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* THE CANADA STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL. *

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PHILATELY AND NUMISMATICS.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, APRIL, 1889.

NO. 10.

Gold and Silver Coins Current Before the Christian Era.

HERBERT THOMPSON.

INTRODUCTORY.

In the King's Library of the British Museum are two cases containing electrotypes of the finest and most interesting ancient Greek coins in the National Collection. The coins are arranged in a manner as to afford at once a synoptical view, historical and geographical, of the coinage of the ancient world, from the invention of the art of coining, about B.C. 700, down to the Christian Era.

The chief value of the Greek coins is in their being, not copies, but original works of art, and in their recording the successive phases of Greek art, in which respect no other class of sculptures, gems, monuments, fustile vases, terra-cottas, or bronzes can compete with them.

The gold and silver coins, from the seventh century downwards, and from the farthest east to the extreme west, are still extant, and in a large number of cases as uninjured as when they left the dies. The style of the sculpture, and even of the painting, of the period to which they belong are certainly faithfully represented in the devices which they bear. Therefore the student can readily and thoroughly trace the growth, the maturity, and decay of the plastic art.

For the study of mythology they present the local conceptions of the gods and heroes worshipped in the Greek world, with their symbols and attributes.

The historian will find a gallery of portraits of sovereigns, almost complete, from Alexander to Augustus, as well as the history and political revolutions of numerous independent states and cities, in these all but imperishable records.

The student of palæography will find on these coins examples of various ancient alphabets, such as Lycian

and Cyprian, Iberian, Greek, Phœnician and Latin, etc., in numerous stages of development.

The metrologist, by comparing weights of the coins of the different localities and periods, may gain an insight into the numerous systems of ancient metrology in its various standards, and get an exact view of the relative values of the precious metals, and of the great lines of trade in the Greek and Roman world.

The medallist and art workman will find this series the most reliable, as well as the most profitable guide for practical purposes.

The artist will not fail to perceive the suggestive value of the designs, which, on however small a scale, are essentially large in treatment.

The cases are divided into seven historical compartments. These compartments contain the principal coins current during the period :

I. Circa, B.C. 700-480, is the Period of the Archaic Art, ending with the Persian Wars.

II. Circa, B.C. 480-400, is the Period of Transitional and Early Fine Art, to the end of the Athenian supremacy.

III. Circa, B.C. 400-336, is the Period of Finest Art. Time of the Spartan and Theban supremacy.

IV. Circa, B.C. 336-280, is the Period of Later Fine Art. Time of Alexander and the Diadochi.

V. Circa, B.C. 280-190, is the Period of the Decline of Art. Time of Epigoni, etc.

VI. Circa, B.C., 190-100, is the Period of the Continued Decline of Art. Time of the Attalids.

VII. Circa, B.C. 100-1, is the Period of Late Decline of Art. Time of Mithridates the Great and the Roman dominion.

The divisions, it will be seen, do not exactly correspond with those of the history of Art, but are rather those of the political history of the times.

The cases contain the coins of Asia Minor, Phœnicia, Syria, Egypt, Northern and Central Greece, the Pele-

ponnesus, the Ægean Islands, Italy, Sicily, the southern shores of the Mediterranean, and Western Europe.

I have selected a few of the 788 coins which are exhibited, so as to illustrate the remarks on the different periods. I have also endeavored to keep in view the historic, the artistic, and strictly numismatic interest of the coins selected.

In concluding my introductory remarks, I must say that I am greatly indebted to the very valuable little guide issued by the authorities of the British Museum, under the authorship of Mr. Barclay O. Head, the assistant keeper of coins.

—From Herdman's Miscellany.

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EDITORIAL.

The June issue of the CANADA STAMP AND COIN JOURNAL will complete the first volume. On July 10th we shall publish the initial number of our second volume, under the title of

"THE CANADA STAMP JOURNAL"

and devote its entire space to Philately. The Numismatic Department is to be transferred to a new magazine, of which announcements will shortly appear. The "CANADA STAMP JOURNAL" will contain not less than eight pages each month, exclusive of cover and advertisements. The subscription will be ten cents per annum. We respectfully solicit the support of collectors, and shall strive to merit the same.

To dealers we wish to say, that our circulation will never fall short of one thousand copies, which will reach a good class of collectors. Our rates will, until further notice, be as follows:

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LITERATURE.

Periodicals, books and pamphlets, catalogues and price-lists, are acknowledged in this column. Publishers and authors are requested to send us copies of their publications, for impartial review.

Periodicals received during March:

American Philatelist iii-6, Amateur World 3, Buffalo Philatelist 3, Curiosity Collector 4, Correo Luzitano 7, Dominion Philatelist 3, Eastern Philatelist 13, Eastern Press 4, Eureka Philatelist ii-3, Fitchburg Philatelist 4, Flour City Philatelist 2, General Anzeiger für Philatelie viii-3, Hoosier Philatelist 3, International Collector iv-3, Little Clipper iv-8, Le Courier du Timbrophile 24, One Dime ii-4, Philatelic Beacon 6, Philatelic World 75, Philatelic Gazette 55, Philately 1, Philatelic Messenger 3, Park City Collector 6, Plain Talk 45, Philatelic Press 6, Quaker City Philatelist 30, Stamp iv-1, Stamp World 37, Stamp Collectors' Fiasco iii-2, Texas Philatelic Journal 1, Tribune and Advertiser 32, Welt Post 24.

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Miscellaneous Literature:

HAND-BOOK OF COINS, STAMPS, RAJETS. Bunker Hill, Indiana: C. W. Stutesman, Compiler and Publisher, 1889. Price 10 cents.

This is a handy little volume, which gives much valuable information in a concise manner, arranged in a convenient way for reference, and bound in a suitable size for the pocket. It contains lists of premiums paid on rare United States and Colonial Gold, Silver Nickel and Copper Coins; Colonial, Continental and Confederate Notes; Fractional Currency; Postage Stamps, etc. The current and metal value of the Gold and Silver Coins of all Nations, in United States Currency. A list of Counterfeit United States Treasury and National Bank Notes, and how to detect them.

MONNET-OFFERTE DIE SAMMLICHE EN GROS-PREISLISTEN DER WELT AN BILLIGKEIT ÜBERTREFFEN. Wien: Oesterreich (Vienna, Austria): A. Koltzscharsch, IV. Margarethenstrasse 13. Gratis.

THIRTEENTH AUCTION SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS. To be held Monday, May 6th, 1889. New York: R. R. Bogert & Co., Tribune Building. Catalogues, priced, 50 cents.

PRICE LIST OF UNUSED NORWEGIAN STAMPS AND ENVELOPES. Christiania, Norway: Jacob Fischer Adr. Skippergaden. Gratis.

PRICE-LIST OF PHILATELIC LITERATURE. Portland, Maine: W. W. Jewett, 504 Congress Street. Gratis.

PRICE LIST OF UNITED STATES STAMPS. New York: R. R. Bogert & Co., Tribune Building. Gratis.

STAMP EXCHANGE CIRCULAR. Demerara, W. I.: T. A. S. Quall, 386 Murray Street. Gratis.

EXCHANGE NOTICES

Notices of 30 words or less inserted free for subscribers. Must be genuine exchanges; not advertisements. Must offer one one specific article for another. Cash offers not inserted.

—L. E. Smith, Box 431, Halifax, N. S., desire stamps in exchange for the following coins: U. S. cents (copper) 1820, 1822, 1837, 1838, 1845, 1851, 1858 Bronze cent, 1863. Canada, P. E. I., 1866, Fisheries and Agriculture copper. N. S. ½ cent 1861, 1864.

—G. W. Green, 65 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, N. H. will exchange other papers for the following: Badger State Philatelist, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 of vol. I; Eastern Philatelist, 1, 3, vol. I, and 1, 3, 5, vol. II; Halifax Philatelist 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, vol. II; Eureka Philatelist, 1, vol. II.

—J. L. Pender, Box 934, Portsmouth, N. H., has a large number of books to exchange for philatelic papers. Send lists.

—W. L. R. Filton, Prairie Depot, Ohio, has a number of rare U. S. Dept. Kuve. opes that he wishes to exchange for a type-writer or photograph outfit. He is so wishes to correspond with collectors.

—H. R. Donaboe, 16 Cliff St., St. John, N. B., will give good exchange for Figaro vol i no 4, Stamp vo i nos 5 6 7 12, Western Philatelist vol i nos 3 5 11 12 vol ii no 5.

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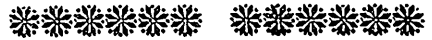


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