardoned, tolerated, or invited back to France. Napoleon did not fully reinstate the power and authority of the Church, but astutely made an official Concordat to formally pardon Church authorities and allow the institution to function within France. He also moved the Papacy to France. This also paved the way to his becoming Emperor later in his

harkening back to the first minutes of the Republic, beginning after midnight on the day of its foundation. Not only were years reorganized, but the length of months, weeks, hours, minutes, and seconds were altered. This new Calendar is based upon what was called 'Decimal Time', stemming from attempts at establishing metric time by Thomas Jefferson and other Revolutionary American thinkers. Decimal time had the following units of time:

-A four year period called a Franciade in commemoration of the four years it took to establish the Republic, initially named an Olympique after the Greek unit of time to determine the games. This was used for reckoning of the leap year cycle, which also determined the number of "complimentary days" (see below). Interestingly, the Revolutionary Calendar was slated to be reset in 4,000 years or 1,000 Franciades to correct for minor inconsistencies that had not been worked out.

-1 Solar year, as the Gregorian Calendar had by then adopted.

-12 Months of 30 days apiece, beginning 22 September with [Vendémiaire](#) (Grape Harvest), Brumaire (Misty), Frimaire (Frosty), [Nivôse](#) (Snowy), [Pluviôse](#) (Rainy), Ventose (Windy), Germinal (Germination), Floréal (Flowery), Prairial (having to do with Meadows, or Meadowy), Messidor (Harvest Time), Thermidor, formerly Fervidor (Hot), and Fructidor (Fruity). The exact days composing each month can also be found on the Wikipedia article that is consulted here, along with English parody names favored by James F. Elmen in some of his numismatic and social commentaries.

-36 Weeks per year, with 5 or 6 "complimentary days" at the end of the year, to be filled with national festivities.

-Weeks, or 'Decades' of 10 Days (lasting 24 conventional hours each due to the solar cycle). The days were less creatively named "First Day" through "Tenth Day", rendering 'Primidi, Duodi, Tridi, Quartidi, Quintidi, Sextidi, Septidi, Octidi, Nonidi, and Decadi.'

-Days composed of 10 Hours apiece (an hour being equal to 144 conventional minutes).

-Hours composed of 100 Minutes (minutes being 86.4 conventional seconds, and thus just a few seconds less than a moment- a medieval unit of time lasting 1.5 minutes).

-Seconds lasting 0.864 traditional seconds.

This elaborate calendar and structure of time required the printing of new household calendars and the making of new watches and clocks, some of which survive to this day. The reasons for the new calendar were threefold: 1) To divorce the nation from the old Church-oriented liturgical calendar, which determined when Holidays (read Holy Days) or feasts and other religious observances were to take place and was intimately tied with the seasons and astronomical events. The inclusion of 10 day weeks was not just to make time more metric, but to trip up the observance and memory of Sundays or Sabbaths, making the day of rest a secular or state-run observance. 2) To increase the admiration of the natural cycles and agriculture in the largely pre-industrial society. 3) To reduce the number of weekend work holidays from 52 to only 36, plus the week's vacation at the end of the year. This might have been intended to give France a competitive edge versus other nations in the industrialization process for future progress. 4) To make time more compatible

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FRANCE - 1793
50 Sols (Uncut Sheet)
AU-UNC - PA70b
SKU# 34282

1st Republic. Domains Nationaux. Uncut sheet of 20 notes, showing the full printing plate. Pick A70b. AU-UNC, as 16 notes are singly CU, while 4 others have a single fold running through. This particular sheet shows two holes where the paper was spiked at top and bottom, and a numeral '9' in the lower margin. A large quadrille watermark marks the placement of each register on the sheet. Each note singly shows a watermarked RF in script and a denomination below, surrounded by thickening in the paper resembling a darkened water ring left by a drinking glass. Each note also bears two embossments with the genii of the Law and Justice. Interesting!

Price is \$375.-

career, with the Pope's (initial) endorsement. Around this time, nuns were recalled into service of the Napoleonic Empire to be employed as nurses (one of their traditional roles), particularly as liaisons between sophisticated urban (male) doctors and less educated or distrustful country folk, often female.

The Republican Calendar(s) and numismatic evidence

One of the more subtle, complex, and at times somewhat comical attempts to undermine traditional religion was the adoption of the Republican Calendar. This is immediately familiar to numismatists working with French coins from 1791-1804 or so, from dates beginning with 'An' or 'L'An' for "year". These dates signify the dates of the coins on the Revolutionary or Republican Calendar, retroactively dated to the first day of the foundation of the Republic, and thus the numerals are the years of the Republic (much like a regnal year of a Sultan or Pope). What many numismatists may not realize is the complexity and purpose of the Republican Calendar, where the year was one of the largest units of time- not the smallest.

The Republican Calendar was established in 1793,

with the metric system, which France officially adopted in 1799.

Since the Republican Calendar and Decimal Time were hastily agreed upon by convention, using scientific methods of the 18th Century, and was politically motivated- it had inherent flaws. Some of the provisions were slightly incorrect even to the scientific knowledge of the time, and also the best science of the day would

give a result different from modern atomic clocks and other quantitative methods. Also, the political motivations were unpopular with religious people, traditionalists, and counter-revolutionists. Interestingly, the movement within the Republican government went to the extent of replacing the Rural (Religious) Calendar with a Secular (or Worldly) calendar to completely supplant the old ways. The traditional French Rural Calendar gave the name of a Saint to each and every day of the year, so that the 365 or so saints deemed most important by the clergy would be lauded and celebrated. This probably lent numerous rural children their names as well, providing literal name days for the newborn. The Republican Rural Calendar named each day after some agricultural product or implement, particularly vegetables, and other plants, including trees, herbs, and flowers. While probably immeasurably beautiful for scientific taxonomists and



enlightened farmers, the system was disgraceful to the devout and probably proved unwieldy at best. Nevertheless, it would be interesting to check French archival records for children born during the revolution who were named for the days of the Rural Calendar! All these faults resulted in the decade of 10 days being abandoned officially in April of 1802, and the Calendar being abolished in the Year of the Revolution (l'An) XIV, or more precisely 9 September, 1805.

Apparently, today monuments with Republican Calendar dated cornerstones and inscriptions are comparatively rare, as are the printed Calendars themselves. Many of them were probably intentionally destroyed or updated after the Revolution. Virtually all of the documents of the period will have this system of dating on them, but most of the ones that survived will be in archives and libraries. Thus, coins are probably by far the most abundant and obtainable mementos of the Republican Calendar. Here is a listing of the chronology of Republican Dating on coins, along with changes in titelature for the actual governments represented:

1792-1793 The last regular Royal Coinages of the Ancien Regime are issued.

1791/l'An II The first Constitutional essays appear, dated L'AN 2, or simply 2 DE LA LIB. (Guillard).

1791-1793 Constitutional Type silver coins dually dated L'AN

3 through L'AN 5 are issued, the last of them posthumously after the end of the Constitutional Monarchy by the Convention.

1793 & (1794) 'Sols aux Balance' along with ½ Sols and 2 Sols are issued dated L'An II (1794 without AD date) in the name of the Convention government, 1792-1795.

1793 Siege of Mayence (Mainz) pieces struck with dual date L'AN 2E by French in modern day Germany.

1793 & (1794) Purely Republican types are struck with the Winged Genius & Fasces with Phrygian Cap & Cockerel by the Convention, without the portrait of Louis XIV.

(1795-1799) The Directory (Directoire) strikes 'Union et Force' or 'Hercules Group', 'Geniuses', or 'Sages' type dated L'AN 4-7, being Ecus of 5 Francs, the first 'decimal' coins, along with Centimes, 5 Centimes, Decimes, and 2 Decimes featuring a capped head of Marianne (Goddess of Liberty). The size of the coppers is actually increased over time, running counter to the devaluation of the Assignats.

(1799-1804) The Consulate (Consulat) continues to mint the 'Union et Force' type, dated L'AN 8-11, but only in the 5 Francs denomination. The reason for this is probably to make troop payments and payments of specie to foreign entities, instead using remaining old Royal and Constitutional coins in metropolitan France. No gold is issued using this type, aside from a few proofs of the coin. The Type Dupre or Type Definitif continues to be issued in the 5 Centimes and Decimes, using Dupre's head of Marianne. Geneva is added as a mint during this issue.

(1803-1804) Napoleon issues coins in the name of the Consulate, dated AN XI and AN 12, but depicting his head as Premiere Consul, with the legends BONAPARTE PREMIERE CONSUL. This continues the 5 Francs and introduces the silver ½ Franc, 1 Franc and 2 Francs in 1803, along with the gold 20 Francs and 40 Francs. The Quart (1/4 Franc) is introduced also in 1803, but dated L'AN 12. 'REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE' is retained.

(1804-1805) Napoleon issues coins as Emperor, but retaining Republican dating, in all gold & silver denominations of the previous issue. These coins dated AN 12-14, retain a bare-headed left-facing portrait of Napoleon, but now with the legend 'NAPOLEON EMPEREUR'. The reverse legend 'REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE' is retained. Turin (Torino) is added as a mint during this issue.

1806-1807 Following the abolishment of the Republican calendar on 9 September 1805, the same types are issued the following two years with a Christian Anno Domini date. The legends are retained from the last issue, but the portrait sees subtle

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- changes with three or four varieties including the transitional bust and 'Tete de Negre' thought to make Napoleon appear African.
- 1807-1808 The standardized portrait of Napoleon as Emperor with laurels added is first issued. The reverse legend 'REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE' is retained. The copper 5 Centimes with 'N' monogram, and the corresponding billon 10 Centimes are added.
- 1809-1814 The standard issues now carry the reverse legend 'EMPIRE FRANCAISE', letting go of all pretense that France is a Republic. Metropolitan French issues are now struck at Genoa (1811-1814), Utrecht (1812-1813), Rome (1812-1813) and continue to be struck at Turin (1804-1813). Geneva discontinued Napoleonic portrait issues in 1805. Parallel issues are struck denominated in Lire at the Milan and Venice mints in the Italian Kingdom of Napoleon, while similar issues in Franks are struck by Jerome Napoleon in the Kingdom of Westphalia in what was previously Germany. Special siege 5 & 10 Centimes are added for the sieges of Anvers & Strasbourg (Antwerp & Strassburg).
- 1814-1815 Coinage of Napoleon is interrupted by the Bourbon Restoration of Louis XVIII, with issues in Paris, Rouen, Strasbourg, Lyon, La Rochelle, Bordeaux, Bayonne, Toulouse, Marseille, Perpignan, Nantes, and Lille. The same denominations are made as the Napoleonic issues, with the exception of the ¼ Franc, ½ Franc, 2 Francs, and 40 Francs. The 5 Centimes is only a special siege issue for Anvers (Antwerp), and the 10 Centimes for the same siege plus that of Strasbourg.
- 1815 The Final Napoleonic homeland issues are struck for the Cent Jours or the Hundred Days in the 5 Francs and 20 Francs, using old laureate portrait dies by Tiolier from the preceding year, plus newly executed reverse dies with minor stylistic differences. A completely new die is created for the obverse of the 2 Francs, with a revised portrait only seen on that coin. This piece is only struck at Paris, with a mintage of 6,783 pieces. Otherwise, only the Siege of Strasbourg 10 Centimes with the Napoleonic monogram continue.
- 1815 Louis XVIII government in Exile issue of 20 Francs struck in London with 'R' mint mark.
- Note: all Napoleonic portrait coins feature the incuse edge inscription 'DIEU PROTÉGÉ LA FRANCE', or 'God Protect France'.

Interestingly, Haiti, modeling its Revolution after the French Revolution, also used revolutionary-calendar dated coins. The Haitian Revolutionary Calendar begins in 1804, with the completion of the Haitian Revolution under Jean-Jacques

Dessalines, with the first coin appearing with a revolutionary date around AN 10 (1813). The dating system continued to be used there with the last Revolutionary date on a coin being AN 47 (1850), after Faustin I's takeover as Emperor in 1849. These dates should not be confused with the dates of the French Republican calendar, as it begins roughly 15 years earlier.

Other Symbols of the French Revolution used on French Coinage

-Phrygian Cap, or freedman's cap: symbolized freedom from tyranny or slavery, as it was the traditional felt cap given to freed slaves within the Roman Republic, and later the Empire.

-Fasces (with axe): symbolized justice or unity. The equation with Justice was probably the use of the axe in executions. More literally it was a Roman Lictor's attribute, the 12 sticks of rosewood representing Unity, and the cross hatches (bands) representing Force.

-Scales of Justice: actually a balance, a traditional attribute of the Goddess of Justice, a synecdoche for Justice itself.

-Tablet or Constitution: drew inspiration from both the 10 Commandments of Mosaic Law and probably also tied in to Masonic tradition surrounding stone cutters.

-Winged Genius or 'Angel': an allegory for Man's creativity, is shown inscribing a tablet.

-Triangle: a Masonic device usually featured with the compass, generally omitted from regular issue coins but occurs frequently on patterns (Essais). Masonic devices figured heavily in the heraldry of the early Revolution, due to the involvement of the Marquis de La Fayette and the key role that lodges played in hosting Enlightenment discourses leading up to the Revolution. Perhaps the emblems were abandoned later to distance the fraternal orders from the wanton violence of the Revolution, or to distance the government from other pre-existing creeds, not exclusive to religion.

-Eye of Providence: an Enlightenment symbol with Deist associations, appears at the top of one of the official versions of the 'Declaration of the Rights of Man' and is thus portrayed on the tablet of the 'Sol aux Balances'. The two depicted together on the Sol are quite literally an illustration of the 'Declaration of the Rights of Man.'

-Rooster: Gallus (the Gauls) and gallus (rooster) were homonyms, as noted by Suetonius in 'The Twelve Caesars'. It was also probably honored in some of the Gallic religious practices, but this is today very unclear. The pun also held force in the middle ages, when France's detractors frequently made the joke. The association stuck, and the Rooster became the unofficial symbol of the nation of France. Its mention in association with New Testament Christian tradition linked it to the Apostle Paul, and by association, the Catholic Church. Thus, in the middle ages it came to represent France as a Catholic State. The religious associations of the Gallic Rooster faded as time wore on, but remained in the national consciousness as a vague symbol of France- surviving all the while as a popular dish. It was revived during the French Revolution as a semi-official symbol, lacking the old religious connotations. The Coq Gaulois was later nicknamed Chanteclair, around the time of

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its resurrection on coinage in the late 3rd Republic, leading up to WWI.

-Marianne, or Liberty: a personification of Reason, the Nation, the Homeland, the civic virtues of the Republic.

-Wreath: a general symbol of Victory handed down from the Greeks and Romans, particularly the games. The wreaths depicted on French Republican coins most closely resemble wreaths from Roman Military iconography of the Roman Empire.

Conclusion

Due to its violence and volatility, many of the participants in the French Revolution experienced its tangible benefits for only very briefly, and many lost their lives as a sacrifice or scapegoat in the conflict, the intangible benefits continue to this day. The result was a more egalitarian society, more personal freedoms and liberties, more educational opportunities, progress in the sciences and medicine, a higher standard of living, and a precedent for ongoing social reform. The French Revolution was the original modern Revolutionary movement in that it displaced a domestic power that came to be viewed as irrelevant, re-codifying the traditional government into something held to serve the common good in more all-encompassing terms. Although it very closely followed the success of the American Revolution, that struggle instead expelled what had become viewed as a foreign power and increasingly irrelevant. Both revolutions were trials of how to construct a modern democracy, both subject to revisions, and both wary of tyranny. The American Revolution relied heavily upon French support and ultimately succeeded, perhaps through an initial policy of non-intervention and building a new system from within. The French Revolution had to overcome centuries of tradition and bias, with its principles being repeatedly torn down and rebuilt and foreign intrigues. Other revolutions would take place there in 1830, 1832, and 1848, while coups, sieges, and invasions occurred later. The French experience relied upon immediate militarism to prove its nationhood again, despite lack of internal cohesion. The United States experienced dissention on a similar magnitude, but expressed in different ways, with the worst trial of its unity coming much later in the process of nation building. Both struggles cemented a lasting Franco-American Alliance; Napoleon selling his regained North American possessions to the U.S., doubling the size of our then fledgling nation. Our towering allegory was given as a reminder of that brotherly love of over a hundred years prior. The U.S. repaid its blood debt to the French in two World Wars. The Revolutionary experience spread throughout Europe and into the rest of the world, changing the social landscape into what is today the modern world, Liberating the Americas from Spain, and forever reducing the role of colonialism globally.

Benjamin Bell

12 Thermidor L'An CCXXIV (12 Fervidor AN 224)

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