



NEWS FROM THE AUCTION AND GOLD MARKET

Edition 01/2024

Dear Customers,
Dear Coin Enthusiasts,



We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season, and we wish you all the best for 2024!

As you can see in this issue of Künker Exklusiv, the start of 2024 brings a number of special highlights for you from Künker. As usual, we started the new year with a visit to the New York coin fair (NYINC) in January. Our team took part in the auctions there and presented selected highlights from our Auction Sale in Berlin, and from the Asia Minor collection of Dr Kaya Sayar with a focus on Lycia, which will be auctioned in March.

Just less than two weeks remain between our return from New York and the next numismatic highlight, the World Money Fair in Berlin, during which we will also be preparing for our 400th Auction Sale, which will take place on 1 February 2024 at the Estrel Hotel in Berlin. The following pages will give you some insight into our auction offerings, which once again include many high-calibre pieces, such as selected löisers from the Popken Collection, rarities from old Germany and the Habsburg hereditary lands, and British large-denomination gold -- as well as special coins from Italy, Poland, Russia and overseas. Some particularly rare pieces from the "Mehrfachporträts" (multiple portraits) collection will also be auctioned in Berlin. We look forward to seeing you in Osnabrück beginning immediately for viewing, or in Berlin beginning on 30 January.

From Friday, 2 February until Sunday, 4 February, we will welcome you to our booth at the World Money Fair in Berlin. There we will have numerous coins and medals

from our stock ready for sale. We will also be happy to advise you on selling individual items, or your entire collection, via our auctions. We look forward to welcoming many visitors to our booth!

Starting on Monday, 5 February, our eLive Premium Auction 401 will take place on our auction platform www.elive-auction.de, and we present it to you in some detail on pages 4-5 of this issue. The eLive Premium Auction includes another part of the Westphalian private collection "Multiple Portraits" and depicts medallic art from five centuries. These objects can also be viewed in person in Berlin beginning on 30 January.

As part of our new series "Coin Cabinets Around the World", in this issue we take a trip to the Bavarian capital on pages 6 and 7, and introduce you to the Munich State Coin Collection. This impressive collection offers some fascinating insights into the history of money and numismatics.

Prof Nollé travelled all over Germany once again in the final quarter of 2023 to present our Künker lectures to various coin clubs. The response to his authoritative presentations was consistently gratifying, and the members of the clubs in Speyer, Hamburg and Berlin were enthusiastic listeners. One topic was "Numismatic Wild Boar Hunts", which Prof Nollé presents here to our readers in more detail on pages 8-11.

Last but not least, we want to offer you a look into the work of the Künker team in this issue of Künker Exklusiv. We take you on a trip to our order branch in Constance, and introduce you to the employees around our expert for orders and decorations Michael Autengruber, who are already hard at work on the next order auction in the autumn of 2024.

We hope you enjoy the new issue of Künker Exklusiv and our offerings for the Berlin Auction Sale on 1 February 2024!

Dr. Andreas Kaiser

Ulrich Künker

In this Issue

The Borki Train Disaster

Ursula Kampmann

A sepia-toned historical photograph showing the wreckage of a train. Several passenger cars are overturned and crushed on a muddy, debris-strewn landscape. A group of people, some standing and some sitting on the ground, are visible in the foreground, observing the scene.

Calendar 2024

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white coin album. The album is open, showing several pages with circular slots, each containing a gold coin. The background is dark and out of focus.

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Berlin Auction Sale 400 | 1 February 2024 |
| World Money Fair | 2-4 February 2024 |
| eLive Premium Auction 401 | 5/6 February 2024 |
| Experts Day in Hamburg | 15 February 2024 |
| eLive Auction 81 | 26-29 February 2024 |
| Numismata, Munich | 2/3 March 2024 |
| Spring Auction Sale | 13-22 March 2024 |
| eLive Auction 82 | 21-24 May 2024 |
| Summer Auction Sale | 17-21 June 2024 |

Künker's 400th Auction Sale: A Firework of Numismatics

On 1 February 2024, the World Money Fair kicks off with our 400th Auction Sale. Look forward to a firework of rare coins and medals!



Lot 2: Brunswick and Lüneburg. Julius, 1568-1589.
1583 löser of 10 reichstalers, Heinrichstadt (Wolfenbüttel).
From the Friedrich Popken Collection. Extremely rare. Very fine.
Estimate: 50,000 euros



Lot 16: Brunswick and Lüneburg.
Rudolph Augustus, 1666-1685.
1679 löser of 3 reichstalers, Zellerfeld.
From the Friedrich Popken Collection.
Extremely rare. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 40,000 euros



Lot 131: Hamburg. ¼ portugalöser worth 2 ½ ducats n.d. (1578-1582).
NGC MS61. Very rare. Extremely fine +.
Estimate: 20,000 euros



Lot 82: Brandenburg-Prussia.
Frederick William, the Great Elector, 1640-1688.
1684 reichstaler 1E, Magdeburg. Very rare. About FDC.
Estimate: 40,000 euros



Lot 149: Jülich-Berg. William V, 1539-1592.
Taler n.d. (ca. 1540), Mülheim. Extremely rare. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 35,000 euros



Lot 163: Lippe. Simon Henry, 1666-1697. 4 ducats 1685 (minted in 1685/86),
Detmold. From the dies of the ducat. Extremely rare. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 60,000 euros



Lot 55: Bavaria.
Charles Albert, 1726-1745.
Double karolin 1729, Munich.
Very rare. NGC MS63. Extremely fine to FDC.
Estimate: 20,000 euros



Lot 64: Bavaria.
Ludwig I, 1825-1848. 1830 ducat.
Danube river gold. Very rare.
Extremely fine to FDC.
Estimate: 15,000 euros



Lot 79: Brandenburg-Prussia.
Frederick William, the Great Elector, 1640-1688. Silver medal 1669,
unsigned, on the birth of Prince Philip William. Extremely rare.
Attractive specimen with fine patina, extremely fine.
Estimate: 10,000 euros



Lot 241: Saxe-Hildburghausen. Ernst, 1680-1715. 1708 reichstaler,
probably Coburg mint. Probably the 2nd known specimen. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 35,000 euros



Lot 281: Württemberg. Julius Frederick, administrator
and guardian of Eberhard III, 1631-1633. 1631 reichstaler, Stuttgart.
Very rare. About extremely fine.
Estimate: 25,000 euros



There are 770 lots with a total estimate of more than 7 million euros – do you even need to hear more to get excited about our 400th Auction Sale that kicks off the World Money Fair on 1 February 2024? Yes, you do! After all, we will once again offer a selection of exquisite coins and medals that are hardly ever found on the market.

Selected Löser from the Popken Collection

Our Auction Sale 400 starts with another part of the Popken Collection. On offer are 39 löser, including spectacular pieces such as a 1583 Julius löser minted in Wolfenbüttel, or Heinrichstadt as it was called at the time (Lot 2). Another magnificent example from this collection is a 1679 löser of three reichstalers, minted in Zellerfeld on behalf of Prince Rudolph Augustus of Brunswick Wolfenbüttel (Lot 16).

Rarities from the German States

Let us stay at the German states. The spectrum of rarities offered in this section ranges from Anhalt to Württemberg and also includes Austrian princes. No matter what field of the German states you are interested in, you can be sure that you will find a very special piece in this catalog. River gold ducats, multiple gold coins, rare and historically interesting medals, and spectacular talers: take your time to leaf through the catalog – you will find exciting pieces such as a showpiece of an extremely rare reichstaler of the Great Elector Frederick William of Brandenburg from 1684, an even rarer and earlier taler by William V of Jülich-Berg or a quadruple ducat by Simon Henry of Lippe, to name but a few examples.



Lot 302: Holy Roman Empire.
Ferdinand I., 1522-1558-1564. Gold medal n.d. (1531),
unsigned, on the Roman coronation of Ferdinand I and his wife Anna.
Extremely rare. Very fine - extremely fine.
Estimate: 20,000 euros



Los 303: Holy Roman Empire.
Ferdinand I., 1522-1558-1564.
Silver cast medal 1531,
based on a model by Peter Flötner.
Extremely rare. Magnificent portrait
piece with finely engraved
bust portraits, extremely fine.
Estimate: 10,000 euros



Lot 460: France. Louis XIII, 1610-1643.
1640 double louis d'or 1640, Paris. Very rare. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 40,000 euros



Lot 494: Great Britain.
William III, 1694-1702. 5 guineas 1701, London.
Rare. NGC MS61. Extremely fine to FDC.
Estimate: 60,000 euros

"Multiple Portraits" from the Westphalian private collection

Not only in our eLive Premium Auction (see article on pages 4 and 5) are pieces from the Westphalian private collection "Multiple Portraits on Coins and Medals", in our Auction Sale 400 you can also purchase selected coins from this special field of collecting. A golden specimen from Bavaria, a double karolin from 1729 by Karl Albert shows the bust portraits of him and his wife Maria Amalia side by side (lot 55). A similar image can be seen on the gold medal for the Roman coronation of Ferdinand I. and his wife Anna from 1531. This rarity has lot number 302.

British Multiple Gold Coins

Five Guineas are among the most popular collectibles when it comes to British coins. Auction Sale 400 presents a rich selection of these pieces. However, the highlight of this section was created a little later. It is a pattern for the 5-pound piece of 1820 with smooth edge. Only a total of 25 specimens were created of this pattern, most of which do not have a smooth edge but an edge inscription. Only two pieces are known of the smooth-edge patterns today!

Italy from Frederick II to Victor Emmanuel III

The small selection with Italian pieces also has many treasures to offer! From medieval grossi of exceptional quality to impressive Renaissance portraits and extremely rare pieces from the era of Napoleonic rule; these coins reflect Italy's diverse and rich history, which makes the country one of the most popular tourist destinations to this day. There are also many coins on offer that were created after the unification and that can only be encountered on rare occasions. For example a piece from 1901. The Italian 5-lira pieces had to be melted down due to an intervention of France. Only 114 specimens escaped this fate. The king, who was a passionate coin enthusiast, made sure that the pieces were given to the most important coin collectors of the time.



Lot 512: Como. Frederick II, 1250-1280.
Grosso da 6 denari n.d. Very rare. About extremely fine.
Estimate: 10,000 euros



Lot 523: Milan. Charles V, 1535-1556. Testone n.d.
Commemorating the senate of Milan paying homage to the emperor.
Very rare. About extremely fine.
Estimate: 6,000 euros



Lot 529: Naples and Sicily. Joachim Murat, King of Naples, 1808-1815.
40 franchi 1810, Naples. Variety without N.M. at the neck section.
NGC AU55 (Top Pop). Extremely rare. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 75,000 euros



Lot 584: Poland. Sigismund III, 1587-1632.
1596 gold medal of 5 ducats, probably Poznań.
NGC AU58 (Top Pop). Extremely rare. About extremely fine.
Estimate: 100,000 euros



Lot 593: Poland. Toruń.
2 ducats 1664. PCGS MS63 (Top Pop).
Very rare. Extremely fine to FDC.
Estimate: 50,000 euros



Lot 631: Russia. Alexander I, 1801-1825.
1801 ruble, St. Petersburg. Pattern.
Very rare. Extremely fine to FDC.
Estimate: 100,000 euros



Lot 642: Russia. Nicholas II, 1894-1917.
37 1/2 rubles (100 francs) 1902, St. Petersburg.
Only 225 specimens minted. First strike, about FDC.
Estimate: 150,000 euros



Lot 497: Great Britain. George III, 1760-1820.
Pattern 5 pounds 1820, London. Pattern with smooth edge.
NGC PF64★CAMEO (Top Pop).
Only two specimens known. Proof.
Estimate: 150,000 euros



Lot 553: Kingdom of Italy. Victor Emmanuel III, 1900-1946.
5 lire 1901, Rome. Very rare. About FDC.
Estimate: 50,000 euros



Lot 686: Czechia / Bohemia-Moravia.
John of Luxembourg, 1310-1346.
Royal d'or n.d. (1337), minted for the County of Luxembourg.
The only specimen on the market. Extremely fine.
Estimate: 75,000 euros



Lot 700: Czechoslovakia.
5 ducats 1934, Kremnica, commemorating the re-opening
of the Kremnica mines. Original strike. NGC 63PL.
Only 70 specimens minted. First strike, about FDC.
Estimate: 10,000 euros



Lot 705: Hungary / Transylvania.
Sigismund Rákóczi, 1607-1608. 10 ducats 1607.
NGC AU55+. Extremely rare. About extremely fine.
Estimate: 100,000 euros



Lot 731: Mexico.
Augustin Iturbide I. 1822-1823. 8 Reales 1822, Mo/JM, Mexico City.
Extremely rare. Fine patina, little flan defect, very fine-extremely fine.
Estimate: 10,000 euros



Lot 719: China. Republic.
1 dollar year 12 (1923), probably for the wedding
of the former ruler Henry Pu Yi. NGC MS61.
Very rare. Extremely fine to FDC.
Estimate: 20,000 euros



Lot 760: USA.
20 dollars 1907, Philadelphia.
High relief. Very rare. About FDC.
Estimate: 10,000 euros

There is a lot on offer for Czech collectors, including numerous gold coins from Czechoslovakia as well as a royal d'or by John of Luxembourg from 1337. The blind king, who fell at the Battle of Crécy, was the father of Charles IV. This royal d'or is the only specimen on the market.

Let us round off our trip to Eastern Europe with a 10-fold ducat by Sigismund Rákóczi, the flamboyant figure of Transylvanian history that owed his title both to the recognition of the imperial court and that of the Ottoman sultan. Particularly remarkable is the weapon the hero of the Long Turkish War carries on this coin: a mace.

Far East and the USA

Let us conclude this auction preview with a glance at the specimens from "overseas". Connoisseurs will be delighted by the small run of rare and exquisite Chinese coins. A Japanese oban from the Man'en era will also be met with great interest. The auction will be rounded off by a small series of US gold coins.

Multiple Portraits: A Private Collection from Westphalia

When it comes to assembling your own collection, there are almost as many topics to choose from as there are collectors out there. After all, every collector sets their own criteria to determine what pieces should be part of their collection. In our eLive Premium Auction 401, we present a fascinating topic: multiple portraits.

On 5 and 6 February 2024, another part of the private collection from Westphalia with "multiple portraits" will be on offer at www.elive-auction.de. You can participate in the online sale and bid on the medals of this extensive collection from the comfort of your own home. In this preview, we present the history of five examples. Please keep in mind that we focused on rarer pieces and that the estimates of these medals are correspondingly high. However, starting prices begin at 50 euros, which means that there is something on offer for every budget. And all pieces have a fascinating history that is worth to be explored!

A King Mounts the Scaffold (Lot 1059)

On the morning of 21 January 1793, Citizen Louis Capet was taken to the square that is known as Place de la Concorde today. Roughly 20,000 people had gathered to witness the execution of the former king of France. They stared at the guillotine that was exactly where the large obelisk stretches skyward today. Right behind it was the base of the former equestrian statue of Louis XIV. The monument itself had already been pulled down in August 1792. You can see all these details on a medal created in commemoration of the execution of the former royal couple, probably in London. Responsible



Lot 1059: France.
1793 silver medal commemorating the execution of Louis XVI,
by Conrad Heinrich Küchler. Rare. About FDC.
Estimate: 1,500 euros

for the design was the Darmstadt engraver Conrad Heinrich Küchler, who had fled to Great Britain. On the medal's obverse, he depicted the former royal couple. Marie Antoinette was beheaded on the same square as Widow Capet in the October of the same year. This medal forms part of a comprehensive media campaign aimed at mobilizing the forces of the European bourgeoisie, which the monarchs of all countries were to rally for their fight against the revolution.

eLive Premium Auction 401 5-6 February 2024

All lots of the eLive Premium Auction can be viewed as part of Auction Sale 400 in Berlin:

Estrel Hotel Berlin
Sonnenallee 225, 12057 Berlin, Saal B

30 January 2024 from 3 pm to 6 pm
31 January 2024 from 10 am to 6 pm
1 February 2024 from 10 am to 6 pm

William Phips Finds His Treasure (Lot 1107)

Forget about Pirates of the Caribbean! Numismatics has much more fascinating stories to tell, such as that of William Phips, which is presented by this medal. Born in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Phips came from humble origins. He completed an apprenticeship as ship's carpenter and won the heart of a young lady from the bourgeoisie. With her help, he tried to





Lot 1107: Great Britain. 1687 silver medal commemorating William Phips' recovery of a treasure, by G. Bower. Very rare. Very fine to extremely fine. Estimate: 1,000 euros



Lot 1349: Hungary. 1526 silver cast medal commemorating the death of Louis II at the Battle of Mohács, by Christoph Füssl. Very rare. Original cast with clear details. Minor traces of mounting. Very fine to extremely fine. Estimate: 1,000 euros



Lot 1392: Bohemia. Mercury-gilded oval silver medal, commemorating the coronation of Frederick of the Palatinate in 1619, by Christian Maler. Very rare. Original. Minor traces of mounting. Very fine. Estimate: 1,000 euros

enlarge his father-in-law's business and turn it into a shipping company. But instead of transporting valuable timber on the maiden voyage of his first schooner, Phips evacuated fellow citizens from the burning city. His shipyard also fell victim to the flames and he had to start anew with nothing but a single ship.

Phips became a salvage specialist. Many ships foundered at the time and took their valuable cargo to the bottom of the sea. Phips recovered the goods and made quite a living by doing so. It so happened that the Royal Navy knew of a Spanish wreck off the coast of Santo Domingo, which had sunk during the annual silver transport from the old world to the new. The Navy commissioned Phips to recover the silver. He succeeded – of course only after the government had ceased funding his efforts and even shortly before private funds for the project had been depleted. The successful treasure hunter brought silver worth 300,000 pounds to England. The public purse was delighted to receive the major share of it. But there was enough left for Phips to become a rich man himself, and King James II elevated him to nobility.

The obverse of the medal shows this English ruler alongside his wife Mary of Modena. It had been created on behalf of the king by the royal mint as a gift. Phips, his officers and the supporters of the undertaking also received a specimen.

The reverse shows Captain Phips' vessel, in the foreground a small rowing boat, on which Phips tries to catch treasures with a hook. The Latin circumscription taken from Ovid alludes to this: Always let your hook be hanging.

Tu felix Austria nube (Lot 1349)

At first glance, the battlefield on this medal does not have anything to do with a wedding or good fortune. It shows the clash of cultures: Christian Hungarians on the left, identifiable by their armor, are battling the Ottomans, whose shields clearly bear a crescent. The Hungarian cavalry faces not only the sipahi, but also a powerful artillery that could not be matched by the Hungarians.

King Louis II was killed at the Battle of Mahács along with most of his nobility. The Turks conquered a large share of his territory. However, it was a third who rejoiced. Due to a marriage contract, the Habsburg Ferdinand I annexed rich Bohemia and a part of Hungary. He laid claim to the entire possessions of Louis II. However, he was only able to assert this claim once the Ottoman Empire had been defeated. Only a few battles in history had as far-reaching consequences as the Battle of Mohács on 29 August 1526.

The Winter King (Lot 1392)

In theory, Bohemia was an elective monarchy and its estates had the freedom of choosing their king. In practice, however, they had exclusively elected Habsburg candidates since 1526. Therefore, it was almost a declaration of war when they decided against recognizing Ferdinand II, who had already been crowned as King of Bohemia, after the Defenestration of Prague and the death of Emperor Matthias. Instead, they opted for Frederick V of the Palatinate. He was known as an ardent advocate of the Protestant cause, and the Bohemians hoped that his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of King James I of England and Scotland, would secure them the support of her father. Frederick was crowned on 4 November 1619 at St. Vitus Cathedral, an event that is commemorated by the mercury-gilded silver medal offered in the eLive Premium Auction. Its obverse shows the ruler, who was mocked as the "Winter King", with his wife. On the reverse, the Bohemian estates emphasize that the coronation was a joint decision, blessed by God: the crown is held by many hands. Below is the proverbial bundle of arrows that cannot be broken unless the bond is untied and the individual arrows are destroyed one by one.

In fact, Frederick V and the Bohemian estates misjudged the balance of power. Frederick had to flee from Prague as early as on 9 November 1620 after his army had been defeated at the Battle of White Mountain.

PR in the 17th Century (Lot 1951)

The engraver Sebastian Dadler (1586-1657) was one of the greatest artists among those who used innovative designs to propagate the Protestant cause. We could draw your attention to a dozen of exciting details on this medal, created on the occasion of the Battle of Breitenfeld near Leipzig on 17 September 1631. To stay within the scope of this preview, we had to choose a single one of them.

You can see three women standing under a sun inscribed with the name of God. A hand from the cloud blesses them, granting divine grace. The woman on the left holds a sword, indicating to any educated person at the time that she must be the personification of justice. The woman at the center bears a column, presenting herself as steadiness. The woman with the laurel branch on the right symbolizes the fear of God, which means that the representation can be read as follows: if justice, steadiness and the fear of God come together, they are blessed by God and their cause will triumph. Of course, the Protestant Dadler assigned all these virtues to the Protestant Gustavus Adolphus and thus celebrated the victory at Breitenfeld as a divine judgement in favor of the Protestants.

Emperors Are Only Human, Too (Lot 2170)

In the March of 1887, the German crown prince Frederick consulted a Berlin laryngologist because he – a heavy smoker – was constantly suffering from hoarseness. This was a problem for someone who had to speak to large crowds without the convenience of a microphone. His hoarseness turned out to be laryngeal cancer, and neither German nor English physicians had any remedies for it at the time. By then, Frederick's father William I had already celebrated his 90th birthday. His end was foreseeable. Therefore, the Berlin mint had already created several designs for new coins that were to be issued on behalf of the new ruler. For example, a die with the portrait of the brand-new emperor and his wife. The dies were never used to strike actual coins. Frederick's reign was probably too short for that. His father died on 9 March 1888. Frederick himself died on 15 June 1888, two days after suffering through the official reception of King Oscar II of Sweden. "Lear to suffer without complaining" is a motto attributed to him today.

Catalog Orders

To order a catalog contact Künker, Nobbenburger Straße 4a, 49076 Osnabrück; phone: +49 541 / 962020; fax: +49 541 / 9620222; or via e-mail: service@kuenker.de. You can access the auction catalogs online at www.kuenker.de. If you want to submit your bid from your computer at home, please remember to register for this service in good time.



Lot 1951: Saxony. Silver medal in commemoration of the Protestant victory at the Battle of Breitenfeld on 17 September 1631, by Sebastian Dadler. About extremely fine. Estimate: 1,500 euros



Lot 2170: German Empire. Frederick III. 1888 pattern of 5 marks, smooth edge, pewter. Very rare. Made with corroded dies, about extremely fine. Estimate: 300 euros



Numismatic Collections around the World:

The Bavarian State Coin Collection in Munich

Munich is one of the world’s most popular tourist destinations. And with good reason! Home to a great many numismatic sights, the Bavarian capital also attracts numerous coin collectors. One of them is the Bavarian State Coin Collection in Munich with its own museum.



Entrance to the Bavarian State Coin Collection (Munich).
©Bavarian State Coin Collection / Photo: Sergio Castelli

Anyone from Munich who passes by the former main entrance to the Residence – the impressive building complex that used to be the seat of Bavarian dukes, electors and kings – makes a point of touching one of the two lions that guard the magnificent gate. Likewise, any committed coin enthusiast should most certainly make a point of following the path that opens up between the two lions. After all, it leads to the courtyard with the entrance to the Bavarian State Coin Collection, one of the world’s most important numismatic museums. The location of this museum is comparatively new: it has only found its home here in 1963. And this home could not be more appropriate! After all, the coin collection’s roots go back to this very building.

The Legacy of the Renaissance

The very core of the collection dates back to Duke Albert V of Bavaria. This Renaissance ruler turned Munich into a major center of art. He had the Marstall building erected between the Old and the New Residence to install his cabinets of curiosities there. Today, we know this building as the “old mint” (Alte Münze) because the royal Bavarian mint started to operate on the premises in the 19th century.

Originally, this was where Albert stored his books, which were to become the basis of the Bavarian State Library, his paintings, the core of the Alte Pinakothek, and of course the ancient statues from the estate of Hans Jakob Fugger and the Venetian Andrea Loredan. When this part of the collection grew to comprise as many as 600 objects and was thus too extensive to be appropriately displayed in the art chamber, Albert V had the Antiquarium built, which still exists today.

In this wonderful festive hall, the duke’s guests feasted and danced to the music of court composer Orlando di Lasso. Many of them also enjoyed the privilege of admiring Albert’s coin collection. It must have deeply impressed his contemporaries! After all, the coin dealers with the best networks of his time – Jacopo Strada and Adolph Occo – provided the duke with all the rarities that they could get their hands on.

The Antiquarium of the Munich Residence was initially built to house all the ancient objects that the antiquarians Jacopo Strada and Adolph Occo procured for Albert V in a representative setting.
Photo: KW.

The Palatine Inheritance, Secularization and a Royal Decree

The Bavarian Coin Collection grew and developed – except for a period of depletion caused by the Swedes in the Thirty Years’ War. Many other collections were added to it, for example the coin collection of the Palatine branch of the House of Wittelsbach, which was brought to Munich by Charles Theodore. Significantly more pieces were added after the mass secularization of 1803, when Bavarian monasteries were forced to let go of their possessions with the blessing of the French administration. Before the secularization, every monastery had had its own coin collection. After 1803, all the coins in these collections deemed worthy of preservation were added to the ducal collection.

The director of the Court chapel and numismatist Franz Ignaz von Streber, who had already been responsible for the electoral coin collection, took over the leadership of the institution when the now royal coin collection became part of the Academy of Sciences in 1807. Just one year later, King Max I Joseph adopted a law that was to bless Bavaria with a great deal of coin hoards: from then on, the Bavarian Ordinance for the Protection of Found Coins and Antiquities stipulated that the possession of coin hoards had to be shared equally by the lucky finder and the landowner, as long as the hoard was registered with the coin collection. In the 19th century alone, this requirement ensured the survival of 330 hoards.



Duke Albert V of Bavaria, founder of the State Coin Collection.
©Bavarian State Coin Collection / Photo: Sergio Castelli

Where the Idea of Modern Commemorative Coins Came about

This Franz Ignaz Streber must be praised for another numismatic accomplishment, which has become an integral part of today’s numismatic world. Although coins commemorating a specific event had been created before the 19th century, Streber turned existing concepts into something completely new. He convinced Ludwig I to adopt the idea of the French *histoire métallique* – medals issued in regular intervals to recall certain events – for his coinage. Thus, Bavarian *geschichtstaler* (history talers) became the first commemorative coins in the modern sense of the word!

This concept was greeted so enthusiastically around the world that commemorative coins practically replaced medals in the collecting world.



Probably the best-known piece
of the Bavarian State Collection:
the Akragas dekadrachmon.

It was displayed on the
museum's poster for many years.

Photo: KW.



The Bavarian State Coin Collection in Munich Today

Until the Second World War, the Bavarian State Coin Collection was located in the Old Academy in Neuhauser Straße. Fortunately, not only the collection but also the library was evacuated and safely stored prior to the bomb attacks on Munich. Thus, neither were destroyed when the Academy was hit by air strikes in 1944 and blasted into oblivion. As mentioned above, the Bavarian State Coin Collection in Munich is now located in a courtyard of the Residence. It has its own museum where a permanent exhibition displays a remarkable selection of the about 300,000 objects.



Thanks to its diverse activities, the coin collection is not only popular among hardcore collectors.

©Bavarian State Coin Collection / Photo: Sergio Castelli



Of much more historical importance is this medallion of Constantine the Great, depicting the Christogram on his helmet. ©Bavarian State Coin Collection / Photo: Sergio Castelli

However, I would suggest you first visit the numismatic library, which is located on the ground floor and can be consulted by any interested party. What is so special about it is the fact that this is one of very few extensive numismatic libraries that were not damaged or scattered during the war. It does not only contain the latest literature but also barely available tomes from the past. The collection of auction catalogs published before the First World War alone is spectacular!

Of course, you can also marvel at the objects on the upper floors. Do you love Renaissance medals? You will see wonderful original pieces! Or do you prefer the beauty of Greek coinage? I'll just say: Akragas dekadrachmon. A perfect specimen of this great rarity is just one of the highlights of the collection of Greek coins. It was the cover piece displayed on the poster of the Bavarian State Collection for years. Are you rather interested in history? Then you will be amazed by the small silver medallion that shows the Christogram on the helmet of Emperor Constantine for the first time with an exact date. Or would you like to show your children what people paid with in the past? Thanks to the recent acquisition of the Kuhn Collection, the Bavarian State Coin Collection owns one of the largest holdings of pre-monetary means of payment in Europe.

No matter what you are interested in: Munich has exciting pieces on display!

After all, the curators of the Bavarian Coin Collection were active in recent years too and realized many acquisitions. But that is not everything. In 1988, the Künstlerkreis der Medailleure München (Artists' Circle of Munich Engravers) was founded at the Bavarian State Coin Collection. Now the building is home to the Bayerische Numismatische Gesellschaft (Bavarian Numismatic Society). And in collaboration with the Munich Center of Museum Education (MPZ), the Bavarian State Collection developed an extensive program to encourage children and young adults to explore the monetary world.

A Must-See Time and Again, Not Least Due to the Temporary Exhibitions

Thus, a visit to the Bavarian State Coin Collection in Munich is well worth it! And not just once. After all, the museum regularly mounts new temporary exhibitions that are accompanied by interesting catalogs. Currently, you can see an exhibition about the 175-year anniversary of the German revolutions of 1848.

And Do Not Miss Out On the Fountain Court!

By the way, if you are at the Residence anyway, you can find another "numismatic" gem just a few steps from the entrance to the State Coin Collection: in the neighboring Fountain Court (Brunnenhof), you can see the Wittelsbach fountain, the work of art that probably inspired Franz Andreas Schega depictions of river gods on Bavarian river gold ducats.

Ursula Kampmann



The coin cabinets of the State Coin Collection are also highly interesting. They are black and gold lacquer cabinets from Japan, which were reworked into coin cabinets at the Munich court. ©Bavarian State Coin Collection / Photo: Nicolai Kästner

Wild Boar Hunts in Numismatics



Fig. 1: Wild boar in the Lainzer Tiergarten (Wikipedia, Valenttin Panzirsch).



Fig. 3: Detail from a painting by Peter Paul Rubens, c. 1635, in Alte Pinakothek in Munich, Meleager hands the pig's head to Atalante (JN 7.2.2010)

The Wild Boar in Battle With the Lion

We humans regard the lion as the king of the animal kingdom because its majestic appearance impresses almost everyone. But the lion is also one of the strongest and most dangerous animals. The wild boar in its black-brown bristly coat (Fig. 1), often digging in the mud and wallowing in it with pleasure, cannot compete with the elegance of the lion, its sun-yellow fur and the splendour of its mane. However, with its speed and impetuous strength as well as its high intelligence, it is hardly inferior to the lion in terms of danger, especially when it is attacked or otherwise gets into a rage. It is no coincidence that experienced hunters regard wild boar hunting as a high-risk endeavour (Hull 1964, 103). This was particularly the case in ancient times, when there were no long-range and powerful firearms with high accuracy, available to hunters today.

In view of the almost equal fighting power of lions and boars, in ancient times the question arose as to who would be victorious in a clash between the two animals. Homer's Iliad (XVI 823-828) describes how a lion and a wild boar meet at a meagrely gushing spring in the mountains and fight over the little water available. It is only with great difficulty that the lion manages to defeat the boar. In the Iliad translation by Ian C. Johnston (born 1938), this passage reads:

*Just as a lion overcomes
a tireless wild boar in combat, when both beasts
fight bravely in the mountains over a small spring
where they both want to drink, and the lion's strength
brings down the panting boar — that's how Hector,
moving close in with his spear, destroyed the life
of Menoetius' noble son, who'd killed so many men.*

In this Homeric parable, Achill's friend Patroclus – who is the son of Menoitius – is compared to the inferior boar, while the Trojan hero Hector epitomises the superior lion.



Fig. 2: Tetradrachm from Stageira, late 6th cent. BC:
Lion attacking wild boar // Quadratum Incusum (NAC 52, 7.10.2009, lot 96).

The Asian fabulist Aesop (253rd fable) also tells of a confrontation between wild boar and lion. However, in the fable of this sophisticated educator of the Greeks, the encounter between the two animals has a completely different outcome:

At summertime, when the heat makes one thirsty, a lion and a boar came to a small spring to drink from it. They fought over which of them should drink first. Because of this, they clashed to the point of death. When they suddenly came up for air, they saw vultures waiting to see which one of them would fall and then eat it. So they gave up their enmity and said: "It is better to become friends than food for vultures and ravens". (This shows) that it is good to put an end to evil quarrels and vanities as soon as they lead to a dangerous end for everyone.

On an extremely rare tetradrachm minted between 520-500 BC from the small town of Stageira on the east coast of Chalkidiki – the hometown of the philosopher Aristotle – there is a depiction of a fight between a lion and a wild boar: the lion has jumped on the boar and is trying to bite into its hindquarters (Fig. 2). The wild boar (κάπρος/kápros) is apparently the heraldic animal of Stageira, which is probably related to the fact that both the harbour of Stageira and an offshore islet were called Kápros. It would be surprising if Stageira depicted its heraldic animal in a situation in which it was overpowered by a lion. It is more likely that, according to mythical tradition, the Stagirite boar managed to shake off the lion.

Ancient Protective Hunting

However, the most tense battle with the wild boar was not fought by the lion, for which there was easier prey than this defensive animal, but above all by man. Wild boar were the worst devastators of the fields and vineyards cultivated by the farmers and cultivated with hard labour. In his 'Metamorphoses' (VIII, 290-297, translated by F.J. Miller, 1916), the Roman poet Ovid (43 BC – 17 AD) describes the damage that wild boars caused to agriculture:

*Now he trampled down the young corn in the blade,
and now he laid waste the full-grown crops of some farmer,
who was doomed to mourn, and cut off the ripe grain in the ear.
In vain the threshing-floor, in vain the granary
awaited the promised harvests.
The heavy bunches of grapes with their trailing
vines were cast down, and berry and branch
of the olive whose leaf never withers.
He vents his rage on the cattle, too.
Neither herdsmen nor dogs can protect them,
nor can the fierce bulls defend their herds.*

In ancient Greece, it was the task of the nobility to combat these dangerous pests of agriculture and viticulture. Only the high nobility had the means to organise hunts for these clever animals, and only they were skilled enough in the use of weapons to kill wild boar. By fending off the wild pigs (Nollé 2001), the men of the nobility fulfilled their duty of care for their peasants, but also secured the tribute in kind that the peasants had to pay them.

In Greek literature, we repeatedly come across famous wild boar hunts. The participation of young Odysseus in a boar hunt in the Parnassus Mountains in central Greece, which rise above Delphi, is very well known (Homer, Odyssey XIX 428-466). Odysseus, the son of the ruler of Ithaca, had been invited to



Fig. 4: Bronze coin from Samos: ΦΟΥΡΙΑ CAB TP-ANKVA-ΛΕΙΝΑ CE; draped bust of Tranquillina with diadem to the right. // C-A-MIQN; Ankaios attacking the boar that has invaded his vineyard (Elsen 108, 12.3.2011, lot 503).



Fig. 5: Bronze coin from Aphrodisias: AV KAI ΠΟ ΛΙ ΓΑΛΛΙΗΝΟC; armoured bust of Gallienus with a crown of rays to the left // ΑΦΡΟΔΙCΙΕ-ΩΝ; Adonis stretching his spear towards the boar; at his feet a Adonis annua (Numismatik Naumann 76, 7.4.2019, lot 280).



Fig. 7: Bronze medallion from Perinthos: AV-T- K- Λ- CΕΠΤΙ - CΕΟΥΗΡΟC - [ΠΕ]; draped bust of Septimius Severus with laurel wreath to the right // ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΕΙΑ- Π-ΕΡΙΝΘΙΩΝ ΝΕ-ΩΚΟΡΩΝ; Heracles bringing the Erymanthian boar to Eurystheus, who has hidden in a pithos (CNG Triton 20, 10.1.2017, lot 444).



Fig. 6: Adonis annua, photographed in May in Aizanoi (JN 11.5.2015).



Fig. 8: Panorama of Ephesus: A reconstructed column rises behind the houses of Selçuk and marks the site of the Artemision, behind it on the right rises Pion/Panayır dağı, then Bülbül dağı (JN 3.10.2010).

a boar hunt by fellow nobles who had their seat on a slope of the Parnassus in central Greece. The young nobles in particular were to prove themselves in boar hunts, demonstrate their courage, show off their skill in handling different weapons and cultivate aristocratic fellowship and solidarity. In a successful boar hunt, a young nobleman could prove that he possessed the abilities expected of a Greek aristocrat in order to exercise successful rule. Whilst hunting at Parnassus, Odysseus was seriously injured when the boar he had startled cut a piece of flesh from his thigh with its tooth. He was left with a distinctive scar that was to play an significant role in his later life.

The most famous hunt, however, was the Calydonian boar hunt, which took place in west-central Greece near the city of Calydon. Allegedly, the king there had neglected to make a sacrifice to the goddess Artemis, the mistress of animals.

Enraged, she sent a huge boar that devastated the land around Calydon. The animal was a gourmand and was therefore particularly focussed on the sweet grapes. King Oineus, whose name means 'wine maker', therefore invited the most important heroes of Greece to a hunt for the destructive boar. Some hunters from the Calydonian boar hunt and some of their dogs were less fortunate than Odysseus. They were killed by the wild boar. Nestor, the famous king of Pylos, who was to distinguish himself years later in the Trojan War, was able to save himself from the charging animal at the last minute by swinging himself up a tree with the help of his lance. Among the hunters was a woman, the beautiful Atalante (Fig. 3). She managed to inflict the first wound on the furious boar with an arrow hitting its ear. At the end, the boar was killed by Meleager, who gave the most important trophy of the hunt, the boar's head, to the beautiful huntress with whom he had fallen in love. This led to a fierce quarrel with Meleager's uncles, whom he killed in a rage. In the end, the tragic death of the successful hunter was brought about by his mother, who was pained by the death of her brothers.

A boar also brought death to an early king of the island of Samos. His name was Ankaios. He was considered the founder of the famous Samian viticulture. When Ankaios' vines were thriving and he was already looking forward to a good wine, a pessimistic servant told him that he did not know whether he would drink from these grapes and not die first. When the grapes were ripe, Ankaios remembered this prophecy, went into the vineyard, picked a ripe grape and squeezed it over a cup. He was just about to bring the cup to his mouth and drink to prove his servant's prediction to be nonsense, when he was told that a boar was ravaging his vineyard. Before he could drink, he put the cup down again, grabbed his lance and hurried to his vineyard. There he was killed by the boar. The moral of this story was the saying of the Greeks: 'Much can lie between the rim of a cup and a man's lips'. It warns against

overconfidence and urges humility in the face of fate. This story has not only been passed down in literature (Ancient Commentaries on Apollonius Rhodius by C. Wendel, I 188) but is also depicted on coins from Samos (Fig. 4).

The young lover of Aphrodite, Adonis, also fell victim to a wild boar. On a coin from the Carian city of Aphrodisias ('City of Aphrodite') he is depicted fighting with the boar (Fig. 5). As Ovid describes in beautiful verse in his Metamorphoses (X 734-739), the blood-red Adonis rose, a type of anemone, is said to have grown from his blood (Fig. 6).

A famous boar hunter was Heracles, who also took part in the Calydonian boar hunt. He had to complete 12 tasks for the evil and cowardly King Eurystheus. One of the most difficult tasks was to capture alive a boar in the Erymanthos Mountains, in the centre of the Peloponnese, which was driving the farmers to despair. Eurystheus reckoned that Heracles, who was prone to rage, would either be unable to catch the dangerous animal or would slay it in his rage. Heracles, however, was clever and drove the boar into the high snow of the snow-covered mountains in winter until it got stuck, grabbed it on his back with his superhuman strength and brought it to the royal palace of Mycenae. King Eurystheus was so afraid of the beast that he hid in one of the large storage jars in his palace. The city of Perinthos on the Marmara Sea, which the Greeks called Herakleia (i.e. 'City of Heracles'; today's Turkish name Marmara Ereğlisi goes back to the ancient toponym), depicts this heroic deed of Heracles on a beautiful bronze coin of the city (Fig. 7).

Hunting – and Founding a City

In the mythical traditions of the Greeks, we frequently encounter wild boar hunts in connection with the founding of new cities. The reasoning behind this is easy to understand. A city founder had to serve as a role model to emphasize that the citizens of the new city had to be able to keep the wild boar at bay and protect the fields from them. Agriculture formed the basis of ancient settlements' livelihood.

The most famous foundation myth in which a boar hunt plays a role is that of the Ionian city of Ephesus. The Athenian king's son Androklos – he was later-born, therefore did not inherit the rule of Athens from his father and for this reason was forced to establish his own rule in a foreign land – came to the Bay of Ephesus with his Athenian followers in early times. The Athenians were looking for an ideal settlement site, but were initially unable to find one. As was customary in Greece, they had consulted an oracle before setting out. The oracle had prophesied that they should found a new city where a fish and a boar showed them. According to human judgement, the oracle said that their venture would not succeed. After all, how could a water animal and a land animal show the Athenians a suitable place to found a new city? So Androclus and his men settled for several years discouraged on a small island in the bay of Ephesus and were already thinking about returning to Athens. One day, Androclus joined local fishermen who were frying fish they had caught for lunch on the mainland opposite the island. One of these fish was not quite dead yet and, when it was placed on the hot grill, it dashed glowing coals into the dried-out maquis. It immediately burst into flames and startled a boar that was hiding there. Androclus immediately realised that the oracle he had been given was to be fulfilled and that everything now depended on him. He grabbed his lance and pursued the boar over hill and dale. On Mount Pion (today



Fig. 9: Bronze coin from Ephesus: Vs. AVT Κ Μ ΟΠΕΛ CΕΟΝ - ΜΑΚΡΕΙΝΟC CΕ; draped bust of Macrinus with laurel wreath to the right // Π-ΕΙ-Ω-Ν – ΕΦΕCΙΩΝ; boar running over Mount Pion. In the foreground a stylised temple – the sanctuary of Artemis – flanked by a cypress and the mountain god Pion with the cult image of Artemis on his outstretched right hand and a cornucopia in his left arm (Leu 4, 25.5.2019, lot 434).



Fig. 10: Bronze coin from Ephesus: • AVT • Κ Μ ΑΝΤ – ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC •; draped and armoured bust of Gordian III with laurel wreath to the right // ΕΦΕ-ΣΙΩΝ - Π-ΡΩ-ΤΩΝ - ΑCΙΑC; Androclus on horseback chasing the boar (CNG Triton 21, 8.1.2008, lot 482).



Fig. 11: Bronze coin from Ephesus: AVT Κ Μ ΟΠΕΛ CΕΟΝΗ ΜΑΚΡΕΙΝΟC CΕΒ; armoured bust of Macrinus with laurel wreath to the right // ΕΦΕ-CΙΩΝ ΑΝΔΡΟ-ΚΛΟC; Androclus fighting the boar with a lance (Helios 5, 25.06.2010, lot 710).



Fig. 12: Bronze coin from Ephesus: ΑΥ Μ ΟΠΕΛ C ΜΑΚΡΕΙΝΟC; bust of Macrinus with drapery and laurel wreath to the right // ΕΦΕC-Ι-ΩΝ; boar pierced by a spear running to r. (Numismatik Naumann 91, 5.7.2020, lot 912).



Fig. 13: Bronze coin from Ephesus: AVT ΠΟ ΛΙΚ ΓΑΛΛΑ[Ι]ΗΝΟC; draped bust of Gallienus with laurel wreath to the right // ΕΦΕCΙΩΝ - Γ ΝΕΕΩΚΟΡΩΝ; Androclus carrying the slain boar out of the forest. (Leu, WebAuction 3, 25.2.2018, lot 552).



Fig. 14 The Temple of the Amazons at Ephesus (JN 22.5.2009).

Panayir Dağı; Fig. 8), he succeeded in killing the boar. There he founded the first Ephesus, which was relocated several times in the course of history. Imperial coins from Ephesus illustrate this story. A coin minted under the Roman emperor Macrinus (217-218) depicts the entire scene of this founding story. The wild boar is running across Mount Pion: a stylised temple with a cypress tree – the ancient and highly famous sanctuary of Artemis in Ephesus – and the mountain god Pion with the cult image of Artemis on his outstretched right hand and a horn of plenty in his left arm. The latter indicates the hidden abundance of water on the mountain (Fig. 9). Another bronze from the time of emperor Gordian III (238-244) depicts the pursuit of the boar by Androclus on horseback. The boar has already been hit by a spear (Fig. 10). On another coin by Macrinus, Androclus has already dismounted from his horse and is attacking the boar with his lance (fig. 11). A small nominal, again from the Macrinus period, shows only the boar pierced by Androclus' spear (Fig. 12). Finally, we know of an Ephesian bronze from the time of emperor Gallienus (253-268) that depicts Androclus carrying the boar out of the forest – a task that even today's hunters are often not spared (Fig. 13). Androclus' boar hunt is also depicted in a beautiful Ephesian sanctuary dedicated to the Amazons (Figs. 14 and 15).

According to local tradition, boar hunting also played a role in the founding of the Pamphylian city of Aspendos (Nollé 2001, 49 with the ancient literary sources). After the Trojan War (around 1200 BC), Greek heroes are said to have advanced across the Tauros Mountains into the wide plain of Pamphylia. Among them was the Greek hero Mopsos, a son of Apollo. One day, while hunting in the marshes at the mouth of the river Eurymedon (today Köprü Çayı), he managed to kill a huge boar. He had solemnly praised his first kill to the local deity, the twin Aphrodites (Fig. 16). He therefore sacrificed the hunted boar on a table mountain on which he then founded the city of Aspendos. The early silver staters from Aspendos depict Mopsos hunting on horseback – the horses of Aspendos were famous for their speed and endurance – on their obverses and the boar struck by his spear on their reverses (Fig. 17).

The Wild Boar Hunts of Emperor Hadrian

The Roman Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138) was an admirer of Greek culture and a passionate hunter. The hunting heroes of Greek myth were his role models, and throughout the empire he undertook protective hunts in the exercise of his imperial duties for the benefit of the peasants as well as for his own pleasure. He killed mighty bears and dangerous lions, but also hunted the harmful wild boar. The Greco-Roman historian Cassius Dio (LXIX 10, 3) emphasises Hadrian's skill at hunting:

Hadrian was such a skilful hunter that he once even brought down a large boar with a single blow.

The famous Hadrianic round reliefs (tondi), which were later installed in the Arch of Constantine, show hunting scenes of the emperor Hadrian, including a boar hunt (Figs. 18 and 119). A funerary poem on Hadrian's horse Borysthene (the name means 'Coming from the Dniepr') also thematises boar hunting (Geist – Pfohl 1976, 153 f. no. 404):

Borysthene, Alanian imperial horse, who used to fly over pools of water and mire and over hills and scrub against the Pannonian boars. No boar dared to harm its pursuer with its gleaming white teeth. It did, however, wet the tip of its tail with foam flakes from its mouth, as it was wont to do. But unbroken in its youth, uninjured in its limbs, it died on its appointed day; it lies in this field.

A rare Roman bronze medallion immortalised Hadrian's pig hunt on his Borysthene (Fig. 20; cf. Mittag 2012, 95).

A Final Consideration

Ancient coins prove time and again that pig hunts in ancient times were primarily protective hunts. Agriculture had to be protected from these animals, especially as it was not as

productive as ours and hunger could often be the result of the destruction of fields. Hunting wild boar was not easy and often ended fatally. The wild boar was a dangerous enemy of man. In our time, people who do not want to see the realities of life are developing completely absurd, often interspersed with misanthropic ideas. A golden 100-euro piece from the coin series 'Austrian Wildlife', which shows a wild sow with its young, confronts us with an idyllic image of pig life (Fig. 21). It fits at a time when radically ideologised animal rights activists, who are not inclined to take an overall view of reality, care little about the damage caused by wild pigs (or wolves) and call hunters animal killers. But now hordes of wild boar are not only devastating our fields and vineyards, but are increasingly invading our cities and bringing us closer to the realities of nature and life than we would like: Indeed, "We are surrounded by reality", as a German politician has regretfully expressed it these days. What an insight! A sensible look at history, to which coins can also make a significant contribution, would help us to avoid painful mistakes in the assessment of realities.

Johannes Nollé

Geist – Pfohl 1976: H. Geist – G. Pfohl, Römische Grabinschriften, München 21976. — Hull 1964: D.B. Hull, Hounds and Hunting in Ancient Greece, Chicago/London 1964. — Mittag 2012: P.F. Mittag, Römische Medaillons. Caesar bis Hadrian, Stuttgart 22012. — Nollé 2001: J. Nollé, Die Abwehr der wilden Schweine. Schwarzwildjagden im antiken Lykien, München 2001.



Fig. 15: The boar hunt of Androklos on a relief from the Temple of the Amazons at Ephesus, now in Selçuk Museum (JN 22.5.2009).



Fig. 17: Silver drachm from Aspendos with two countermarks, 5th/4th cent. BC: Mopsos riding to the left with raised spear // ΕΣΤΕΕ; a wild boar running away to the right (Künker 347, 22.3.2021, lot 752).



Fig. 21: Republic of Austria, 100 euro in gold, 2014: Boar / sow with young (JN 25.1.2016).



Fig. 16: Bronze coin from Aspendos: ΔΟΜΙΤΙΑΝΟC - KAICA[P]; head of Domitian with laurel wreath to the right // ΑCΠΕΝ-ΔΙΩΝ; the Aphroditai Kastnetides with crowns of gods (poloi) and veiled cloaks in front view (Roma E-Sale 112, 7.9.2023, lot 751).



Fig. 20: Roman bronze medallion: HADRIANVS - AVGSTVS; draped bust of Hadrian with laurel wreath to the right // COS III P P; Hadrian riding his horse Borysthenes and attacking a boar (Hirsch 355, 12.2.2020, lot 2130).



Fig. 19: Rome, Arch of Constantine: The tondo depicting Hadrian's boar hunt (JN 10.1.2012).

Fig. 18: Rome: Arch of Constantine (JN 10.1.2012).



Künker returns two rare gold coins to the Grand Curtis Museum in Liège



Carmen Genten from the Grand Curtis Museum in Liège was delighted to receive the gold coins personally from Fritz Rudolf Künker.

Theft is a widespread offence from which even museums are not spared. The case described here happened more than 40 years ago: In 1980, burglars forced their way into the Grand Curtis Museum in Liège and stole all the coins from the display cases in the permanent exhibition. To this day, nobody knows exactly which objects went missing, because there was no photographic documentation of the coins on display. It was mostly by chance, and thanks to the attention of our colleague M. Druso Franceschi in Brussels, that two rare gold coins from the Bishopric of Liège were identified as belonging to the museum. M. Franceschi, a numismatist, is passionate about his coin business, which he took over from his father.

After receiving Künker’s Auction Catalogue 331 in January 2020, M. Franceschi called his colleague Fritz Rudolf Künker and informed him of the following regrettable situation: By comparing photos from his archive with the photos of lot

numbers 770 and 771 from Künker’s Berlin Auction 331, M. Franceschi was able to clearly ascertain that the Liège rarities we offered must have originated from the burglary at the Grand Curtis Museum.

One was a so-called Griffon d’or o.J. from Liège, which had been minted under John of Bavaria (1389-141. The coin is of great rarity and its preservation was described as “very fine” in our auction catalogue. Its estimated value was 5,000 euros (cf. lot number 770, Auction 331 of 30 January 2020 in Berlin).

The second coin that attracted his attention was a Couronne d’or o.J. from Liège, also minted under John of Bavaria. This piece’s preservation had been described in the catalogue by our numismatists as “very fine” and of great rarity, and had an estimated value of 7,500 euros.

Fritz Rudolf Künker reacted immediately: He withdrew both lot numbers from the auction and called in the police.

The police authorities in Belgium and Germany accepted Fritz Rudolf Künker’s proposal that he himself should personally return the two coins to the museum in Liège. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic it took until 2023 for the curator Carmen Genten to receive the gold coins. However, the joy was no less great when Fritz Rudolf Künker visited the museum in person, and was able to return the coins to their rightful owner.

This case in Belgium shows the importance of photographic and, above all, digital archiving of objects in a museum – and how important it is that many coin cabinets already have digital catalogues. Some of them are even publicly viewable, such as the interactive catalogue of the Coin Cabinet of the National Museums in Berlin (“ikmk”). Here, all objects can be viewed online, searched and found by mint, location, or keyword. The Archaeological Museum in Münster already has a Digital Coin Cabinet as well, where one can explore the coin collection of the University of Münster online. It is well worth a visit.



Auction Sale 331, Lot 770
Belgium. Liège.
John of Bavaria, 1389-1418. Griffon d’or n.d., Liège.
Extremely rare. Slightly polished, very fine.



Auction Sale 331, Lot 771
Belgium. Liège.
Couronne d’or n.d., Liège.
Extremely rare. Very fine.



Click here for the interactive catalog of the Coin Cabinet of the National Museums in Berlin.



Click here for the coin collection of the University of Münster in the digital coin cabinet of the Archaeological Museum in Münster.

Through the eyes of a historian: The British gold double florin from 1868

In the upcoming Auction Sale 400, which will be held in Berlin on 1 February 2024, our auction house can offer its customers a magnificent selection of beautiful and extremely rare gold coins of Great Britain. Of course, the two 5 guinea pieces of William III (one showing him together with Mary Stuart) as well as the two 2 guinea pieces of William (and Mary) and Queen Anne are extremely attractive. The £5 pattern specimen with the effigy of George III and Pistrucci’s St George is a coin that will not be available on the market again so soon, if ever again. Then there is the extremely rare family medal of 65 ducats (230.88 g gold) with the portraits of George II and his wife Wilhelmine Karoline Charlotte of Brunswick-Calenberg-Hanover; their children are depicted around the Prince of Wales on the reverse. There are also many wonderfully preserved large gold pieces of Victoria, Edward VII and George V.

For the historian, however, an extremely rare and excellently preserved gold double florin - a pattern - is the most interesting coin. Among the British coins in this auction, this coin is the smallest gold coin with a diameter of only 15mm and a weight of just 1.63g. On the obverse it shows the portrait of Queen



Auction Sale 400, Lot 502
Victoria, 1837-1901.
2 Florins (5 Francs) 1868, London, from W. Wyon.
Pattern with fluted edge. NGC PF63+ ULTRA CAMEO.
Extremely rare. Proof.
Estimate: 20.000 euros

Victoria with tiara and the usual titulature: VICTORIA, D(ei) G(ratia) BRITANNIAR(um) REGINA, F(idei) D(efensatrix)/Victoria by the Grace of God, Queen of Britannia, Defender of the Faith. The reverse shows the legend DOUBLE | FLORIN | 1868 in a

wreath, with 5 FRANCS above the wreath and INTERNATIONAL below it. The equation of the double gold florin with 5 French francs is probably completely incomprehensible to most of us. There is a great deal of history behind this strange legend of a small gold coin.

During the French Revolution, in 1795, the currency in France was converted to a decimal system, which considerably simplified the handling of money: the starting point of the currency was the franc at 100 centimes. In England, on the other hand, a complicated currency system had emerged that was partly based on the duodecimal system, in which one pound was worth 240 pence and one shilling 12 pence. 20 shillings equalled one pound. Since the late 1840s, there have been debates in Great Britain as to whether the more manageable decimal system should not also be used in the United Kingdom. One approach to this was the introduction of the silver florin, a 2 shilling piece. This made up 1/10 of the pound. The silver florin was to replace the 2 1/2 shilling piece, the so-called half-crown. Between 1850 and 1874, no more half-crowns were minted (cf. Seaby 1990, 155 f.).

On 23 December 1865, France and its neighbouring countries Belgium, Switzerland and Italy joined forces to form a loose monetary union, which was initially intended to unify the decimal-based coinage standards of these countries along the lines of the French franc. Britain initially mocked the initiative of its rival France and referred to the monetary union as the 'Latin Monetary Union', thereby emphasising that this monetary union would and should remain limited to a small circle of 'Latin' states in Central Europe. Great Britain feared an increase in the power of France.

The French soul of this monetary union, the jurist, economist and politician Félix Marie Louis Pierre Esquiou de Parieu (1815-1893), also had France's advantages in mind when it came to this monetary union, but was also striving for a common European economic and peace order. He even argued in favour of calling this currency 'Europe'. He thus became the mental father of the Euro. In 1867, he organised a conference in Paris, which was also attended by Great Britain. There it was suggested that the golden 5 franc coin should be the basis of

this currency system. In Great Britain, there were numerous supporters of participation in the monetary union. They feared that Britain's trade with the continent would suffer if it did not participate in the monetary union. However, in the UK the critics of monetary union prevailed, rivalling France and fearing the costs of changing the monetary system. Great Britain, which was at the height of its prosperity and power at the time, did not join the Latin Monetary Union and counted its money traditionally until 15 February 1971. Only then was the decimal system introduced. It has retained its resistance to a European monetary union to this day.

The Italian economics professor Luca Einaudi (Einaudi 2000) has attempted to show in a fundamental essay on the Latin Monetary Union that there were serious considerations in Great Britain to join this union. He thus contradicts other scholars. The golden double florin is the most important proof that he has correctly assessed the situation. Ideas of joining the monetary union had even taken material form, as this specimen shows. As joining did not materialise for the reasons mentioned

above, only a few specimens were minted and even fewer have survived. Unfortunately, Einaudi did not include these patterns in his considerations. Even for modern history, coins can be extremely important evidence and should therefore be given more attention.

The gold double florin specimen is therefore a historically highly important coin that not only relates to a dramatic event in its year of minting, but also points far beyond 1868. This gold piece is closely linked to the years 1999/2002 - the years in which the Euro was introduced.

Johannes Nollé

Einaudi 2000. L.L. Einaudi, From the Franc to the 'Europe': The Attempted Transformation of the Latin Monetary Union into a European Monetary Union, 1865-1873, The Economic History Review, NS 53,2, 2000, 284-308.

Seaby 1990. P. Seaby, The Story of British Coinage, London 21990 (1985).

Künker Lectures in Speyer, Hamburg, and Berlin

As part of our sponsorship of numismatic associations, our Scientific Consultant Professor Johannes Nollé gave lectures in Speyer (5 July), Hamburg (19 September) and Berlin (21 September).



Fig. 1: Künker Auction 158, 28 September 2009, Lot 295.
01 Stater from Aspendos, late 5th/early 4th cent. BC: Wrestler // Slinger, in the field a horse's forepart and helmet

In the lecture for which he travelled to Speyer on 5 July, he spoke about 'Horses and Horse Breeding in the Tauros Mountains of Asia Minor'. This subject forms part of the broad as well as popular topic 'Horses on Coins'. Many collectors of the very active Speyer association, which is headed by Dr Wolfgang Dreher, had noticed the numerous cities in the catchment area of the Tauros Mountains that minted bronze coins with depictions of horses, e.g. Arykanda in Lycia, Termessos in Pisidia, Aspendos in Pamphylia and Kaisareia in Cappadocia. The name Aspendos is interpreted by linguists as 'horse city', which is not surprising if one considers the literary tradition that Aspendos had to pay tribute to the Persian Great King in the form of horses. The front part of a horse functioned as the city's coat of arms and appears not only on the city's small bronze coins, but also on its staters and the Alexander tetradrachms (Fig. 1). There are also a number of equestrian deities depicted on coins from South Asia Minor. The mythical winged horse Pegasus also comes from Asia Minor mythology and is closely associated with the gods of the Tauros Mountains. Before the Greeks adopted it, the Piḡaššašši horse was the lightning carrier of the Luwian thunder god. The Greeks, who did not understand its name, turned it into a horse that made springs gush with its hoof. They associated the name Pegasos with the Greek word for spring (pegé). Pegasos became the horse of the muses and poets because it also tapped a spring out of the rock with its hoof on Mount Helikon, the home of the Muses. Today it is depicted on the gables of many theatres and opera houses. In one of the next issues of Exklusiv, Johannes Nollé will present this lecture to our readers.

On 19 September, Johannes Nollé gave a lecture on 'Wild boars on coins' to the Verein der Münzenfreunde in Hamburg. The

chairman of the association, Dr Ralf Wiechmann, had requested this lecture when a ghost lion in Berlin made a name for itself, which ultimately turned out to be a wild boar. In this issue of Exklusiv, Johannes Nollé presents our customers, who were unable to attend the lecture in Hamburg, some aspects of the interaction of ancient man with the wild boar.

Two days after the lecture in Hamburg, Johannes Nollé was a guest of Professor Bernhard Weisser at the Berlin Coin Cabinet. A long friendship connects him with the director of the Berlin Coin Cabinet since he co-supervised Weisser's doctoral thesis, which fundamentally catalogued and evaluated the imperial coins of Pergamon. In an online lecture, the two numismatists discussed two approaches to ancient coins, which can be described as the Imhoof-Blumer- and the Robert-method. Imhoof-Blumer (1838-1920), the important Swiss collector and numismatist, took the study of Asia Minor city coins an enormous step forward with his catalogues and essays. Above all, he endeavoured to understand the images and thus the messages of the coins by recording the material as completely as possible. An important part of his collections can be found today in the Berlin Coin Cabinet. The French historian, archaeologist, epigraphist and numismatist Louis Robert (1904-1985), who above all catapulted Greek epigraphy from the Middle Ages into modern times, was also a numismatist of far-reaching effectiveness and importance. His approach to ancient money consisted of using all available documents – literary written sources, the evidence of inscriptions and papyri, archaeological monuments and findings – combined with intimate local knowledge to understand the coins. The successes that can be achieved in this way have been demonstrated above all in his books 'A travers l'Asie Mineure. Poètes et prosateurs, monnaies grecques, voyageurs et géographie (= Bibliothèque des Écoles Françaises

d'Athènes et de Rome. 239), Athens/Paris 1980' and 'Documents de l'Asie Mineure, Athens/Paris 1987'. Robert has also shown that coins found in certain locations can be important for the identification of ancient sites: 'F. Delrieux, Les monnaies du Fonds Louis Robert (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres), Mémoire de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres 45, Paris 2012'. This research approach is particularly important for the Berlin Coin Cabinet, which is currently working on its coins of Mysia and Troas. In the end, Bernhard Weisser and Johannes Nollé agreed that the main problem with Robert's method is that it requires a comprehensive and at the same time in-depth mastery of the various disciplines of classical studies and can therefore have a daunting effect with its enormous demands. We must be grateful for every contribution to numismatics, regardless of whether it comes from professional numismatists working at universities, research institutes or museums, from collectors or from the trade. We are already few enough!



Fig. 2: Friedrich Imhoof-Blumer c. 1862 (Wikipedia, Winterthur Libraries 171925).



Fig. 3: Louis Robert as a member of the Academy (Académies des inscriptions et belles-lettres, fonds Louis Robert)

The Borki Train Disaster

On 29 October 1888, the Russian imperial train derailed near the village of Borki. 23 people lost their lives. The tsar’s family survived. A medal commemorates the event. It will be offered in our 400th Auction Sale on 1 February 2024.

It is probably the most unusual medal in Russian numismatics, the piece struck to commemorate the Borki train disaster on 29 October 1888. It depicts the tsar's family, not in the typical representative pose but in a somewhat private setting, wearing their travel attire. We will offer this about FDC medal on 1 February 2024 in the context of our Berlin Auction Sale at an estimate of 6,000 euros. Whereas the bronze variety of this medal appears on the market every now and then, the silver pieces are particularly rare.



Auction 400, Lot 641.
Obverse of the 1888 Russian silver medal.
Extremely rare. About FDC.
Estimate: 6,000 euros

A Carefully Composed Snapshot

Although the depicted scene looks like a casual snapshot of the family after the accident, we are dealing with a carefully composed image. At the center is Tsar Alexander III. He is wearing a long military coat and a peaked cap. In a protective gesture, his arm is around his wife Maria Feodorovna.

To his right is the heir to the throne, Tsarevich Nicholas who was to become Nicholas II. He puts his arm protectively around his thirteen-year-old sister Xenia. To the left is seventeen-year-old George, in the foreground the two youngest children – at the time of the train disaster they were 10 and 6 years old. On this medal, they were allowed to act according to their age for once: little Michael, known to his family as Floppy, stubbornly puts his hands in his coat pockets and stares into space in shock. Olga, the youngest, runs to her dad to be comforted, her hair blowing and her skirt flying.

It becomes clear that Avenir Grigoryevich Griliches, who was employed by the imperial mint in St. Petersburg, created a sophisticated balance between an informal and a representative setting if you compare the depiction to a photograph that was taken soon after.

The Borki Train Disaster

But how did the terrible accident come about? In mid-October 1888, the tsar and his family traveled from their summer residence on Crimea to St. Petersburg. The imperial train was set up for this purpose as usual. It was pulled by two steam locomotives. This was necessary since the 15 wagons and their 64 axles carried significantly more weight than any passenger train. To avoid any compromise in terms of speed, the train was in need of more power.



Photograph of the imperial family, ca. 1889, taken by Sergei Lvovich Levitsky.

the wrecked car crushed and mutilated. 21 people died at the scene of the accident. 68 were seriously injured, two of them so badly that they passed away shortly afterwards.

While the injured were cared for and the dead identified, the second imperial train was already on its way to Borki, where it arrived at night. It took the imperial family directly to St. Petersburg.

It did not take long for a rumor to spread that was also repeated by Sergei Witte, who was in charge of investigating the causes of the accident. He wrote: "Although several aboard were injured, the Emperor and his family escaped injury. In fact the Emperor and his family might have been killed but for his [the Emperor's] tremendous strength. They were in the dining room when its roof collapsed, but he was able to support it on his back, thus permitting the others to leave the car safely. Then, in his characteristically calm and gentle manner, he left the car and gave comfort and aid to those who were suffering. It was only because of his strength, calm, and kindness that nothing worse happened."

On 29 October – 17 October according to the Julian Calendar – the train passed the section between Kharkov (today's Kharkiv) and Rostov. Near Borki (today's Birky) station, the train was traveling at 68 kilometers per hour on a slightly sloping track that led over a railway embankment of about 10 meters of height. Then, the train derailed. Carriages two to eight fell down the embankment.

A Miracle? A Heroic Deed?

At the time of the disaster, the imperial family was in the dining car for breakfast. Empress Maria Feodorovna described what came next: "At the very moment we were having breakfast, we felt a strong impact and immediately afterwards a second one, whereupon we all found ourselves on the floor, everything around us began to sway, fall and collapse. Everything was crashing and cracking like doomsday! At the very last second I saw Sasha, who was sitting across from me at the narrow table, collapse... At that moment, I instinctively closed my eyes so that they would not be harmed by the shards of glass and everything else that was falling on us. Everything was rumbling and crunching, and then suddenly there was dead silence, as if no one were alive."

In fact, the imperial family was extremely lucky. It was nothing short of a miracle that they crawled out of the overturned train carriage with only minor bruises, abrasions and scratches. Right in front of the dining car was the kitchen and service car. The people in it were pulled out from



General view of the reverse.



Complete view of the reverse.



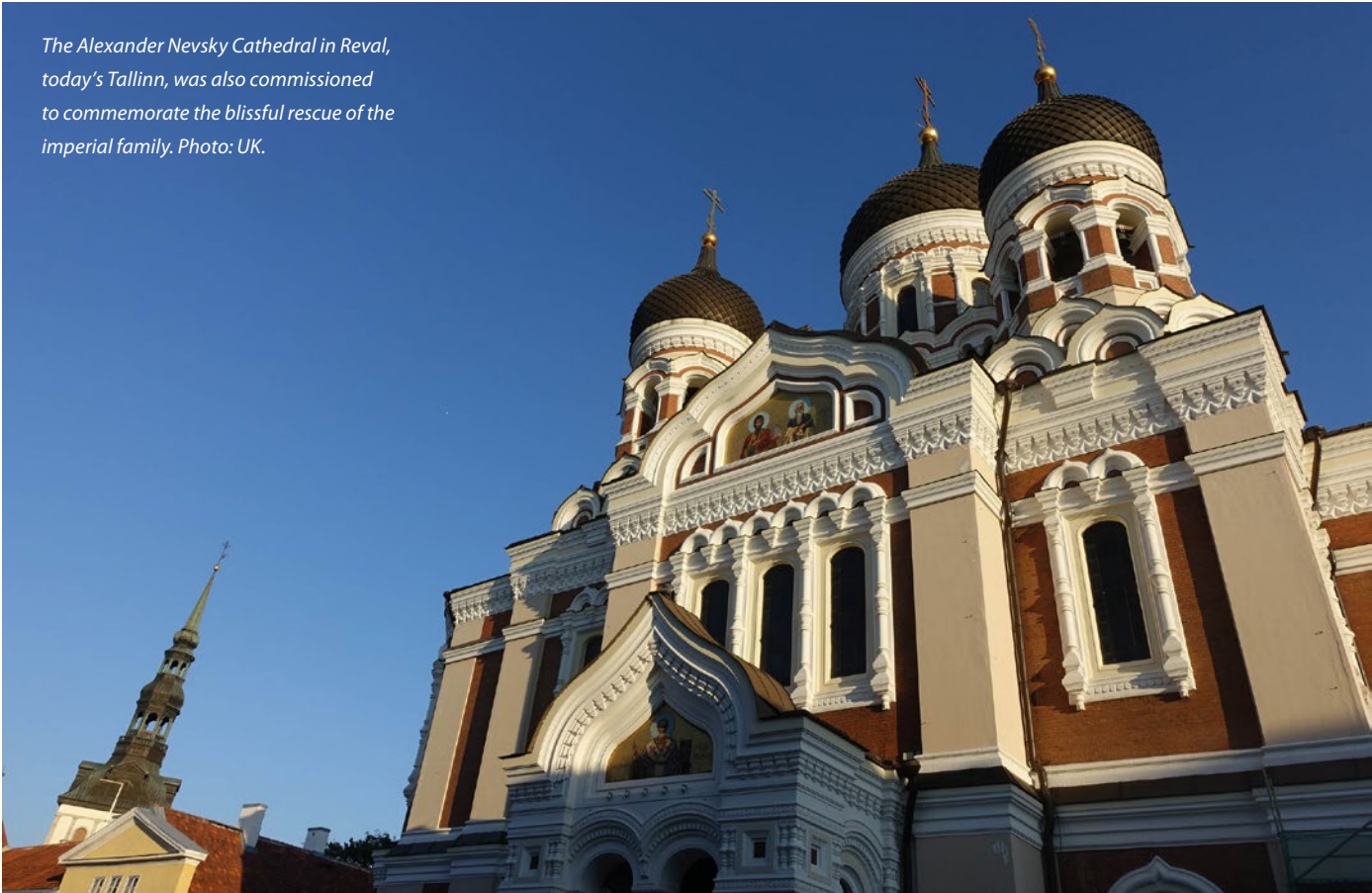
Photo of the derailed train.

The Miraculous Rescue as a Great PR Tool for the Romanovs

All over Russia, church services were held to thank God for having spared the imperial family. In religious Russia, this was considered a particular sign of mercy. God himself approved of the tsar's rule, so to speak. Why else would he have stood by him during the disaster?

This is the very message that is conveyed by the depiction on the medal. It shows a guardian angel in front of a kneeling woman, whom we can interpret as the personification of the Russian Empire. On a cushion in front of her are the imperial crown and the scepter, and she prays to the guardian angel to protect them. The circumscription emphasizes this interpretation. Its translation reads: your guardian angel will protect you wherever you may go.

The medal is just one piece of an extensive propaganda campaign, heavily drawing on the divine protection of the Romanovs. This includes numerous church buildings, not only near the place where the disaster occurred. Both in Reval on the Baltic Sea, and in Yaroslavl about 300 kilometers north of Moscow as well as in today's Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, churches were built. Many of these churches were privately funded to demonstrate one's loyalty to the tsar.



The Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Reval, today's Tallinn, was also commissioned to commemorate the blissful rescue of the imperial family. Photo: UK.

This is also the background of the many icons that represent the seven name patrons of the imperial family. The archetype icon was recreated after the railway accident and numerous copies of it were spread throughout the country. It bears the legend: "Commemorating the miraculous rescue of the Sovereign Emperor and his entire imperial family from the danger that threatened them when the train derailed on the Kursk-Kharkov-Azov line between the Taranovka and Borki stations on 17 October 1888." Many Russians that were loyal to the emperor purchased such an icon to display it in their "red corner".

Who Was to Blame for the Disaster?

Regardless of whether it was a miracle or not, the accident was a disaster for the reputation of the railway as a safe means of transport! We know how people react when a new technology shows its limits: they get afraid. And the Russian Empire with its endless territory simply could not afford its citizens to be afraid.

The railway was needed to open up the country for industrialization. The railway enabled Russia to transport raw materials and finished goods in a cheap and reliable manner. Therefore, expanding the railway line was at the top of the agenda. In 1855, the railway system comprised as few as 1,000



This type of icon was created to commemorate the rescue of the imperial family.

kilometers. By the late 1880s, this number had grown to more than 22,000 kilometers and the government had started to plan the Trans-Siberian Railway.

The tsar himself had to make sure that people did not lose faith in this new means of transport. Thus, a commission was set up to decide on the matter. However, opinions were split. Count Witte was probably right when he said: "What I had warned against had happened: because of their weight the locomotives began to sway when they reached the speed called for, then loosened some rails and jumped the track, taking the rest of the train with them down an embankment."

Not a Unique Occurrence in Railway History

The Borki train disaster is just one of many terrible accidents in railway history, some of which caused many more people to lose their lives. The fact that particular accident became so well-known is due to its famous passengers and the sophisticated PR campaign it was used for.

Ursula Kampmann

Künker at the Lake – The Künker Representative Office in Constance

Our representative office for orders and decorations has been located in Constance in the south of Baden-Württemberg, on the picturesque shores of Lake Constance, for over fifteen years. The historic former episcopal, free Austrian Empire town on the border to Switzerland had the sovereign right of coinage for many centuries and minted coins in gold and silver, making it an ideal location for us as an auction house.



The order experts and their assistant from our representative office in Constance: Frank Wörner, Tanja Pfeiffer and Michael Autengruber.

Our Department of Orders and Decorations is located here, with its very extensive specialist phaleristics library, one of the largest in the world. Our representative, Dipl. Theol. Michael Autengruber, is our leading expert in the Department of Orders, as it is commonly known.

Michael Autengruber was born in Constance in 1961 and studied Catholic theology in Freiburg im Breisgau and Rome, graduating with a degree in theology. After training as a banker in Freiburg i. Br., he worked for a major German bank in Freiburg i. Br., Offenburg and Frankfurt am Main for several years. Since 1983 he has worked part-time and since 2002 full-time as a specialist dealer in German and foreign orders and decorations. Finally, he has been employed as our expert for orders and decorations since 1999. He is also active as a phaleristics expert and an expert witness for other German and foreign auction houses, museums, and investigative and judicial authorities. He is the author of numerous specialist articles and other publications in Germany and abroad.

For many years, Michael Autengruber has been supported in his work by Tanja Pfeiffer, M. A., as an assistant in the preparation of the auction catalogues and in his research activities, as well as in the back office of the representative branch. More recently, Frank Wörner of Stuttgart also joined the team as an assistant for the descriptions of German orders and decorations. He is an acknowledged expert on German fire service awards and the Federal Order of Merit, among other areas. We were also able to recruit Sascha Wöschler of Karlsruhe, a very experienced medal dealer, for a future external control function for German honours.

We began offering medals and decorations in our fifth coin auction sale in October 1986, and this was continued and expanded in subsequent auctions. The 103rd auction in June 2005 was our first auction sale dedicated completely to orders and decorations. Since then, 18 such order auctions have been held as floor auction sales; and since 2017, 18 eLive

Auctions have also been held online only. With our help, over 38,000 lots have found new owners since 2005: lots including orders, decorations, medal miniatures, medal-adorned and miniature buckles, badges and small insignia, certificates, documents and specialist phaleristics literature. Prices have risen, often quite significantly, during this period for various reasons. This has occurred not least due to the developments in the price of gold.

Orders and decorations are by their very nature not coins. Although some of them consist of medals which can be worn, many have other forms, and feature embellishment such as enamelling. Coins have a history of origin, a history of use (circulation), and then a collection history, which is explained by the associated provenances. The picture is somewhat different with orders and decorations. Here, too, there is a history of origin that deals with the foundation of the respective award and its rules (statutes). However, the essential significance of the individual objects is shown here in the historical analysis of an object's use, which deals with the history of its production and awarding. Finally, there is the history of its collection, which is also illustrated by its provenance.

Thus, in areas where not much can be established numismatically, with phaleristics things can get really interesting: Who made the object (in the long period of possible conferrals), who awarded it to whom, and for what reason? Which documents provide information about this? Where are the names of the bearers archived? In what overall context was the award made? These are just a few individual questions that may be of general interest in connection with the description of an order, a decoration, or a badge of honour.

All German and foreign orders and decorations and other objects in our order auction sales are received in Osnabrück, whence they are sent to Constance by "value transport". Here, after being documented and classified by Tanja Pfeiffer, they are processed in detail by Michael Autengruber and

Frank Wörner to the best of their knowledge and belief in accordance with long-established scientific principles; they are then examined, described for our catalogues and arranged in the order of the auction. The presentation of their historical contexts is also developed, and forms an important component of the catalogues.

Ad multos annos!



Auction 395, Lot 324
Principality of Bulgaria (1878-1908).
Order of "St. Alexander".
Estimate: 20,000 euros,
Hammer price: 95,000 euros

Imprint

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