

ARCA



COIN GUIDE

# HISTORY

## **The First Coins.**

The first coins were believed to be minted around Turkey in 600 B.C. Barter was the main form of getting things done or getting something that was needed by another person, unfortunately, making change was a very hard medium. At first, primitive cultures tried to use things like tools, animal skins, iron, cattle, shells and salt as a form of money, but they did not offer stability. They found that metal could be used and were trading in things like jewelry, ingots and various cast shapes. This worked and specific standards and weights were created in order to standardize this new system called coins.

## **The manufacturing of coins:**

The first coins were made by stamping a blank between two hand-carved dies. This type of coin manufacturing stayed the same for about 2,200 years, from about 600 B.C. to 1600 A.D.

The bronze dies, the part that actually puts the impression on the coin, had to be hand carved with tools of that time period. This is amazing because of the detail that was accomplished by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

This process also made for unique coins because the bronze dies were not in the same place every time and the blanks were not always the same shape.

It wasn't until the 1600's when the screw press was invented and round symmetrical coins were starting to be produced. In addition, for over 2000 years, gold, silver and bronze coins were used for their value of the metal.



## **TIME LINE OF COINS**

CIRCA 600 B.C.

Ancient Greek Coins

- The first to produce coins
- Beautiful high relief designs
- Mostly gods, goddesses and animals on coins

CIRCA 280 B.C.

Ancient Roman Coins

- Beginning with Julius Caesar, most coinage produced had head of emperor on front of coin
- Symbol that honors a deity was put on reverse of coin
- Modern world adopted this style of coin

CIRCA 450

Roman Byzantine Coins

- During the decline of the Roman Empire
- Beginning of Catholicism
- For the first time crosses are put on coins

CIRCA 1500

Spanish Colonial Coins

- Large flotilla of ships would sail from Central and South America with treasure for the old world (Spain)
- Stories of sunken treasure and marauding pirates
- Very odd shaped coins
- Weight and purity of coins were most important

CIRCA 1700

Invention of Screw Press

- Uniform round coins of gold, silver and copper made from a machine
- Denticles (grooves) on side of coin to prevent shaving of metal from coins
- An era that lasted over 2000 years, the construction of coins by master craftsmen, came to an end.

# Coin Information Sheets

The information on the following pages is meant to be a reference in order to get more familiar with ARCA's most popular coins. There are many books on coins that may be reviewed for a specific coin and time period.



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# GREEK MYTHOLOGY

In Greek Mythology, in the beginning of the creation of the universe there was only the elemental force of Chaos. From Chaos emerged other elemental forces; such as, Gaia (Earth - Mother Earth) and Uranus (Sky – Lord of the Universe), whose children were the Titans. The Olympian gods and goddesses were children of a pair of Titans.

The 12 main Olympian gods and goddesses were:

- Aphrodite** – Goddess of beauty and love.
- Apollo** – God of light, the arts, music, healing, prophecy and poetry.
- Ares** – God of war.
- Artemis** – Goddess of the hunt and the moon.
- Athena** – Goddess of wisdom, strategy and war.
- Demeter** – Goddess of agriculture.
- Hephaestus** – God of fire and the forge.
- Hera** – Goddess of marriage, wife of Zeus.
- Hermes** – God of travel, thieves and commerce and messenger of the gods.
- Hestia** – Goddess of the hearth. Eventually replaced by Dionysus.
- Poseidon** – God of the sea.
- Zeus** – King of the gods.

# GREEK DENOMINATIONS

Dekadrachm	= 10 Drachms
Tetradrachm	= 4 Drachms
Didrachm	= 2 Drachms
Drachm	= 6 Obols
Tetrobol	= 4 Obols
Diobol	= 2 Obols
Trihemiobol	= 1.5 Obols
Obol	= Approx. .72 gm.

# APOLLO

## Circa 450 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Minted in Ancient Greece in 450 BC.
- One of the oldest coins in our collection.
- Minted in Apollonia Pontika, an ancient city on the Black Sea.
- On the reverse of this coin is an anchor and crawfish typical of the fishing community.



### Mythology/History:

Apollo was the Greek god of everything above land and sea. He was the god of prophecy, poetry, music, the arts, medicine and light. Apollo told the future through his oracles. The most famous is the Oracle at Delphi, where many kings (including Alexander the Great) went to find guidance. Like Greek men of the time, Apollo, had two sides to him, which is depicted by his two symbols. The first symbol was the bow, wherein the Ancient Greek people believed that his arrows could reach the ends of the earth to punish anyone that made him mad. On the other side was the lyre, which symbolized communion through music, poetry and dance. He foretold the future, punished the wicked and introduced the arts. Apollo was truly one of the most influential Greek gods in ancient times.

### Design of Coin:

The coin denomination is a Diobol and is only 10 millimeters in diameter.

**Obverse:** The bust of Apollo faces front with flowing hair.

**Reverse:** An upside down anchor with a crawfish to the right and an “A” to the left, which symbolized Apollonia.

### Points of Interest:

1. It's a great coin if you are into the arts since Apollo was a symbol of the arts to the Greek people.
2. Apollo also represented youth and vitality.
3. The coin is over two thousand four hundred years old.

# BOY ON DOLPHIN

## 460 – 228 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Minted over 300 years before the birth of Christ.
- The coin symbolizes the founding of Taras, the capital of Calabria.
- Poseidon's son, Taras, the boy on the dolphin.



### Mythology/ History:

On the front is a naked boy of Taras astride a dolphin. Mythology says that this was the son of Poseidon, god of the sea and earthquakes. Taras had fallen off a ship during a storm and Poseidon, seeing that his son was in trouble, sent a dolphin to rescue him and take him to shore, where he subsequently founded Taras (Roman Tarentum) the city within Calabria. On the reverse is the image of a naked youth or horseman's victorious performance. Ancient Calabria was situated at the heel of current day Italy. Its capital was Taras, which is named after Taras the boy on the dolphin in mythology. These types of coins were minted for centuries even after the Roman Empire took over in 272 B.C.

### Design of Coin:

The design of this didrachm originated in Taras but was copied around the southern part of present day Italy. These types of coins were some of the only ones that displayed dolphins on them. Being a fishing community, you could imagine the sailing vessels cutting through the water as dolphin jump and play in front of them. It must have been reassuring to know that Poseidon was watching over them.

**Obverse:** Taras astride a dolphin with Poseidon's (his father's) trident raised in right hand. Owl, Athena's familiar, to right. TAPAS underneath.

**Reverse:** Naked youth seated on a horse which he crowns with his right hand.

### Points of Interest:

1. If you love dolphins this is the perfect piece.
2. If you're a sailor, it could be considered good luck - your talisman.
3. The coin is over two thousand three hundred years old.

# PEGASUS

## 450 to 250 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Winged horse that represented hope for the ancient Greek people.
- Pegasus chased Zeus' thunderbolts across the sky.
- Minted over 300 years before the birth of Christ.
- First coins minted in Corinth.



### Mythology/ History:

Pegasus sprang from Medusa's body when the hero Perseus cut off her head. Medusa was a gorgon monster with hair of snakes and eyes that could turn a human into stone. Some believed that Pegasus was born of the earth as Medusa's blood spilled onto it. Later in mythology, Pegasus was captured by another Greek hero, Bellerophon, with the help of Athena and Poseidon. In Bellerophon's haste, he tried to ride this trusted steed to Mount Olympus where only the gods could live. Zeus sent a gadfly to bite Pegasus, who reared and threw Bellerophon to his death. Pegasus became a constellation and an aid to the gods on Mount Olympus; especially Zeus, bringing him thunderbolts.

Pegasus' story was a favorite theme in Greek art and literature. In ancient times, Pegasus' flight was symbolic of the soul's immortality. In modern times, it has been regarded as a symbol of poetic inspiration.

### Design of Coin:

This stater originated in Corinth around 450 B.C.E. and was reproduced throughout the Greek empire.

**Obverse:** The majestic Pegasus in flight.

**Reverse:** Athena, the goddess of wisdom and battle, with a Corinthian battle helmet tipped back so you can see her face.

### Points of Interest:

1. If you love horses this is a great piece.
2. Such skilled detail in the wings, legs and body.
3. The coin is over two thousand three hundred years old.

# ATHENIAN OWL CIRCA 449 B.C.E.

## Highlights:

- Athena – goddess of wisdom, war, the arts, justice and skill.
- The owl was Athena’s familiar, hence “the wise old owl”.
- This motif became the hallmark of Athens and appeared on their coinage for more than 400 years.
- These coins were used to finance the building of the Parthenon.



## Mythology/ History:

In Greek mythology, Athena was the favorite child of Zeus, having sprung fully grown and armed from her father’s head. Athena and her uncle, Poseidon, were both fond of a city in Greece and claimed it. It was decided that the one who could give the finest gift should have the city. The two mounted the Acropolis, the flat topped rock that crowned the city. Poseidon struck the cliff with his trident and water spilled out. The people were in awe, but the water was salty as the sea that Poseidon ruled, and not useful. Athena planted an olive tree in the crevice of a rock. It was the first olive tree the people had ever seen and was judged to be better because it gave food, oil and wood. Now her city, Athena watched over Athens, with the wise Owl attending and guarding her. In addition, Athenians grew famous for their arts and crafts.

In art, Athena is classically portrayed wearing full armor, carrying a lance and a shield with the head of the Gorgon Medusa mounted on it (for protection and to ward off evil) and an Owl sitting on her shoulder.

## Design of Coin:

This thick coin was minted at the beginning of the height of Greece’s artistic pinnacle. It was a testament as to just how far advanced the Greeks were becoming in certain, if not all, art forms. Pictured is a tetradrachm.

**Obverse:** Athena wearing a crested helmet ornamented with olive leaves and floral scroll.

**Reverse:** Owl standing upright with a moon crescent and olive branches to left. The Greek word for Athens, AOE, is predominately placed to the right.

## Points of Interest:

1. This is a powerful coin that could put you in touch with the wisdom of Athena and her owl.
2. The coin is over two thousand four hundred years old.

# LARISSA

## 350 to 325 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Minted in Ancient Greece around 350 B.C.
- Larissa is the patron water nymph. Larissa was also the name of the town the coin was minted in.
- Nymphs were associated with having authority over nature.
- Nymphs were also known to be very attracted to men.



### Mythology/History:

Under the protection of the Macedonian Kingdom, the town of Larissa flourished as a center for breeding champion horses. During this time period, some of the most beautiful coinage was created. The front of this coin is the portrait of Larissa, the patron water nymph. While nymphs were not deities, they were known to live a very long time and controlled their sphere of nature. The nymph Larissa presided over springs, rivers and lakes. The town of Larissa, which is still there to this day, resides along the Peneios River, near the eastern coast of current day Greece. On the reverse is the symbol of the town; a thoroughbred horse with the name of the city above and below; ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ, the direct translation is “LARISA ION.”

In addition, the town of Larissa was home and final resting place for the poet Pindar and the physician Hippocrates.

### Design of Coin:

Pictured is a drachm.

**Obverse:** Face of Larissa, the patron water nymph, with flowing hair.

**Reverse:** Horse feeding right, ΑΙΩΝ below.

Some sixty years earlier, a very famous engraver of Syracuse, Cimon, created a coin that portrayed the water nymph, Arethusa. These rare coins were circulated throughout Ancient Greece and were probably the inspiration for the Larissa coin. The similarities are the headband, the earrings, the necklace and the flowing hair.

- Coin of Syracuse, minted in 410 B.C.
- Showing water nymph, Arethusa.



### Points of Interest:

1. This is an extremely beautiful coin in high relief.
2. This coin definitely shows the intention of the engraver - to create a stunning piece of art.
3. The coin is from a land that raised thoroughbred horses over 2000 years ago.



# GORGON

## 350 – 300 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Gorgons have protective and healing powers.
- A glimpse of the face of a Gorgon turns men to stone.
- Gorgons ward off evil.
- Gorgon descends from the pre-Indo-European goddess of life and death.



### Mythology/ History:

In Greek mythology, the Gorgons (gorgos “terrible”) were vicious female monsters with sharp snake fangs and hair of living, venomous snakes. Often depicted as such with tongue sticking out between the fangs, the Gorgon was frequently placed on coins, doors, walls, breastplates and tombstones in hopes of warding off evil. Gorgons descend from the pre-Indo-European “goddess of life and death”. Blood taken from the right side of a Gorgon would bring the dead back to life. Yet, blood taken from the left side of a Gorgon was a fatal poison. The snakes are a symbol of appeasement and increase. The round face is the moon. Some Gorgons had bird feet or bee wings – symbols of regeneration. The mouth is open so that streams may flow from it. The protruding tongue is a symbol of death.

### Design of Coin:

Hemidrachm from 350 – 300 B.C.

**Obverse:** The face or mask of a Gorgon with eyes wide, tongue protruding and serpents around its head.

**Reverse:** A standing bull, looking back.

### Points of Interest:

1. This Gorgon could be your very own talisman, your amulet!
2. (For the women...) How many women have the ability to turn men into stone?
3. The Gorgon is not terrible for the wearer, but terrible for the one who wants to harm the wearer.

# HELIOS

## 400 - 88 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Helios is the god of the Sun!
- The Sun rules willpower and ego.
- The Sun is the core of your uniqueness, of who you are, what you are about.



### Mythology/ History:

Helios is the young Greek god of the sun. Helios is the son of the Titans Hyperion and Theia and the brother of Eos (Dawn) and Selene (Moon). Daily aroused by the rooster, his sacred animal, Helios mounts his four horse chariot and leaves his palace in the east traveling the Heavens to his golden palace in the west. Brilliant rays encircle his head and his chariot glows like fire so bright that only the gods could look straight at him without being blinded. At high noon, Helios stops at the top of the sky and looks around, letting nothing escape his radiant gaze; hence, Helios sees and knows all that happens on earth. At night while Helios is sailing in his golden vessel back across the world to his palace in the east, Selene (his sister the Moon) lights the night using her magical moonbeams to light his way.

Helios' attributes are the rooster, the whip and the globe. Helios' island is Rhodes, where the natives honored him with the Colossus of Rhodes; an awesome bronze statue that straddled the harbor entrance and all ships, even the tallest, easily sailed under his legs. So says popular depiction, however, Helios stood tall (110 feet high), nude (as in the Greek manner), wearing a spiked crown, shading its eyes from the rising sun with its right hand and holding a cloak over its left hand. The Colossus of Rhodes was the sixth of the seven wonders of the ancient world. An earthquake was its destruction in 224 B.C., merely 56 years after its building. Almost a thousand years later (656 A.D.) a scrap metal dealer bought the pieces and had them melted down.

### Design of Coin:

Tetradrachm, Didrachm, Drachm or Hemidrachm

**Obverse:** Radiant head of Helios with flowing hair and sun rays in the background.

**Reverse:** Rose, with bud on right, inscription above.

### Points of Interest:

1. If you have any special connection with the Sun, this is the jewelry piece for you.
2. This coin is over two thousand three hundred years old.
3. It's a gorgeous coin that will draw attention whenever you wear it.

# ALEXANDER THE GREAT

## 336 to 323 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Believed he was a son of Zeus.
- After his death, Alexander's likeness was put on coinage.
- No other human face had been struck on a coin before.
- Won his first battle at age 20.
- Conquered his known world by age 31.
- Died at age 33.
- Tutored by Aristotle, one of the greatest philosophers of all time.



### Mythology/ History:

There are many stories of Alexander the Great, some of which were quite extraordinary. One mythological story that has some basis in fact was when Alexander went out into the desert for forty days and forty nights. When he returned he was wearing a lion skin headdress, very similar to the one worn by the mythological hero, Herakles (Hercules). In Greek mythology, Herakles, the demigod son of Zeus who became known for his superhuman strength, had strangled a lion with his bare hands; therefore, Alexander implied that he had done the same. As a leader, Alexander the Great was not the type to sit on a hillside and watch his men go into battle. He was in front leading the charge. Alexander would sometimes train with his men, which helped to give him a better sense of how his troops were doing. Alexander ruled a vast empire stretching from Greece to India by the time of his premature death.

### Design of Coin:

There are two sizes of this style of coin: drachm and tetradrachm. The picture above is a drachm, which is about the size of a U.S. dime. The other size is a tetradrachm, or four drachm, is about the size of a U.S. silver dollar. Many of these coins were minted during and after Alexander's reign because they helped to stabilize the monetary system within the newly conquered lands.

**Obverse:** Head of young Herakles clad in lion skin headdress.

**Reverse:** Zeus seated on backless throne, legs parallel, holding eagle and scepter; ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ (ALEXANDER) to right.

### Points of Interest:

1. This coin stems from one of the greatest military leaders in history.
2. The coin is over two thousand three hundred years old.
3. Such a powerful coin, having two strong mythical Greek heroes portrayed.

# JULIUS CAESAR

## 49 – 44 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Minted from 49 to 44 B.C.
- Julius Caesar was an outstanding politician.
- He changed history for the Roman Empire.
- One of the few types of coins minted by Julius Caesar.



### Mythology/ History:

The theme of the elephant treading on the snake as portrayed on the front of this coin is propaganda on Caesar's part against his enemy, Metellus Scipio, whose family sponsored coinage featuring snakes. The elephant represents the strength and power of the Roman republic, while the snake "Metellus" is being crushed by the elephant.

### Design of Coin:

The denomination pictured is a denarius.

On the reverse are articles of the office of Pontifex Maximus, the head of the board of priests, which directed the state religion laws and legislature. Coinage, during and after Julius Caesar, was used as political advertisement and propaganda. How else could you get a message across to so many people and in such a short time frame than putting it on the money?

**Obverse:** Elephant crushing a serpent, 'CAESAR' below.

**Reverse:** Pontifical emblems: simpulum, aspergillum, axe and apex (priest hat).



Actual bust of Julius Caesar on a silver Denarius. This coin is very difficult to find and very valuable.

### Points of Interest:

1. Did you know that Alexander the Great was Caesar's idol? He studied all that was written about Alexander.
2. This is the only type of coin that the name "CAESAR", for Julius Caesar, is placed boldly on the front.

# ROMA

## CA. 211 - 91 B.C.E.

### Highlights:

- Minted around 100 B.C.
- Patron goddess of Rome.
- Was the only god that Rome kept from the old form of religion, Paganism.
- Still to this day, Rome uses Roma as a symbol and she is still printed on Italian coins.



### Mythology/ History:

Roma is the personification of the city of Rome. She is portrayed as a helmeted woman sitting on a throne, holding a spear and a sword. Resting against her throne is a shield. Her head was commonly depicted on coins, symbolizing the Roman state. Her temple and the temple of Venus were situated on the Valia Hill in Rome. Hadrianus started building it in 121 A.D. and Antonius Pius inaugurated the temple around 140 A.D.

These types of coins were minted by Moneyers. They were given the right to make silver denarii for the Roman Republic, before the time of Julius Caesar.

### Design of Coin:

The denomination is denarius.

**Obverse:** Bust of Roma with a winged battle helmet.

**Reverse:** Victory riding a two-horse chariot or “biga.”

Obverse is the same for many Moneyers; the bust of Roma. The reverse, on the other hand, can have different scenes; Victory as shown, Apollo riding a four-horse chariot or “quadriga”, Jupiter riding a four-horse chariot, or The Dioscuri (twin sons of Jupiter & Leda) on horseback.



### Points of Interest:

1. Much like the Statue of Liberty for the U.S., Roma was a symbol of Rome for over two thousand years.
2. Many of these types of coins had horse drawn chariots on the reverse which showed their love of chariot racing.
3. Our jewelry has to be hand made in order to fit the coin perfectly; which helps to keep the artifact from being damaged.
4. The coin is over two thousand years old.

# WIDOW'S MITE

## During the time of Christ

### Highlights:

- The coin was in circulation during the time of Christ.
- It's referred to in the New Testament: Mark 12:41
- The story tells of a Widow that gave two of these types of coins as an offering to the church.
- Perhaps it's a story that tells us it's the thought that counts, not the gift.



### History:

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything- all she had to live on.”*

Mark 12:41 - Zondervan's New International Version of the Holy Bible

Possibly Jesus was referring to the sacrifice this woman has given for her faith and that is what stands out in the eyes of God.

### Design of Coin:

These crude bronze/copper coins were struck in vast abundance and used in everyday transactions. Prutah is the modern denomination and older bibles call it a “mite”; thus the “Widow's Mite”.

**Obverse:** An upside down anchor within circle, BASILEWS ALESNDPOY (means, of King Alexander) around.

**Reverse:** A star of eight pellets surrounded by diadem.

### Points of Interest:

1. This coin is referred to in the New Testament, Mark 12: 41 – 44.
2. This is a great coin with which to show your devotion to Jesus Christ.
3. It's amazing how such an insignificant looking coin can have so much meaning.

# SILVER DENARO

## Circa 12<sup>th</sup> Century

### Highlights:

- This denaro was struck in Genoa, Italy, the birthplace of Columbus.
- The Maltese cross, badge of honor, is similar to the cross that Fire Fighters wear today.
- Also called the Crusader Coin.



### History:

Emperor Conrad III of Germany led the Second Crusade along with King Louis VII of France. All along he believed the preachings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux in France; that the Crusade was not merely an act of war to secure the holy places, but a means of redemption – Christ would offer the warriors of Europe a blessed avenue of salvation.

Featured on the obverse of the coin is the cross of Jerusalem or the Maltese cross. The Maltese cross is a symbol of the Christian warrior, of protection, a badge of honor. While the Knights of St. John, a band of courageous crusaders, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land, they were bombarded by glass bombs of naphtha. As the crusaders became saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming tree into their midst. Hundreds of Knights were burned alive while others risked their lives to save their brothers from the dreadful fire. These Crusaders became the first courageous Fire Fighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Crusaders who awarded each hero with a badge of honor; a cross similar to the one Fire Fighters wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for nearly four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea, named Malta, the cross became known as the Maltese cross.

### Design of Coin:

A silver coin similar in size and style to small silver European coins issued during the Crusader period. This denaro became one of the major trade coins circulated in the Eastern Mediterranean from the end of the Crusades until the middle of the millennium.

**Obverse:** Cross of Jerusalem inside the inscription “CONRAD III”.

**Reverse:** Outline of a medieval castle.

### Points of Interest:

1. This coin could be considered your badge of honor.
2. This small coin has such a highly recognizable cross that will likely be commented on.

# VENETIAN DUCAT

## 1287 - 1797

### Highlights:

- The Venetian Ducat packed quite a value in a relatively small coin!
- Also called Zecchinno.
- By late 13<sup>th</sup> century, Venice controlled trade throughout the Mediterranean, therefore the Ducat was created to be accepted by all nations.
- The obverse shows the Duke kneeling before St Mark. The reverse is Christ surrounded by stars.



### History:

Pronunciation: du kot'

Venice is known as the birthplace of the Ducat (Latin for duke). By late 13<sup>th</sup> century, with Venice controlling the trade throughout the Mediterranean, they wanted to consolidate and further increase their power and influence. The Ducat became a coin that allowed any nation of the world to trade with another and have a uniform method of payment. The Gold Ducat specifications were the same; 3.5 grams of .986 gold. Because of its consistency, the Gold Ducat captured the trust of all nations for over 700 years. Such a coin allowed trade to flow freely and easily and greatly facilitated payment for goods. In later years, the Venetian Ducat became known as zecchinno d'oro, so called after la zecca – the mint.

### Design of Coin:

Gold coin that was hammered from 3.5 grams of .986 gold.

**Obverse:** Saint Mark standing left presenting the gonfalon (the banner of the republic) to the kneeling doge (duke).

**Reverse:** Figure of Christ surrounded by 11 to 13 stars in a pointed oval known as a mandorla.

### Points of Interest:

1. These coins were minted from the medieval times to the Renaissance period and circulated all throughout Europe as a beacon of light.
2. You can see how the popularity of this gold coin spread throughout Europe.

# DUTCH DUCAT

## 1487 to 1800's

### Highlights:

- The Gold Dutch Ducat was one of the primary trade coins for the world.
- It was easy to mint and frequently counterfeited.
- Did you know Benjamin Franklin carried this coin?



### History:

Pronunciation: duh' kit

The seven northern provinces of the Netherlands declared their independence from Spanish domination in 1581, thereby becoming the Republic of the Netherlands. In the following century, the Netherlands became a great sea and colonial power, a patron of the arts and a refuge for the persecuted. This old Dutch Ducat became the primary trade coin for the world. According to the 1913 Webster's Dictionary, the **ducat** was worth the equivalent of "nine shillings and four pence sterling, or somewhat more than two dollars."

The University of Pennsylvania features on its campus a sculpture of Ben Franklin walking up Pennsylvania's High Street. The story goes that the 17 year old runaway from Boston arrived in Philadelphia with only three pennies and one Dutch ducat in his pocket. He bought some bread and then walked by the home of Mr. Reed, his future wife's father. Deborah Reed was standing at the door and thought Franklin made an awkward and ridiculous appearance. In Ben Franklin's own words written in his autobiography: "I was fatigued with traveling, rowing, and want of rest; I was very hungry; and my whole stock of cash consisted of a Dutch dollar and about a shilling in copper."

### Design of Coin:

Gold coin that is machine made by a screw press on planchets cut by hand.

**Obverse:** A knight holding a bundle of arrows, which signifies the unity of the northern provinces which banded together and signed the Union of Utrecht in 1579, their declaration of independence from Spain. The motto on the obverse - CONCORDIA RES PARVAE CRESCUNT (union makes small things grow) is also a symbol of that unity.

**Reverse:** The legend "MO ORD PROVIN FOEDER BELGAD LEG IMP" which roughly translates into "coin of the provinces of the United Netherlands according to the law of the empire of the Low Countries".

### Points of Interest:

1. These beautiful gold coins were minted during the "Golden Age" of Dutch history.
2. The Dutch Ducat makes a classy, rich statement.

# SPANISH COINS 1474 – 1808

These pages are meant to represent some types of Spanish coins, but are not all the coins that were minted by the Spanish empire. Spanish coins from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries were used around the world as a medium of exchange. At the height of the empire, there were thirty-two mints from the old to the new world, all producing massive amounts of coins.

Below is a 15<sup>th</sup> Century woodcarving of what a mint looked like back then. The assayer is the person in charge and the one responsible for the weight and purity of the coin; he is the man in back next to the scales. There were people that would pound out sheets of silver to the desired thickness, other people cut blanks out of those sheets and then others stamped the blank planchets between two dies. The assayer would then trim the edges of the coin to get it to the desired weight and that is how a Spanish cob coins were created.



# SPANISH COINS 1474 to 1808

**DATE: 1474 - 1504**

**RULER: FERDINAND & ISABELLA**

Ferdinand II, by name Ferdinand the Catholic, was the son of John II of Aragon and Juana Enriquez, both of Castilian origin. His father was careful to ensure Ferdinand learned as much as possible from experience. He also provided him with tutors who impressed upon him the value of the individual citizen as well as writing him treatises on the art of government.

Ferdinand had an imposing personality and little geniality. He acquired keen perception, integrity and courage from his father; from his mother, impulsive emotions, which he usually repressed. A marriage of political opportunism, not romance, took place in October of 1469 when Ferdinand married the princess Isabella of Castile in Valladolid. He grew to love Isabella dearly and she bore him five children.

The years 1482-92 were very demanding for Ferdinand as he directed a campaign against the Kingdom of Grenada. He was able to showcase his military genius, which resulted in final victory on January 2, 1492. This conquest enabled the monarchy to finance the expeditions of Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic.

Ferdinand's policy of modernization included a ban against all religions other than Catholicism and established the Spanish Inquisition to enforce this command and expel the Jews. He united the Spanish kingdoms into the nation of Spain and began Spain's entry into a period of imperial expansion.

Isabella's death in 1504 greatly saddened Ferdinand though he remarried Germaine de Foix in October 1505 for political reasons and continued his rule over Spain until his death in 1516.

**TWO EXCELENTE**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



This 2 excelente was minted at the Royal mint of Seville in Spain. The reverse shows Isabella and Ferdinand face to face, the obverse is the crowned coat of arms for Spain.

**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: TOLEDO, SPAIN



This one real was minted in Toledo, Spain; other mints included Burgos, Granada, Segovia and Seville. The reverse of this silver real is a bunch of arrows tied together. On the obverse, is the shield of the new family of Spain with an inscription around.

**DATE: 1504 - 1555**

**RULER: CHARLES & JOHANNA**

Charles I was the first of the Spanish kings to be named an heir to the Hapsburg House of Austria and as King Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire. Charles was an industrious leader. He worked hard to encourage the expansion into the New World and to establish better relations between the Spanish and the Natives. Carlos was the son of Philip I, king of Castile and Johanna the Mad. Johanna was the third child of Ferdinand and Isabella and succeeded to the throne upon the death of her father in 1516. Due to Johanna's mental illness, Carlos was formally recognized as king co-jointly with his mother in 1518; therefore, she never was effectively involved in the rule of Spain.

Carlos maintained an untiring interest in Spain's New World possessions. He worked to encourage the expansion of New Spain and to establish better relations between the natives and their conquerors in the recently dominated lands of Peru and Mexico. The gold from the Indies did not add up to any sizable sum at this time and the spiraling debt, brought on by the increasing expenses of war and expansion, had reached 7,000,000 livres by 1556. It was in 1550 that 17 Spanish ships arrived, providing the king with 3,000,000 ducats and some measure of financial relief.

During the reign of Carlos and Johanna, the first mint in New Spain was established in Mexico City in 1536. Silver coinage was initially authorized in denominations of 3, 2, 1, 1/2 and 1/4 reales. Later in 1537 a 4 reales denomination was authorized.

Carlos married Isabella, daughter of Emanuel, King of Portugal, by whom he had a son and two daughters. Johanna died in 1555; Carlos abdicated in favor of his son Philip in 1556. Carlos died in September 1558 at the monastery of Yuste.

**ONE ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



Reverse: Cross  
Obverse: Crowned Coat of Arms.

**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



Reverse: Pillars of Hercules with PLVS ULTRA between. Latin for 'to go beyond.'  
Denomination is the one or two dots between pillars.

**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



Obverse: Crowned coat of arms with mintmark to left.

**DATE: 1556 - 1598**  
**RULER: KING PHILIP II**

Philip II was the only son of Charles I, and Isabella of Portugal. Philip II ruled over Spain at the height of its power. The only son of Charles I and Isabella of Portugal, Philip II presided over Spain at the zenith of its golden century. He was married to Maria of Portugal, Mary I of England, Elizabeth of France, and Anna, daughter of Maximilian II.

Philip's reckless overspending on war and diplomatic enterprise led to rampant inflation and the beginning of the country's decline. The flood of gold and silver cob coinage arriving from the colonial mints was exiting Spain as rapidly as the plate fleets delivered it. It was Philip who suffered the crushing humiliation of losing Spain's "invincible" armada to England's Queen, Elizabeth.

**TWO ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



This coin was hand struck at the "Great Mountain Of Silver" Potosi in the Vice royalty of Peru. This silver mine, now located in Bolivia was a mountain with an enormous vein of Silver, which is still being worked to this day. The reverse of this coin features the lions of Leon, and the Castles of Castile within the quadrants of a cross. This symbolizes the union of the founding Spanish families, as well as the union of the church and state. The obverse features the shield with mint mark to the left. "P"

**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: LIMA, PERU



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**DATE: 1598 - 1621**  
**RULER: KING PHILIP III**

Philip III was the son of Philip II and his fourth consort, a Hapsburg cousin, Anna of Austria. He inherited his father's philosophy but not his zeal for governing, and left affairs of state to subordinates while he amused himself with enormously expensive court festivities - ignoring Spain's growing economic problems.

Philip resided in Valladolid in the first years of his reign and eventually fixed his court in Madrid where he died in 1621 after a two-year illness. He was married to Marguerite of Austria by whom he had eight children, the third of which was proclaimed King Philip IV upon his death.

**ONE ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**TWO ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**FOUR ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**DATE: 1621 - 1665**  
**RULER: KING PHILIP IV**

Philip III died on March 31, 1621 and was succeeded by his third son, Philip IV. He was married at the age of seven to Elizabeth, sister of Louis XIII of France, who bore him seven children - only one of whom survived the parents. When Elizabeth died, Philip married his cousin Maria Anna of Austria with whom he had five children.

Philip was a poet and a patron of the arts. He was the friend of the painter Velasquez, many of whose works portrayed Philip and members of his court.

By the end of Philip IV's reign, weakened by military reverses and economic and social distress, Spain had become a second class power.

New World cobs were minted in denominations of 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2, 4, and 8 real during Philip IV's reign. Cobs of this period tend to be more irregular in shape, "especially those of Mexico", than those of Philip II and III. Gold cobs were minted two and four escudo denominations.

**TWO ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**FOUR ESCUDOCOB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**HALF REAL CROSS TYPE**  
MATERIAL: SILVER COIN  
MINT: SEGOVIA, SPAIN



These are some of the first examples of Spanish milled coins. A large bar of silver is pulled through a rolling machine until the required thickness was reached. A punch machine would produce the blanks and then a screw press would imprint the design.

**ONE REAL CROSS TYPE**  
MATERIAL: SILVER COIN  
MINT: SEGOVIA, SPAIN

Here is a picture of an early screw press. One person sat at the base of the press and would put pre-cut coin blanks into a sleeve. Then other workers would pull these arms around turning a screw press down on the coin blank.

Later, they used horses to power the rolling mills and screw presses.



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**DATE: 1665 - 1700**  
**RULER: KING CARLOS II**

At the age of four, Carlos II, byname Carlos the Mad, the last child of Philip IV and Maria Anna of Austria, inherited the Spanish Throne. Carlos reign opened with a ten-year regency under the queen mother. At this time the government was preoccupied with combating the ambitions of the French King, Louis XIV, in the Low Countries and with the intrigues at court involving the queen and her favorites.

During this period and the following years till Carlos died in 1700, Spain's state of affairs continued to worsen. Despite heavy taxation and the frequent arrival of plate fleets, the treasury was bankrupt. Manufacturing had all but ceased, trade was in the hands of foreigners and corruption ruled public offices at home and abroad.

When it became apparent Carlos would not father any children, he made known in his will that he favored Philip, the grandson of Louis XIV of France, thereby ending the line of Spanish Hapsburgs.

Upon his death, the war of the Spanish Succession led to the dismembering of Spain's European possessions.

**ONE ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: VELENCIA, SPAIN



**TWO ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: NUEVO REINO



**HALF REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: LIMA, PERU



**FOUR REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**ONE CROAT**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: BARCELONA, SPAIN



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**DATE: 1700 - 1746**  
**RULER: KING PHILIP V**

Philip V became King of Spain in 1700 by virtue of the will of Charles II who died childless. He had two wives; Marie Louise of Savoy who bore him four sons, and Elizabeth Farnese, by whom he had seven children. Founder of the Spanish Bourbon dynasty, Philip's chief interest was securing his claim to the throne of France. This passion to ascend led to many intrigues against the house of Orleans and motivated his abdication on January 10, 1724, in favor of his eldest son Louis I. Louis died within a few months; Philip re-ascended the throne and ruled until he died on July 9, 1746.

The silver coins of Philip V are distinguished from those of his predecessors by the addition of the Bourbon escutcheon, consisting of three fleurs-de-lis on a small shield, superimposed on the center of the Spanish coat of arms.

Starting in 1732, milled coinage was introduced at the Mexico City mint in the now famous pillar design. Cobs of the pillar and wave type continued to be minted at the colonial mints of Lima, Peru and Potosi, Bolivia.

**ONE ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SANTA FE DE BOGATA



**TWO ESCUDO COB**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: SANTA FE DE BOGATA



**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**HALF REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**ONE REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: SEVILLE, SPAIN



**TWO REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**ONE HALF REAL PILLAR**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**DATE: 1746 - 1759**  
**RULER: KING FERDINAND VI**

Ferdinand, the second son of Philip V and his first wife, Maria Luisa, was married to Barbara of Portugal to whom he was devoted. She shared his love of music and patronized the opera.

Attached to a policy of peace, Ferdinand directed his attention to internal reforms and curbed the excesses of the Inquisition. He relied considerably on his father's minister, Marques de la Ensenada, to oversee the administrative and financial matters of state.

After the death of Barbara in 1758, Ferdinand suffered from melancholy bordering on madness. He died at a monastery on August 10, 1759, and the crown passed to his half-brother, Carlos III.

**HALF ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**ONE REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**TWO REAL COB**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: POTOSI, BOLIVIA



**HALF REAL BUST**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: ZACATECAS



**HALF REAL PILLAR**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**ONE REAL PILLAR**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**TWO REAL PILLAR**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**HALF REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**ONE REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



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**DATE: 1759 - 1788**  
**RULER: KING CHARLES III**

Carlos III, first son of Philip V and his second wife, Elizabeth Farnes of Parma, was considered the greatest of the Spanish Bourbons.

He ruled as duke of Parma, by right of his mother, from 1732 to 1734 and then became King of Naples. On the death of his half-brother Ferdinand VI in 1759 and after a useful

apprenticeship of 25 years as an absolute ruler, Carlos became King of Spain and resigned the crown of Naples.

Carlos III was convinced of his mission to reform Spain and restore it once more as a world power. Though Carlos did not possess a particularly brilliant mind, he had a good deal of common sense and was highly effective in selecting ministers and men of outstanding quality to improve the government.

His frugality and application to the business of government impressed foreign observers as well as his own subjects. His religious devotion was accompanied by a blameless personal life and a chaste loyalty to the memory of his wife, Maria Amalia of Saxony, who died in 1760. He never remarried, rather it was said that in the best British public school tradition, he took a cold bath or paced the floor whenever the fevers of lust assailed him.

Carlos's ecclesiastical policy was conditioned by his determination to complete the subordination of the church to the crown. Subsequently, he exiled the Jesuits and stripped the Inquisition of its last vestige of power.

Carlos had a fanatical addiction to hunting, his enduring passion. It is said he hunted all but three days of the year, rain or shine. Slightly before his death he boasted to a foreign ambassador that he had killed 539 wolves and 5,323 foxes.

**HALF ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**ONE ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**TWO ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**FOUR ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**HALF REAL BUST**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**ONE REAL BUST**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**HALF REAL PILLAR**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**ONE REAL PILLAR**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**HALF REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**ONE REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**TWO REAL CROSS TYPE**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



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**DATE: 1788 - 1808**  
**RULER: KING CHARLES IV**

Carlos IV (III) was the second son of Carlos III and his wife, Maria Amelia of Saxony. Lacking qualities of leadership and possessing no genuine interest in governmental affairs, Carlos entrusted his Queen and her lover, Minister Manuel de Godoy, to direct matters of state. In time, a power struggle developed between Godoy and the King's eldest son, Prince Ferdinand. In 1808, supporters of the prince rioted and demanded Godoy's head. To appease the mob and save his minister, Carlos abdicated on March 19, 1808. He was subsequently forced into exile when Napoleon placed his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, on the Spanish throne. Carlos died in Rome eleven years later.

**HALF ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**ONE ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**TWO ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**FOUR ESCUDO BUST**  
GOLD COIN  
MINT: MADRID, SPAIN



**QUARTER REAL (QUARTILLA)**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**HALF REAL BUST**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



**ONE REAL BUST**  
SILVER COIN  
MINT: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



# Shipwreck

## Nuestra Senora de Atocha

### 1622

#### Highlights:

- This shipwreck coin is from one of the most famous shipwrecks of all time.
- The treasure sat on the bottom of Gulf of Mexico for over 360 years before Mel Fisher of Key West discovered it.
- It is estimated that close to a billion dollars was recovered in gold, silver, emeralds and priceless artifacts.



#### History:

As a military escort, the Atocha carried an entire company of 82 infantrymen to defend the vessel from attack and possible enemy boarding. For this reason, she was the ship of choice for wealthy passengers and carried an extraordinarily large percentage of the fleet's treasure. Unfortunately, firepower could not save her from the forces of nature.

On Sunday, September 4th, 1622, with the weather near perfect, the decision was made to set sail for Spain. The twenty-eight ships of the combined fleet raised anchor and in single file set a course due north towards the Florida Keys and the strong Gulf Stream current. The Atocha, sitting low from its heavy cargo, took up its assigned position in the rear. By evening, the wind started to pick up out of the northeast growing stronger through the night. At daybreak the seas were mountainous and for safety, mostly everyone was below deck seasick or in prayer. Throughout the next day, the wind shifted to the south driving most of the fleet past the Dry Tortugas and into the relatively safe waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Atocha, Santa Margarita, Nuestra Señora del Rosario and two smaller vessels all at the tail end of the convoy received the full impact of the storm and were not so fortunate. With their sails and rigging reduced to shreds, and masts and tillers battered or broken, the ships drifted helplessly toward the reefs. All five ships were lost; the Atocha being lifted high on a wave and smashing violently on a coral reef. She sank instantly, pulled to the bottom by her heavy cargo of treasure and cannons.

The next day, a small merchant ship, making its way through the debris, rescued five Atocha survivors still clinging to the ship mizzenmast. They were all that were left of the 265 passengers and crew.

Immediately, salvage attempts were planned. Unfortunately, the Atocha was found in 55 feet of water with the top of its mast in plain view. Divers, limited to holding their breath, attempted recovery but were unable to break into the hatches. They marked the site and continued searching for the other wrecks. The Rosario was found in shallow water and was relatively easy to salvage, but the other vessels could not be located. While the salvagers were in Havana obtaining the proper equipment to retrieve the Atocha's treasure, a second hurricane ravaged the area tearing the upper hull structure and masts from the ship. When they returned, the wreck was nowhere to be found and salvage attempts over the next 10 years proved futile. However, the Santa Margarita was discovered in 1626 and much of her cargo salvaged over the next few years. But, time and events slowly erased memories of the Atocha. Copies of the ship's register and written events of the times eventually found their way into the Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain. These documents, like the treasure itself, were to lay in obscurity waiting for the right set of circumstances centuries later.

**Design of Coin:**

Most of the coins recovered from the shipwreck were silver cobs.

**Obverse:** The shield of the king, usually, King Philip III, 1598 – 1621.

**Reverse:** Cross of Jerusalem with lions and castles in the corners, signifying the unification of church and state. The coin in the picture above was minted in Potosi, Bolivia.

**Points of Interest:**

1. This truly is sunken treasure.
2. It's awesome to own treasure from one of the most famous shipwrecks.

# JAPANESE ISSHU GIN

## 1831 – 1867

### Highlights:

- > In circulation during the time of Emperor Komei, the last of the Shogunate Imperial Rulers.
- > Some of the only rectangular coins in history.



Emperor Komei

### History:

During Emperor Komei's rule, in 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States sailed into Edo Bay with his four war ships demanding Japan do business with the West. This split Japan in half; those that wanted commerce with the rest of the world and Tokugawa Shogun (including Emperor Komei) that wanted things to stay the same.

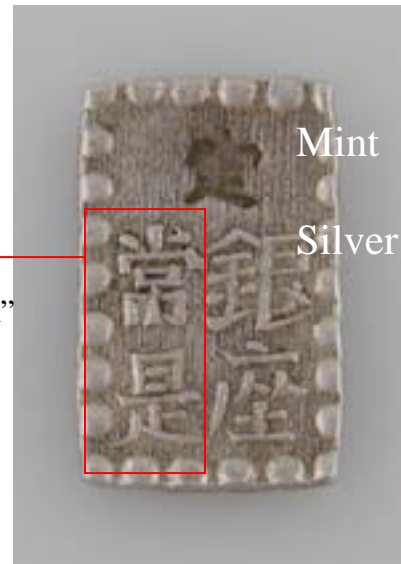
The Tokugawa Shogunate was a military dictatorship that had experienced relative peace within Japan for over 250 years. They had achieved this by freezing the social order and prohibiting mobility between the classes and ran the country with the use of the Samurai, the aristocratic warriors (*bushi*). These rectangular coins were minted during the last years of this 250 year Tokugawa Shogunate reign which ended with the death of Emperor Komei in 1867.

### Design of Coin:

#### Obverse:



#### Reverse:



Kaei Period  
1848 – 1854  
“Eternal Esteem”



Each piece of jewelry is painstakingly made by hand by one of our master craftsmen. From design to the finished piece of jewelry, special care is taken not to damage this one of a kind coin.

After the jewelry has been made, polished and approved, only then is the coin added to the piece of jewelry.



# SELECTIVE GLOSSARY

<b>A.D.</b>	An abbreviation for the Latin <i>anno Domini</i> , “in the year of our Lord.”
<b>AE</b>	Copper or bronze.
<b>AR</b>	Symbol for silver.
<b>AV</b>	Symbol for gold.
<b>Aegis</b>	A shield or breastplate symbolic of majesty that was associated with Zeus and Athena.
<b>Amulet</b>	A charm or ornament often inscribed with a magic incantation or symbol to protect the wearer against evil or to help aid the wearer.
<b>ARCA</b>	Latin word for chest, box, money box.
<b>Aspergillum</b>	A brush or small perforated container with a handle that is used for sprinkling holy water.
<b>B.C.</b>	Before Christ
<b>BCE</b>	Before Christian Era
<b>Biga</b>	A chariot drawn by a team of two animals - usually horses.
<b>Bronze</b>	An alloy of 95% copper, 4% tin and 1% zinc. Similar mixture used by Greeks and Romans in coin making.
<b>Bust</b>	Portrait including head and shoulders.
<b>Century</b>	A period of time lasting 100 years.
<b>Circa</b>	Means “about.” Used with dates to mean “at the approximate time of.”
<b>Cornucopia</b>	The horn of plenty, usually overflowing with fruit.
<b>Diadem</b>	Something that adorns like a crown, a royal headband.
<b>Electrum</b>	An alloy of gold and silver. This occurred naturally in Asia Minor and was made into coins throughout ancient Greece.

<b>Familiar</b>	A spirit often embodied in an animal and held to attend and serve or guard a person.
<b>Incuse</b>	The process by which the design is impressed, stamped or punched into the surface of the coin.
<b>Kantharos</b>	A deep cup (wine cup) with loop-shaped handles arising from the bottom of the body and extending high above the brim.
<b>Laureate</b>	Wearing a wreath of laurel.
<b>Mite</b>	Used to indicate a very small unit of monetary value. Often referred to as the “widow’s mite.”
<b>Naphtha</b>	Petroleum or any of various volatile, often flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixtures.
<b>Nymph</b>	A spirit of nature in Greek myth.
<b>Obverse</b>	The side of the coin which bears the head or principal design. It is struck with the anvil (lower) die and has a slight convex surface.
<b>Parazonium</b>	A short sheathed sword.
<b>Patron</b>	From the Latin <i>patronus</i> , defender. A person honored as a special guardian, protector or supporter.
<b>Quadriga</b>	A chariot drawn by a team of four animals – usually horses.
<b>Radiant</b>	With a crown of rays upon the head.
<b>Reverse</b>	The side of the coin which bears the secondary design; usually the date and mint mark where present. It is struck from the punch (upper) die and has a more or less concave surface.
<b>Simpulum</b>	A sacrificial vessel in the form of a ladle with long handle.
<b>Stellate</b>	Resembling a star (as in shape).



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