

# **South Brevard Coin Club Newsletter**



**April 2025**

## **MEETINGS:**

**First Wednesday of  
every month**

David R. Schechter Center  
(Satellite Beach Community Center)  
1089 So. Patrick Drive  
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Doors Open 6:00

Social Time 6:30–7:00 pm

Meeting Time 7:00 pm

## **Board of Directors:**

Chairman:

**Jim Nuara**

President:

**Bob Senton**

Vice President:

**Bill Peters**

Treasurer:

**Tim Janecke**

Secretary/Newsletter

Membership Chair:

**Paula Davis**

**Next Meeting  
April 2, 2025**

**7:00 pm  
(Doors Open at 6:00)**



**Salvaging The Wreck of The  
Admiral Gardner and Its Cargo  
of British East India Company  
Copper Coins  
Presented by Bob Senton**

***South Brevard Coin Club***

***P.O. Box 372418, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3972***

***Member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA)  
and Florida United Numismatists (FUN)***

***[www.southbrevardcoinclub.org](http://www.southbrevardcoinclub.org)***

# BOOMER FEST EXPO!

The South Brevard Coin Club was invited to participate in the Space Coast Boomer Fest Expo that was held on March 14, 2025 at the Forester Recreation Center in Rockledge. It was sponsored by the Blue Water Creative Group that publishes the Boomer Guide; Senior Life and Viera Voice. These are free publications that keeps the 50+ audience up-to-date with current news on health and wellness issues, senior living highlights, local business news. They highlight and promote clubs in the area.

This Expo drew a huge attendance and three of our club members, Tim Janecke, Juan Montoya and Paula Davis volunteered to set up a table and talk with attendees. Tim brought several of his colonial coins to talk about; Juan brought several examples of foreign paper money and of course, Paula brought Club Membership information! We had a huge amount of interest in the Club and Show. Many of the people we spoke with were not aware of either the Coin Club or Coin Show so we were able to garner interest in both. This is the type of community involvement we are looking to get more involved in to generate interest in the hobby. If anyone knows of other community involvement we could participate in and/or are interested in helping promote the Club please let a board member know.



John Holton shares this information from a friend in Houston:

The 1822 \$5 gold half eagle is considered one of the rarest and most valuable U.S. coins.

There are a few key reasons for its rarity:

1. **Low Mintage and Survival Rate:** Although 17,796 half eagles were minted in 1822, almost all were either lost, melted down, or otherwise destroyed over time. Only three known specimens have survived to this day.
2. **Limited Distribution:** During the early 19th century, gold coins were often melted down for their bullion value when the gold content exceeded their face value. This happened frequently in the years following the 1822 mintage.
3. **Private Ownership and Accessibility:** Of the three surviving coins, two are housed in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. Only one coin is available to private collectors, significantly increasing its value and desirability.
4. **Historical Significance:** The early half eagle series (1795–1834) is highly prized among numismatists due to its historical context - being minted during the early years of the United States and its evolving monetary system.

The most recent auction sale of the privately held 1822 half eagle occurred in March 2021, when it sold for \$8.4 million, making it one of the most valuable U.S. coins ever sold.



## MONTHLY AUCTION

At most every monthly meeting we conduct an auction. Members are invited to bring in any numismatic item they would like to include in the auction. Member receives entire amount that item sold for.

If you have any items you would like featured prior to the auction or you are interested in selling please let me know at least 2 weeks prior to next meeting. You can send information to Paula Davis at [pmgdavis@aol.com](mailto:pmgdavis@aol.com).

If you would like to any items you are bringing for auction listed in the newsletter please send item information to Paula Davis at [pmgdavis@aol.com](mailto:pmgdavis@aol.com) at least 2 weeks prior to next meeting.

## Upcoming Programs

<i>Month/Year</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
January 2025	Andria Doria	Bill Peters
February 2025	Alaska Mint Coinage	Dave Castro
March 2025	World Coins	Jack Lane
April 2025	Salvaging The Wreck Of The Admiral Gardner and Its Cargo of British East India Company Copper Coins	Bob Senton
May 2025	Summer Picnic	Golden Corral
June 2025	TBD	
July 2025	Annual Pizza and Numismatic Movie Night	
August 2025	The Sound Money Movement: A Foundation of Freedom	Daniel Diaz
September 2025	Numismatic Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
October 2025	TBD	
November 2025	Club Bourse Night – Members buying and Selling	
December 2025	Annual Holiday Dinner and Raffle	Golden Corral

### Invite a Friend!

Invite your friends who share your numismatic passion to come to a meeting and see what we're all about.

Only \$15.00 per person for year!

## Mark Your Calendar!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday COIN SHOW**

This is a monthly show held on the second Sunday of every month. Come to the show to pick up Coins-Currency-Stamps or become a dealer and sell.

Free admission, free parking. A.N.A.C. Coin Grading Company is on site for your coin submissions, food is available for

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Each Month**

9:30am – 2:30pm

Azan Shrine Center

1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd.

Melbourne, FL 32935

### **COIN TALK**

Suntree Viera Public Library

### **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month**

**6:00pm-7:45pm**

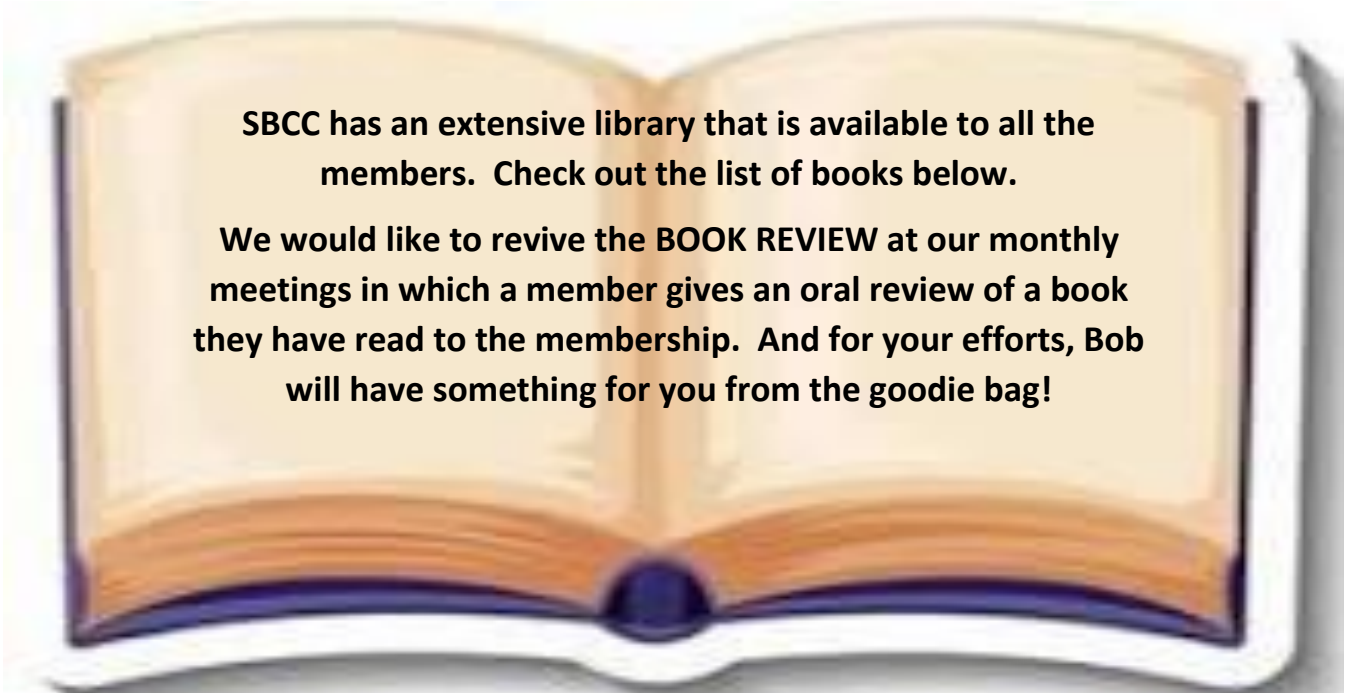
Informal group, open to the public to come share and learn. Bring coins to discuss or learn about. Every month is an interesting discussion and unites you with other coin enthusiasts.

### **COINS IN FLORIDA**

**[www.coinsinflorida.com](http://www.coinsinflorida.com)**

Fabulous website for a comprehensive list of coin clubs, auctions, shows, events, and news in Florida! Join their newsletter!

Check out this website for a wealth of information, resources and events for all levels of numismatists. **<https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week>**



**SBCC has an extensive library that is available to all the members. Check out the list of books below.**

**We would like to revive the BOOK REVIEW at our monthly meetings in which a member gives an oral review of a book they have read to the membership. And for your efforts, Bob will have something for you from the goodie bag!**



# SBCC Library Books

Available for Checkout  
Contact Jack Klein ([kleinjack@att.net](mailto:kleinjack@att.net))



COIN CLUB of SOUTH BREVARD LIBRARY	PAGE 1
TITLE	Author Publisher
1913 Liberty Head Nickel	Stack Bowers
American Silver Eagles	Whitman Publishing
Andean Collection South/Central American Bank Notes	Spink Inc.
Blackbook Price Guide to Paper Money	HUDGEONS, Marc
Coin and Currency Market Review	coinprices.com
Coin World Extra Magazine	Coin World
Collectible American Coins	BRESSETT, Kenneth
Confederate States Paper Money	CUHAJ, George S.
Creature From Jekyll Island. A Second Look at the Fed. Res.	GRIFFIN, G. Edward
Curious Currency	LEONARD, Robert D.
Die Photos & Fuld/Moore Listings Update	FULD, George & Melvin
Early Paper Money of America 5th edition	NEWMAN, Eric P.
Early Paper Money of America 2023 edition	NEWMAN, Eric P.
Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins	BREEN, Walter
ErrorScope Magazine	Number 3
14 Bits Story of American Bicentennial Coinage	GANZ, David L.
Gold and Platinum Jewelry Buying Guide	NEWMAN, Renee'
Gold Coins of the Carson City Mint	WINTER, Douglas
Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins	FUOSS and WILLIAMS
Grading United States Coins	ANA
Indian Peace Medals	ADAMS, John W.
Money: History in Your Hands	ANA: James Earl Jones; narrator
Money of the Bible	BRESSETT, Kenneth
National Bank Notes A Guide with Prices 1981	KELLY, Don C.
National Bank Notes A Guide with Prices 2004	KELLY, Don C.
Neighborhood Mint, The	HEAD and ETHERIDGE
Numismatic Forgeries	LARSON, Charles
Numismatic Listings of Modern and Medieval Countries	GROSSMAN, Lee
Obsolete Paper Money Issued by U.S. Banks	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Blue Book Handbook of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Blue Book Handbook of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Blue Book Handbook of U.S. Coins	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Guide to Mint Errors	HERBERT, Alan
Official Red Book of United States Coins 1616-2012	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book: A Guide Book of U.S. Coins MEGA RED 2017	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Red Book: A Guide Book of U.S. Coins 2018	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Red Book of United States Coins 2023	YEOMAN, R.S.
Official Red Book # 1 Guide to Morgan Silver Dollars	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 2 Guide to Double Eagle Gold Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 4 Guide to Modern US Proof Sets	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 5: Guide to Shield and Liberty Nickels	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 6: Guide to Flying Eagles and Indian Cents	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 7: Guide to Washington Quarters	BOWERS, Q. David



<b>SOUTH BREVARD COIN CLUB LIBRARY</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Author/Publisher</b>
Official Red Book # 8: Guide to Buffalo and Jeffersons Nickels	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 9: Guide to Lincoln Cents	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 10: Guide to US Commemorative Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 11: Guide to US Tokens and Medals	JAEGER, Katherine
Official Red Book # 12: Guide to Gold Dollars	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 16 Guide to Civil War Tokens	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 17 Guide to Hard Times Tokens	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 18: Guide to Mercury Dimes Standing Liberty Quarters Liberty Walking Halves (single volume)	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 19: Guide to Half Cents Large Cents	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 20: Guide to Barber Silver Dimes	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 21: Guide to Liberty Seated Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 22: Guide to Modern US Dollars	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 23: Guide to the US Mint	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 24: Guide to Gold Eagle Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Red Book # 26: Guide to Quarter Eagle Gold Coins	BOWERS, Q. David
Official Whitman Guidebook Grading Standards US Coins	BRESSETT, Kenneth 1999
Official Whitman Guidebook to US Currency	BRESSETT, Kenneth 1999
Paper Money of the United States 2024 (23rd edition)	FRIEDBERG, Arthur and Ira
Past Tense: History Through the Lens of American Coinage	GILLIS, Rod
Rare Coin Estate Book 2000	HALPERIN, James
Red Book of United States Coins 1965	YEOMAN, R.S.
Secrets of the Rare Coin and Bullion Business	GAROFALO, Michael
Select Numismatic Bibliography 1965	CLAIN-STEFANELLI, Elvira Eliza
SHEKEL	SCHUMAN, Edward
Shipwrecks Near Wabasso Beach	WELLER, Robt. & RICHARDS, Ernie
Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money 14th Edition	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of United States Tokens	RULAU, Russe
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1701-1800	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1801-1900 (2004)	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1801-1999 (1999)	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Coins 1901-2000	CUHAJ, George
Standard Catalog of World Coins 2001-2008	BRUCE, Colin
Standard Catalog of World Coins Single Volume 1987	KRAUSE, Chester
Standard Catalog of World Paper Money 1650-1960	PICK, Albert
Standard Catalog of World Paper Money 1961-2000	BRUCE, Colin
Standing Liberty Quarters 2007	CLINE, J.H.
Truth Seeker: Life of Eric P. Newman	AUGSBURGER, BURDETTE, & ORORSZ
United States Coinage	GUTH, Ron & GARRETT, Jeff
United States Copper Cents	NEWCOMB, Howard R.
United States Gold Patterns	AKERS, David W.
U.S. Pattern, Trial, & Experimental Pieces	ADAMS & WOODIN
World Coin News Magazine	KRAUSE Pubs

## ***BENEFITS OF SBCC MEMBERSHIP***

- Meet once a month with fellow numismatists
- Education
  - Guest Speakers
  - Numismatic Classes
  - Library of books that can be checked out
- Tabletop your coins before each meeting for sale or to show and tell
- Participate in coin auction (Buying and Selling)
- Receive a pre-1965 silver dime each meeting
- Win coins and coin related items in raffle
- Annual Summer Picnic
- Pizza and Movie Night
- Annual Christmas party with big coin raffle



## **SOUTH BREVARD COIN CLUB**

**P.O. Box 372418    Satellite Beach, FL 32935**

**[www.southbrevardcoinclub.org](http://www.southbrevardcoinclub.org)**

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Membership Type:** New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Dealer Only \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby promise to abide by the Bylaws of the Club*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Club Dues: \$15.00 per person**

**Children under 18: - \$5.00 each**

**Date Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ck#/Cash:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

# THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONIZED DECIMAL COINAGE & THE WORLD

by Mike Young

It was the Russian Ruble that was the first to convert to decimal coinage in 1700. Circulation began once Peter The Great authorized it to be the official coining system in 1704. Next, the 1787 Fugio Cent was the first decimalized U. S. Minted coin. The Coinage Act of 1792 established the decimal system for all American coins minted thereafter. France was the third Nation to institute decimal coinage. Although Morocco was the first Nation to publicly recognize America's Sovereignty in 1777, our oldest ally in arms, France, began a combined campaign against the British that ended Oct. 1781 at Yorktown Harbor where French Warships cut off the Head Monarch's desperate attempt to flee. The American Dream, originally defined as Freedom of Faith, Self Sufficiency & Independence shocked the world upon achieving it. Revolutionary ideals swept across the globe, long standing European Monarchies and Papal Authority were being done away with. Having experience making it happen with the bold and capable colonials, the French realized the American Dream is meant for all. In 1789, anxious to form its own Republic, and coining system, broke and starving French subjects stormed the Bastille and started lopping off heads.



The Carolingian Pound, *Karlspfund*, also known as the Charlemagne Pound, was a

unit of trading weight introduced as a standard monetary weight system by King Charlemagne at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. This system dictated 240 denari/pfennigs shall equal one pound weight of silver at 406.4256 grams and was used throughout Europe. The French *Sol*, or *Sou*, it's modern name, originated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century as *Sol d'Argent*, from the Latin, *Solidus*, referring to a solid silver coin. Beginning in 12<sup>th</sup>

Century France a few variations of the Carolingian Pound were used as legal tender. The Paris Pound, 457.2 grams, The Tours Pound, 365.7 grams, and a Troyes Pound, 487.7 grams. These three weights are named after the French city trading markets where Mints were located. The Tours Mint, Livre Tournois, eventually became the standard by the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. A lesser-known fact, the English system of Troy weights originated in the French market of Troyes as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> Century.

The French Livre, Pound/Libra, was France's unit of currency for over a millennia from 781 to 1794. Throughout the centuries values varied specifically with the E'cu. From the Latin, *scutum* meaning shield, also *escudo* in Spanish and Portugese. The original E'cu, *e'cu d'or*, was gold minted in 1266 featuring a shield, as well as other e'cus, including silver e'cus, *e'cu d'argent*.



Typically valued at 6 Livres.

In 1360 the first "franc" was minted as a ransom payment to England. 3.885 grams of 24Kt gold. Three million Livre were handed over, along with the ceding of French Lands, and upon his release King Jean II LeBron, (John the Good), publicly stated, "*We*



*have been released from prison, and we are free(franc), and released forever*". Franc



can be defined as *free*. "May I be frank with you?" Can I speak Freely? Also, in the French term *Coup-franc* translated as "free-kick".



France would not be truly “free” of British control and influence until after the Napoleonic Wars. The last gold franc minted only weighed 3.059 grams when production ceased in 1422. The minting of the “franc” was abolished in 1641, although a 1 Livre Tournais was commonly referred to as a franc.

French coin denominations prior to 1795, 1 d’or = 4 E’cu, 1 E’cu = 6 Livres, the Livre = 20 Sols, the Sol = 12 Deniers, also known as a Douzain, (a dozen deniers), and a Laird = 3 deniers. Technically it was French King Pepin The Short, son of Charles “The Hammer” Martel, that initiated this new currency system about 755 AD from which, The King of the Holy Roman Empire, Charlemagne, fine-tuned it to eventually coincide with the British system where a Pound/Livre equaled 20 Shillings/Sol, 12 pence is known as a Shilling just as a Douzain is known as 12 Deniers.

Throughout the centuries European Monarchs married into other Monarchies for power and alliance, whilst maintaining a Papal Authority within their Kingdoms. Even with hereditary lineage between two Kingdoms, they were often at war with one another. This is the case with France and England. The Norman Conquest of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, The Hundred Years War 1337-1453, later, The French & Indian War beginning in 1754, and mingled into The Seven Years War 1756-1763. Papal Authority intervened on a few occasions and was often challenged. Throughout France the clergy, Papal Estates, were not taxed, known as The First Estate, nor was the Nobility, The Second Estate. It was only The Third Estate, the commoners, that paid taxes. In 1789 France’s population was around 28 million, but the King’s coffers were empty.

The French Treasury had dwindled considerably by 1781 due to constant conflicts. Louis XVI had hoped The New American Nation would trade exclusively with France and refill his Treasury, but that was not to be, America resumed trading with the British. In 1788 a harsh winter led to famine and starvation, cake and bread riots broke out in Paris. By 1789 the Nobility had been paying very little tax now, refusing to pay more.

The peasants had no money & paid no tax, almost like The First Estate, the clergy, although they had their own wealth, they still paid no tax, where the Third Estate had nothing but misery and filth. This was a losing recipe for the French Monarchy, now in debt 12 billion Livres, with little food, even less deniers, and the largest population in all of Europe armed with no mercy.

There are individuals that get quite upset and lash out when reason is not applied, combined with a majority/mob rule of a whole country, well, chaos ensued. At least 15 thousand knelt to the guillotine, and another 10 thousand died in prison without trial. The Reign of Terror ruled for a few years. France has had 5 different forms of a Republic beginning in 1792-1804.



This 1<sup>st</sup> Republic of French coins used a coin dating system that started in 1793 and was displayed as year 2, L’ AN II. In reference to the New French Republican Calendar that began in October 1793, but had a retroactive start date of September 22 1792, the proclamation day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic. It employed 3 “decades” of 10-day weeks per month and overlapped the Gregorian Calendar. This coin dating system dropped the L’ in 1803, year 12, and soon returned to the Gregorian, ending its use in 1805, year 14, AN 14.



In 1795 the “franc” was re-established as France’s National Currency, but this time as a decimal

unit. The 90% 4.5 grams silver 1 franc equaled 10 decimes/100 centimes. The d’or = 20 francs, 1 E’cu = 5 francs. The Sol/Sou denomination was no longer an official currency division, but the term was still used for 1/20th of a franc, or 5 centimes. The very popular Hercules coin was produced through all Republics except for the 1946-1958 4<sup>th</sup> Republic. The obverse features Hercules standing between and uniting Liberty and Equality. Liberty is depicted on the left with a Phrygian cap resting on the tip of a spear, while Equality stands on the right holding scales.

Not only did France institute their coinage decimal system based on units of 10, they also changed the worldwide system of weights and measures by introducing the metric system based on units of 10. Up until this time Monarchs dictated measurements based on the length of a King's foot, the distance from the tip of his nose to his thumb, and the length between his outstretched arms as a fathom, which is still used today as 6-foot depth intervals, and as an estimate when working line by sailors and riggers.



Republic, worshipping as they wish, self-sufficient, and free of Imperial dictates and units.

As always, I'm easy to find, approachable, and waiting for someone to yell, "Hey Garvin, check out this L'AN 5 UN DECIME"

Another lesser-known fact, as Secretary of State in early 1793, Thomas Jefferson requested this new metric system be brought to America. So, a



French ship was loaded with a bunch of samples, and sailed for Philadelphia. However, a massive storm blew the ship way off course and it landed in the Caribbean, pirates seized

the vessel, and all aboard died in captivity. Legends persist Capt. Jack Sparrow was responsible, but confirmation is impossible.

January 1793 ended the French Monarch's existence, Catholicism was abolished, bibles banned and burned in Paris. Ash piles witnessed in the streets from November 1793 through June of 1797 in an effort to vanquish the papacy from France. The Head of Rome wasn't mortally wounded until General Berthier deposed Pope Pius the VI in February of 1798 ending all Papal Authority. The reign of Monarch's was over and the Romish pontiff powerless. Soon all of Europe and the world would be using decimal system coinage, more than 50 nations converted within the next century, as well as adopting the metric system. Although France was not the first, and it took some time, The French Revolutionized the decimal coining system, global metrication, threw off monarchs, and rejected Rome for the whole world to accept as another example of an Independent Sovereign

- Hard Money History

"How a Financial Crisis Caused The French Revolution"

September 28, 2021

<https://www.hardmoneyhistory.com/financial-crisis-french-revolution/>

- Online Coin Catalog

First French republic Coins Catalog with values online

<https://worldcoinsinfo.com/world/france-republic-1-coins.html>

- Royal Museums Greenwich

French Revolution

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/french-revolution#:~:text=1795%3A%20The%20Directory%20takes%20power,a%20young%20general%20Napoleon%20Bonaparte>

- Coins Weekly

French History in Coins- Part1: Kings, Consuls, and Emperors  
Alia de la Rive, 27, July 2023

<https://new.coinsweekly.com/article-of-the-week/French-history-in-coins-part-1-Kings-Consuls-and-Emperors/>

- Napoleon.org

A History of The Franc: The Key Moments

Irene Delage

<https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/articles/a-history-of-the-franc-the-key-moments/>

- PGCS The French Republican Coin Dating System

Jay Turner July 23, 2020

<https://www.pgcs.com/news/french-republican-coin-dating-system>

- The Newman Numismatic Portal at Washington University in St. Louis

Frey's Dictionary (American Journal of Numismatics, Vol.50, 1916)

<https://nnp.library.wstl.edu/concern/dictionaries/dict512666?locale=fr>

- Swansea University

The Long and Short Reasons for Why Revolution Broke Out in France in 1789

A Study By Swansea University Historians

<https://www.Swansea.ac.uk/history/history-study-guides/the-long-and-short-reasons-for-why-revolution-broke-out-in-france-in-1789/#:~:text=Jacques%20Necker%2C%20finance%20>

<https://www.Swansea.ac.uk/history/history-study-guides/the-long-and-short-reasons-for-why-revolution-broke-out-in-france-in-1789/#:~:text=Jacques%20Necker%2C%20finance%20>

<https://www.Swansea.ac.uk/history/history-study-guides/the-long-and-short-reasons-for-why-revolution-broke-out-in-france-in-1789/#:~:text=Jacques%20Necker%2C%20finance%20>

# TRANSNISTRIA ISSUES THE WORLD'S FIRST AND ONLY PLASTIC COINS

By Bob Senton

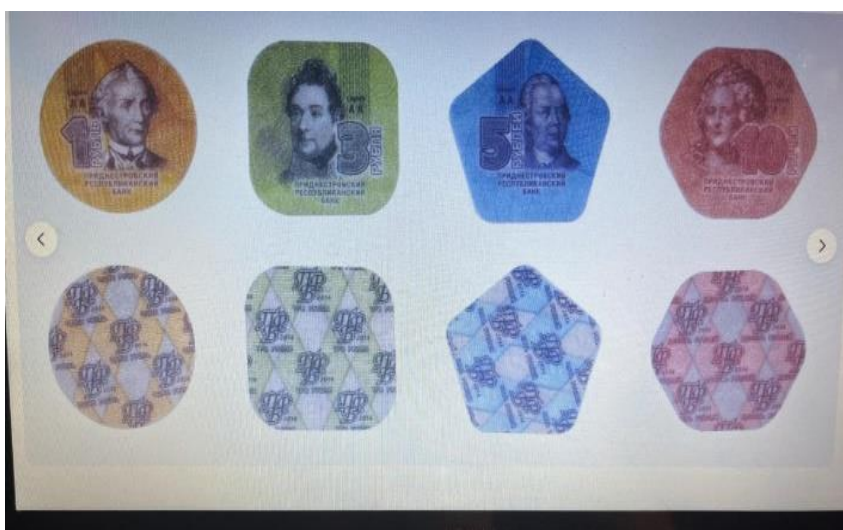
In 1940, Romania was forced to give up its territories between Prut and Dneister Rivers to the U.S.S.R. The new territory became known as the Moldavian S.S.R. It is bordered on the north, east, and west by Ukraine and on the south by Romania. Upon the collapse of the U.S.S.R. it declared its independence on August 21, 1991 and called itself Moldova. Transnistria is located in the country of Moldova. It is officially referred to as the Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester. In 1992, civil war broke out between the government forces of Moldova and factions within Moldova backed by the Russian army. After hostilities ceased, the break away region declared its independence. They called themselves the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic. Neither the government of Moldova, nor any other nation, except Russia recognizes Transnistria as an independent nation.

The monetary history of Transnistria is chaotic at best. It did not want to use the local currency of Moldova (1 lieu = 100 bani), nor did it want to use the Russian ruble. In addition, it did not want to invite outside influences by utilizing world currencies such as the U.S. dollar or the Swiss franc. However, the currency decided on mirrors that of Russia. The official currency is the ruble. It is

subdivided into kopecks as is the currency of Russia. The exchange rate is set at one Transnistrian ruble is equal to one Russian ruble. One Russian ruble on the world market (3/22/25) is approximately equal to .0115 U.S. Dollars or about eighty-five (85) rubles to the U.S. dollar. At the time these coins were produced, the exchange rate was sixteen (16) Russian rubles to the U.S. Dollar. Only Russia will exchange Transnistrian currency.

Since the earliest days of their declared independence, Transnistria did not produce their own coins or currency. The Warsaw mint in Poland, at one time had a contract to produce Coins (2000-2005), however, do to political and legal constraints the contract was terminated. These coins were initially produced in aluminum. Later, coins were minted using an aluminum and bronze alloy. The Transnistria Republic Bank would take on this new responsibility. A local mint in Tiraspol was created as part of their new official national banking system, but it only produced non circulating commemorative coins. Early

coins were produced in bronze plated steel. Subsequent coinage was produced using brass plated steel and nickel-plated steel. Since that time, the new mint has created several



series of commemorative coins made from silver and gold, however, the production runs of each series was extremely low, ranging from



five hundred (500) to five thousand (5,000) coins. Although, in 2020, the mint did try something new issuing thirty-five thousand (35,000) silver coins commemorating the Tokyo Olympic games. This was the first time that it minted coins commemorating a modern event.

Ultimately, circulating coins were produced in Russia at either the St. Petersburg or Moscow Mint. This is where the new high-tech coins of Transnistria would be produced. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Prava, the official Russian news agency, announced the development in Russia, of the world's first plastic coinage. Coinworld and Numismatic News broke the story in the U.S. on November 3, 2014. Although referred to as plastic, it is actually a composite material. The coins are touted as having a high wear resistance and a wide range of security features. The coins were issued in four denominations: one (1) ruble, three (3) ruble, five (5) ruble, and ten (10) ruble. The coins have a special texture, micro-printing, and contoured elements. When they are exposed to either infrared or ultraviolet light, they illuminate. The one (1) ruble coin is yellow-brown, round, and its 26mm in diameter. The

obverse has the picture of A.V. Suyorov. The reverse of each coin utilizes a diamond shaped design containing the initials "TRB" and "2014". The three (3) ruble coin is green, square, and 26mm in diameter. The obverse has the picture of F.P. DeVolan. The five (5) ruble coin is blue, pentagonal, and 28mm in diameter. The obverse has the picture of P.A. Rumyantsey. The ten (10) ruble coin is red, hexagonal, and 28mm in diameter. The obverse has the picture of Russian Empress Catherine the Great. No one has minted any similar coin since these were issued.

Uncirculated four (4) coin sets sell on the retail market from ten dollars (\$10.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00) depending on the type of collector packaging. Sets of third party graded coins are available at a starting price of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

*Sources utilized:*

*Wikipedia, Pravda, Transnistria, Republic Bank, Coinworld, Numismatic News, 2020 Standard Book of World Coins, eBay, The Russian Bank, The Bloomberg Report, PCGS*

