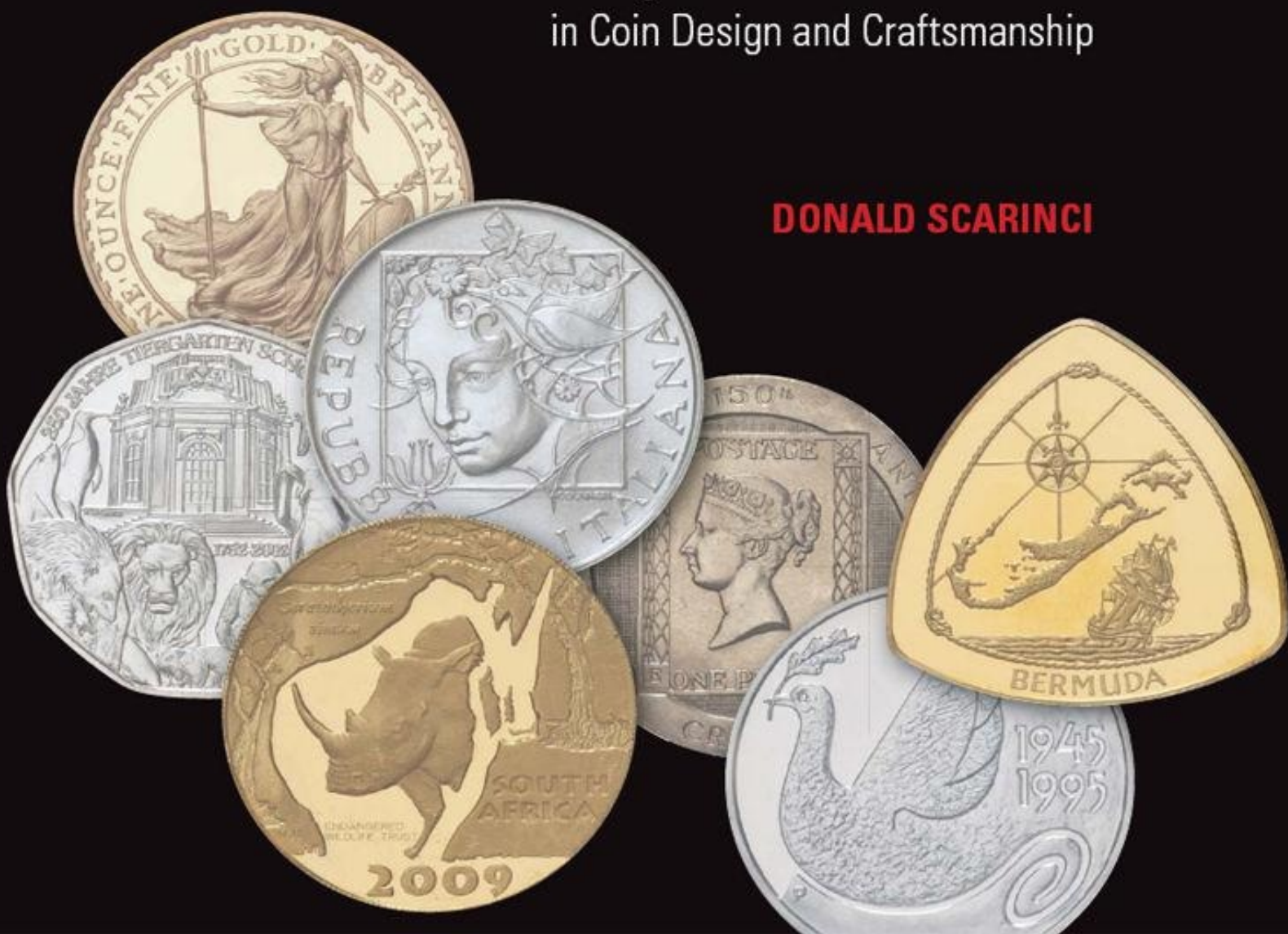


COIN *of the* YEAR

Celebrating Three Decades of the Best
in Coin Design and Craftsmanship

DONALD SCARINCI



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INTRODUCTION

A Celebration of Achievement

By Donald Scarinci

An award for excellence in coinage design first issued in 1984 by Krause Publications in Iola, Wisconsin, has become the ultimate international recognition of mints and their artists, growing into the community's most coveted award for contemporary world coins.

Today, artists and mints worldwide openly compete for one of the Krause Coin of the Year categories. The announcement of the Coin of the Year is one of the highlights of the annual World Money Fair, and the winner is internationally celebrated. Any remaining mintage of the winner quickly sells out and coin values rise dramatically on the secondary market. This is, indeed, solid evidence of the global acceptance, standing and success of the annual award.

The Coin of the Year Award had a humble origin as a pet project of Krause Publications' founder Chester "Chet" Krause and former Krause Publications' President and CEO Clifford "Cliff" Mishler. By highlighting medallic art with merit, Mishler hoped to encourage world mints to improve the art of coins. Few could have imagined how the brainchild of these two pioneering men would be so well received today.

An international panel of judges nominates and votes for coins in each category. Category winners then compete for the grand prize—the Krause Coin of the Year.

The first award in 1984 began a tradition of honoring coins that were minted two years prior to the ceremony. Thus, the inaugural Coin of the Year went to the United States Mint for Elizabeth Jones' 1982 design of the George Washington Commemorative half dollar. This inspiring design, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, was the first commemorative coin issued in the United States since 1954, when the previous program was suspended.

The United States and Canada were the first winners, causing concern that the award would be myopic in focus, gazing only at the design work done in North America. Those fears were set aside when Finland won the award in 1987 for its 1985 design, "Kalevala National Epic." This was the first time a coin with what could be considered a modernist design was selected for international recognition by the Krause judges.

By 1990, with the Coin of the Year going to Albania for its 1988 dated silver 50-Leke "Railroads" design, the prestigious award began to gain acceptance as an international award. The 50-Leke is a five-ounce silver round with a piercing that invites the viewer to follow the path of a train as it goes through a tunnel. With the coin's selection, the Krause judges made

it clear they viewed coins as three-dimensional objects, not merely pretty pictures on metal. The award to Albania in 1990 validated the Coin of the Year as a truly international award of merit for innovation and artistic excellence in world coins.

When the award began, an overall Coin of the Year was selected as well as six category winners: Most Popular; Most Historically Significant; Most Artistic; Best Gold Coin; Best Silver Coin; and Best Crown. Through the years, as the competition evolved, other categories were added – and some removed – to bring the total number of judged categories to ten. The later categories were: Most Inspirational; Best Contemporary Event (defined as an event within the last 100 years); Most Innovative; Best Bi-Metallic; and Best Circulating.

As interest in the Coin of the Year has surged, a fascinating offshoot of the program has emerged – collecting the winning coins. I've found collecting Coin of the Year coins a rewarding experience. Assembling a collection of the main winners is challenging enough to be fun; but, with the exception of the gold and platinum issues, the winning coins are not excessively expensive to collect. Some have small mintages, but that does not translate into big price tags.

Selecting a category like Most Historical, where Krause defines “historical” as the passage of at least 100 years, is like taking a survey class in world history from the point of view of the coin-issuing country. A coin like the 1986 dated Austria 500-Schilling, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the first dollar with a set of coins from each of the six current mints, is a wonderful gateway to study the origin and history of the dollar denomination around the world.

A quick scan of the topics chosen by coin-issuing authorities expands your perception of what a country considers to be its important events, or of its contributions to the world, such as the 1995 German 10 Mark commemorative for the 100th anniversary of the X-ray. The 2003 Australia silver 10 Dollar “Evolution of the Alphabet” coin is a fascinating piece and a wonderfully curious subject for that country to choose.

A collection of the Most Inspirational would begin with the 1993 Poland 300,000 Zlotych, which marked the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The coins that have received this award range from the 1996 Paralympics silver dollar from the United States to the 2006 Pink Ribbon 25-cent coin from the Royal Canadian Mint, struck to raise breast cancer awareness.

The Best Contemporary Event category, added in 1996 with the award for the 1994 United Kingdom 50 Pence commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy, is a wonderful way to study more modern history. These coins remind us of the ancient Greek and Roman practice of using coins as the newspapers of their day, communicating a message or persuading the public of the benefit of a leader, event or building.

A collection of these coins includes subjects ranging from the 1997 South Africa 1 Rand honoring the first heart transplant to the 2000 German 10 Mark celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the German reunification. These coins are as interesting for their designs as they are for the topics they commemorate.

Perhaps my favorite category is Most Innovative. As a group, these coins show the modern history of technological innovations in the process of making coins. The first coin in the Most Innovative category was the 1988 Albania 50 Leke, a large coin commemorating railroads. This large, impressive coin featured a piercing to represent part of a tunnel, a radical departure and advancement of coin design. A collection of these coins shows the evolution of minting technology and the willingness of world mints to experiment. They include coins on planchets that are not flat, like the 2001 France 1 Franc coin, and coins with non-metallic substances, like the 2009 British Indian Ocean Territory's 2 Pounds "Life of the Turtle."

A quick scan through the images in this book reveals the richness and diversity of medallic art spanning the last quarter century. In the early 1980s, Cliff Mishler and Chet Krause could not have anticipated that the dramatic embrace of modernism in medallic art that began at the end of WWII would become accepted as the norm on circulating world coin designs. The coins illustrated throughout this book are exceptional examples of the evolution of world coin design and provide a permanent record of the art of coins for this period.

Since ancient times, the artisans who created coins used in commerce were artists whose technique was ever evolving, carefully studied and appreciated as much as the monumental works in public squares and buildings. It is well known today that the most widely reproduced works of arts in the world are not housed in museums, but rather sit in the hands of commerce. Countless millions of Victor David Brenner's 1909 depiction of Abraham Lincoln have been appreciated and recognized around the world by countless millions of people. It is not "just a coin." It is a work of art.

The pages of this book present a contemporary history of the world and a history of contemporary art. Most of the coins remain available and affordable. A collection of coins in any one of the categories makes an attractive visual display, providing hours of fun and learning.

As a member of the U.S. Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, I have hope that the many beautiful coin designs produced around the world will inspire American artists. Recent developments within the United States Mint are beginning to show a willingness to explore techniques like reverse proof, concave coins, and even higher relief. This is indeed an exciting time in numismatics and we owe a debt to Cliff Mishler, Chet Krause and all of the people who make the Krause Coin of the Year possible.

1984 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1982



COIN OF THE YEAR

United States, 50-Cent, Silver, *250th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington*



It is fitting that the first coin selected as the Coin of the Year for the new award program was the first United States commemorative coin issued by the United States Mint since 1954. It won in both the Most Popular and the Most Historically Significant categories as well.

The coin theme selected to restart the United States commemorative coin program after a 28-year hiatus was the 250th anniversary of the birth of President George Washington. The task of designing the obverse and the reverse of this coin was assigned to Elizabeth Jones, Chief Sculptor and Engraver of the United States Mint.

The obverse bears the image of Washington on horseback wearing his uniform as General of the Continental Army. The image is cropped to allow Washington to appear prominently centered and seated erect as the curves in the horse flow with the curve of the coin and the horse's head occupies the right field to balance the word "Liberty" on the left.

The reverse depicts Mount Vernon, home of George and Martha Washington and the place where the President Washington was said to love more than any other place. Jones again uses the sloping landscape of Mount Vernon to create a slight curve at the bottom third of the design. The low angle creates the right perspective for one of the nicest depictions of buildings on coins ever created by a United States Mint artist.

Since the United States Mint had been out of the commemorative coin market for a long time and since the subject involved the most important man in the history of the United States, Congress authorized a maximum mintage of 10 million coins; 4,894,044 were actually minted. The Proof coins were manufactured at the San Francisco Mint and the uncirculated coins were made in Philadelphia.

While these coins are considered common, the Denver Mint State coins in MS69 are extremely rare and MS70 examples exist only in theory. The Proof coins, as usual with United States coins, are available and can be found in Proof-69 and Proof-70.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT, MOST POPULAR

United States, 50-Cent, Silver, *250th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington*



MOST ARTISTIC, BEST GOLD

Canada, 100-Dollar, Gold, *New Constitution 1982*





BEST SILVER

Panama, 20-Balboa, Silver, *Balboa's Discovery of the Pacific Ocean*



BEST CROWN

China, 20-Yuan, Silver, *Year of the Dog*



1985 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1983



COIN OF THE YEAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, Olympics Discus Thrower



The United States issued three coins to commemorate the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles, California. The first of the three coins, and only the second dollar denomination commemorative coin ever issued by the United States Mint, received the Coin of the Year Award for coins dated 1983. It also won the award for Most Popular Coin and Best Crown.

The discus throw lays claim to one of the events of the ancient pentathlon dating back to at least 700 B.C. The perfect form of the athlete coiled to make the throw is an image long associated with the Olympics. It was an appropriate choice to celebrate the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, which also hosted the games in 1932.

The obverse design of a discus thrower was inspired by the ancient work of the sculptor Myron. Elizabeth Jones, the Chief Sculptor and Engraver of the United States Mint at the time, depicted the ancient art in a new and modern way by using a sculptural blur effect to show motion. The athlete is outlined twice and appears balanced toward the left of center with the Summer Olympic logo, also outlined twice on both sides in the right obverse field.

Jones depicts the bust of an eagle on the reverse. The eagle's head appears bold and proud against the inner ring containing the legend.

Congress optimistically authorized a maximum mintage of 50 Million coins for the three-coin set. Less than 1.2 million coins of all three coins in the set were sold. The 1983 silver dollar was by far the most popular of the three, accounting for more than half of the mintage of the set.

The uncirculated version of the 1983 Discus Thrower was minted in both Philadelphia and Denver. Proof versions were minted in San Francisco. None are particularly hard to find in high grades of MS69 or Proof-69.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
China, 5-Yuan, Silver, *Marco Polo*



MOST POPULAR, BEST CROWN
United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Olympics Discus Thrower*





MOST ARTISTIC

British Virgin Islands, 5-Dollar, Silver, *Yellow Warbler*



BEST GOLD (TIED)

Egypt, 100-Pound, Gold, *Cleopatra VII*





BEST GOLD (TIED)

China, 100-Yuan, Gold, *Panda*



BEST SILVER

China, 10-Yuan, Silver, *Panda and Cub*



1986 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1984



COIN OF THE YEAR

Canada, 100-Dollar, Gold, *450th Anniversary of Jacques Cartier Voyage of Discovery*



The Canadian \$100 gold commemorative coin honoring the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's Voyage of Discovery won the Coin of the Year Award for coins dated 1984, becoming the first international winner. The judges also selected it as the winner in the Most Historically Significant coin. The impressive Canadian coin also tied with the Isle of Mann's first bullion gold coin for Best Gold Coin.

Canada's Cartier coin is part of a series of gold commemoratives. This one commemorates Jacques Cartier's landing at Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. On April 20, 1534, Cartier set sail to "discover certain islands and lands where it is said that a great quantity of gold and other precious things are to be found." After some exploring in Newfoundland, he landed in Gaspé Bay and on July 24, 1534, he claimed the territory in the name of the King of France. This and his subsequent adventures solidified the French claims to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Royal Canadian Mint held a competition to design this coin. Carola Tietz design was chosen over about 60 competitors. Unlike Elizabeth Jones at the United States Mint, Tietz had only designed two previous coins for the Canadian Mint. She designed the 1979 "Year of the Child" gold coin and a 1983 silver dollar commemorating the World University games in Edmonton. Walter Ott engraved the coin.

The obverse of the coin shows the portrait of Elizabeth II designed by A. Machin. The security lettering used on the edge of coins in 1983 was not continued in 1984.

The Royal Canadian Mint displayed the coin at the opening of the Canada Pavilion during the 1984 Expo in Quebec and it was made available for sale to the public shortly thereafter. The Cartier commemorative 22kt gold coin exists only in proof. A total of 67,662 were minted so they are not terribly scarce in high grades up to MS69.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

France, 100-Franc, Gold, *Two Time Nobel Prize Winner Marie Curie*



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT, BEST GOLD

Canada, 100-Dollar, Gold, *450th Anniversary of Jacques Cartier's Voyage of Discovery*





MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *XXIII Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California*



MOST ARTISTIC, BEST SILVER

Panama, 20-Balboa, Silver, *Balboa Discovers the Pacific Ocean*





BEST GOLD

Isle of Man, 1 Angel, Gold, *Archangel Michael Slaying the Dragon*



BEST CROWN

Barbados, 10-Dollar, Silver, *Three Dolphins*



1987 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1985



COIN OF THE YEAR

Finland 50-Markkaa, Silver, *Kalevala National Epic*



In addition to being named Coin of the Year, this remarkable offering from Finland won awards in three categories for coins dated 1985: Best Silver, Best Crown and Most Artistic.

Finland had broken the pictorial barrier on coin designs as early as the 1960s with coins like the 10-Markkaa honoring its 50th Anniversary of Independence (KM50) and other coins. However, the acknowledgement by the international community, including the still heavily weighted North American Coin of the Year jury panel, signaled an evolution in aesthetic preferences favoring a more abstract coin design.

The coin celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Kalevala, the Finnish national epic. This poem was part of the Finnish oral tradition for over 2,000 years. In 1835, Elias Lonnrot edited the poem and published it for the first time along with other epic poems in the Balto-Finnic language.

The obverse of the coin depicts trees reflected in the water of the Finnish countryside. The reverse depicts the hero of the epic poem standing amidst stylized waves.

Just as the publication of the Kalevala brought Finnish language and culture to the attention of the European community when it was published in 1835, this coin brought attention to Finnish medallic art and coin design to the world community for the first time in 1987.

Reijo Paavilainen and Tapio Nevalainen designed the coin. Paavilainen has been a member of The Guild of Medallic Art in Finland and has had the honor of designing several of their annual medals. His medallic art is a part of the permanent display at the Tampere Art Museum.

With its mintage of 300,000, this coin is relatively available, although grades above MS65 are scarce. The coin carries a privy mark, P-N, which probably stands for the designer and sculptor. No proof version was struck.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT (TIED)

Austria, 500-Schilling, Silver, *2000th Anniversary of Bregenz*



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT (TIED)

India, 100-Rupee, Silver, *Indira Ghandi Memorial*



MOST POPULAR

Canada, 20-Dollar, Silver, *Olympics 1988 Downhill Skiing*



BEST GOLD

United Kingdom, 5-Pound, Gold, *Saint George Slaying the Dragon*





BEST SILVER, BEST CROWN

Finland, 50-Markkaa, Silver, *Kalevala National Epic*



BEST TRADE

Australia, 1 Dollar, Copper-Aluminum-Nickel, *Kangaroos*



1988 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1986



COIN OF THE YEAR

United States, Five-Dollar, Gold, *Centennial of the Statue of Liberty*



The United States Congress authorized the first \$5 gold coin since 1929 to honor the 100th Anniversary of the gift from France of the Statute of Liberty. It won the award for Most Popular Coin and became an obvious choice for Coin of the Year for coins dated 1986.

This was the third time in five years that the United States Mint took top honors. It was also the third time the Coin of the Year was awarded to a coin designed by Elizabeth Jones. The only woman to serve as Chief Engraver at the United States Mint, Jones is the only designer to receive the highest honor for her work three times. Jones served the U.S. Mint with distinction from 1981 to 1990.

For the United States, this would be the last Coin of the Year award until 2002. Criticism of the program having a North American prejudice was growing by 1988, something award founder Chester “Chet” Krause was aware of and feared would damage the goal of the program. Mr. Krause took steps to re-organize the judging process and in doing so secured the status of the Coin of the Year award as a truly international award of honor.

Both the proof and mint state versions of the gold coin were minted at the West Point Mint and bear the “W” mint mark. These were the first gold coins produced at West Point which would later be used to strike the American Gold Eagle coin series and other precious metal United States coins.

These coins were sold individually and as sets. Like many of the early modern United States commemoratives, the mintage was high with 95,248 sold. They are reasonably available in high grades of MS69 and Proof-69.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Austria, 500-Schilling, Silver, *500th Anniversary of the Striking of the First Thaler Coin*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 5-Dollar, Gold, *Bicentennial of the Statue of Liberty*





MOST ARTISTIC

Western Samoa, 25-Tala, Silver, *Voyage of Kon-Tiki*



BEST GOLD

Japan, 100,000-Yen, Gold, *60th Year of the Reign of Emperor Hirohito*





BEST SILVER AND BEST CROWN

Canada, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Centennial of Vancouver*



BEST TRADE (TIED)

Japan, 500-Yen, Cupronickel, *60th Year of the Reign of Emperor Hirohito*





BEST TRADE (TIED)

Greece, 50 Drachmes, Aluminum-Bronze, *Homer*



1989 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1987



COIN OF THE YEAR

United Kingdom, 100-Pound, Gold, *Britannia*



It was a memorable year for the British Royal Mint. The Mint's 100-Pound gold Britannia, minted in 1987, was named not only the Coin of the Year but also the Best Gold Coin and Most Artistic Coin. It was an auspicious beginning for the first year of the British Royal Mint's gold bullion program.

The figure of a seated Britannia first appeared on the coins of the Roman Emperors. It was not until Charles II that the image was resurrected and placed on the coins of Great Britain. After decimalization of English coins, the seated Britannia was chosen to appear on the 50 Pence.

When the decision was made to issue international bullion gold, the figure of Britannia was a logical choice of an easily identifiable national image. Philip Nathan's design of a standing Britannia was ultimately selected for the new gold bullion coins.

The image of Britannia had always been portrayed seated until 1901 when the standing figure was used on the British trade dollars. In 1902 the standing Britannia was used on the Florins of Edward VII. Nathan adopted the standing Britannia. His Britannia holds a shield and an olive branch in one hand and a trident in the other. The draped figure glides on the ocean waves. The flowing gown suggests the movement of the ocean waves while the helmet and majesty of the standing figure depict the pride and power of the island nation and its dominance in the world.

The Britannia gold bullion coins were issued in four denominations: 100-Pound one ounce; 50-Pound half ounce; 25-Pound $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce; and the 10-Pound $\frac{1}{10}$ ounce. All coins were issued in proof with a limited mintage and in uncirculated bullion with unlimited mintages. 13,000 proof one-ounce coins were minted.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 5 Dollar, Gold, *Bicentennial of the United States' Constitution*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Bicentennial of the United States' Constitution*





MOST ARTISTIC, BEST GOLD

United Kingdom, 100-Pound, Gold, *Britannia*



BEST SILVER

Canada, 1 Dollar, Silver, *400th Anniversary of the Davis Strait*





BEST CROWN

Cook Islands, 50-Dollar, Silver, *Seoul Olympic Games*



BEST TRADE

Switzerland, 5-Franc, Cupronickel, *Centennial of Le Corbusier*



1990 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1988



COIN OF THE YEAR

Albania, 50-Leke, Silver, *Railroads*



A new category called Most Innovative Coin Concept was introduced in 1990. As one of the first modern coins with a piercing, the Albania 50-Leke, Railroads, was an obvious winner in that category and it went on to gain support as the Coin of the Year.

This five-ounce silver coin minted in 1988 was the first oversized coin to win the award. The coin's diameter is 65 mm. The piercing is part of the design element that helps add a fourth dimension—time—to an otherwise three dimensional object. The train appears to come through the piercing which is the tunnel.

The obverse shows a steam locomotive and passenger train emerging from a tunnel. The reverse shows the train exiting the tunnel. Flipping the coin from obverse to reverse creates the illusion of the passage of time. This technique had been used previously in medallic art, however this is the first time the technique had been used effectively on a coin.

The coin was issued to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of Albanian railroads but in the broader sense commemorated the importance of rail in Albania. It was issued in proof only. However, the same design without the piercing was issued as a 5-Leke 38.7 copper-nickel coin, KM#61 for circulation. No proof of the smaller coin was made.

While the 50-Leke brings a premium over its silver content and is not often seen on the market, 7,500 were minted. While it is not a particularly rare coin, its absence from dealer trays is a testament to its popularity.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Hungary, 500-Forint, Silver, *950th Anniversary of Saint Stephen*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Olympics 1988 Rings and Wreath*





MOST ARTISTIC

Switzerland, 5-Franc, Cupronickel, *Olympics Dove and Rings*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Albania, 50-Leke, Silver, *Railroads*





BEST GOLD

Egypt, 100-Pound, Gold, *Golden Warrior*



BEST SILVER

China, 100-Yuan, Silver, *Year of the Dragon*





BEST CROWN

Hungary, 500-Forint, Silver, *25th Anniversary of the World Wildlife Fund*



BEST TRADE

Australia, 50-Cent, Cupronickel, *Bicentennial of Australia*



1991 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1989



COIN OF THE YEAR

France, 5-Franc, Cupronickel, *Eiffel Tower*



The symbol of Paris and of France, the Eiffel Tower is one of the best-known monuments in the world. It is no surprise then that the coin commemorating the Tower's centennial would be the darling of the 1991 Awards. The French entry won honors as Best Trade, Most Popular and Most Artistic coin on its way to being named Coin of the Year.

Once described as “a vision, an object, a symbol, the Tower is anything that Man wants it to be, and this in infinite,” work on the Eiffel Tower began in 1887. Gustave Eiffel built the tower for the 1889 Exposition Universelle, which was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. Its construction was a technical and architectural achievement, a symbol of technological prowess at the end of the 19th century.

In addition to this coin, a painting reflecting its 100-year history commemorated the Eiffel Tower in 1989. The painting was unveiled in a location near the tower. The coin's obverse, designed by F. Joubert, features a unique perspective of the Eiffel tower as if taken with a wide-angle lens from beneath a supporting beam. The curve of the beam and the slant of the tower are rounded by the perspective to fill the planchet. The lettering on the right balances the image.

The reverse was designed by J. Jimenez and shows the tower from the bottom looking up. The denomination is stamped on the bottom of the inverted tower at the top half of the coin to provide balance to the image of the tower on the bottom half.

This is the first coin to receive the award that was struck in different alloys, but the copper nickel coin is the one the judges considered. The following metal varieties are available:

- KM968 Copper Nickel (Unc) 9,774,000 minted
- KM968a Silver (proof) 80,000 minted
- KM968b gold (proof) 30,000 minted
- KM968c platinum (proof) 1200 exist
- Piefort in platinum with only 10 made
- Essais in nickel in unknown quantity

While the platinum and the piefort versions are scarce, the copper nickel variety appears with some frequency.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT, MOST ARTISTIC

United Kingdom, 1 Sovereign, Gold, *500th Anniversary of the Gold Sovereign*



MOST ARTISTIC

Israel, 2-New Sheqalim, Silver, *41st Anniversary of Israel*





MOST POPULAR, MOST ARTISTIC, BEST TRADE,
France, 5-Franc, Cupronickel, *Eiffel Tower*



BEST GOLD

Austria, 2,000-Schilling, Gold, *Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra*





BEST SILVER

Australia, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Holey Dollar*
25-Cent, Silver, *The Dump*, *Wandjina of Aboriginal Mythology*



BEST CROWN

Spain, 5,000 Peseta, Silver, *500th Anniversary of the Discovery of America*



1992 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1990



COIN OF THE YEAR

Isle of Mann, 1 Crown, Cupronickel, *Penny Black*



One of the first coins to commemorate a stamp and to feature a stamp as its main design element won the Coin of the Year Award for coins dated 1990. This unique coin also won Best Crown and Most Innovative coin concept in the competition.

This Pobjoy Mint item commemorated the 150th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamp. Known to stamp collectors as the "Penny Black," this stamp was the cornerstone to the reform of the British postal system. The stamp design is widely known in the stamp collecting community to all collectors and is based on a graphic design by famed engraver William Wyon.

One might say that the "Penny Black" was the forerunner of modern stamps. Prior to its issuance postage was paid on the delivery of a letter. Some marking was made on the envelope to indicate the price. Shortly after this stamp was issued, the adhesive postage stamp was adopted by country after country and became the standard everywhere in as little as two decades. The adhesive stamp is still used around the world.

This coin was minted in different alloys and in both proof and mint state. It came in various packaging options as well because the coin had an obvious appeal to the collector community reaching into the philatelic community. The copper nickel coin was the one considered by the Krause judges. A list of the other coin options:

- KM 267 Copper Nickel unc
- KM 267 Copper Nickel Proof 50,000 minted
- KM 267a Silver Proof 30,000 minted
- KM 267b Gold Proof 1,000 minted
- KM 267c Platinum Proof 50 minted



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Germany, 20-Mark, Cupronickel, *Opening of the Brandenburg Gate*



MOST POPULAR

Isle of Man, 1 Crown, Cupronickel, *Alley Cat*





MOST ARTISTIC

Finland, 100-Markka, Silver, *50th Anniversary of Veterans*



MOST INNOVATIVE, BEST CROWN

Isle of Man, 1 Crown, Cupronickel, *Penny Black*





BEST GOLD

Russia, 25-Rouble, Palladium, *Peter the Great*



BEST SILVER

France, 100-Franc, Silver, *Charlemagne*





BEST TRADE

Denmark, 5-Kroner, Cupronickel, *Queen Margrethe II Monogram*



1993 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1991



COIN OF THE YEAR

Italy, 500-Lire, Silver, *2100th Anniversary of the Ponte Milvio Bridge*



The coin dated 1991 that was voted Most Artistic Coin was also voted Krause Coin of the Year for that year. It commemorates the 2100th Anniversary of the Ponte Milvio Bridge.

Gaius Claudius Nero built the Ponte Milvio when he was consul of Rome in 206 BC as a commemoration of his defeat of the Carthaginians. The bridge was rebuilt many times since and it stands today as a critical commuter bridge in Rome.

While the Ponte Milvio is best known as the site of the famous battle between Constantine I and Maxentius in 312 that consolidated the rule of Constantine, who founded Constantinople, the capital of what became the Byzantine Empire, and who is best known for making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Eugenio Drutti designed the winning coin. While the reverse is a fairly straightforward picture of the bridge, the obverse blends the ancient with the modern in an interesting way. The bridge and the ancient “SPQR” (The Senate and People of Rome) blend into the head of a young person as if to imply that the great history of Rome is a part of the mind of every modern Italian.

The coin was minted in proof and in mint state and made available through special sets. The Mint state version was placed in a capsule at the mint so it usually comes in MS65 or better. 59,000 coins were made and they are reasonably available in the market.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Russia, 3-Rouble, Silver, *Yuri Gagarin First Man in Space*



MOST POPULAR

Australia, 5-Dollar, Silver, *Kookaburra*





MOST ARTISTIC

Italy, 500-Lire, Silver, *2,100th Anniversary of Ponte Milvio Bridge*



BEST GOLD

Japan, 100,000- Yen, Gold, *Enthronement of the Emperor*





MOST INNOVATIVE, BEST SILVER

Albania, 10-Leke, Silver, *Olympics Equestrian*



BEST CROWN

France, 100-Franc, Silver, *Olympics Ski Jump*





BEST TRADE

Portugal, 200-Escudo, Aluminum-Bronze-Cupronickel, *Garcia De Orta*



1994 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1992



COIN OF THE YEAR

Italy, 500-Lire, Silver, *Flora and Fauna*



When judges voted the 500-Lire entry from Italy as the Coin of the Year, as well as Most Artistic Coin, it marked the first time that a country other than the United States won the competition two years in a row.

As of 2002 there were more than 400 species of mammals and birds and about 6,000 species of plants throughout Italy. Italy honored its plant and animal life by adding it to their commemorative coin series of 500-Lire silver coins.

The Italian countryside varies in elevation and climate, creating a home for a diverse plant and animal life. Flora is found above 7,500 feet in the Apennines and oak trees, chestnut trees, beach trees and conifers grow on the slopes. Mediterranean vegetation predominates on the bulk of the peninsula. Plant life along with a bird and some butterflies adorn the coin's obverse juxtaposed against the head of woman.

The animal life is also varied. Bears and roe deer inhabit the Apennines and the Alps, while varied animal life inhabit the peninsula. The reverse of the coin shows a fish, a bird and a reptile indigenous to Italy but located at different elevations. Carmela Colaneri designed the coin using the square as if to portray a window to view the images on the obverse and reverse.

The mint state coins were sold in a folder describing the plant and animal life of Italy; 43,000 were sold. The proof coins were sold encapsulated and placed in a box with a descriptive leaflet; 6,300 were sold. Both of these coins are relatively available.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Russia, 1 Ruble, Cupronickel, *Rebirth of Sovereignty*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *White House*





MOST ARTISTIC

Italy, 500-Lire, Silver, *Flora and Fauna*



MOST INNOVATIVE, BEST TRADE

France, 20-Franc, Tri-Metallic, Mont Saint Michel





BEST GOLD

United States, 5-Dollar, Gold, *Christopher Columbus*



BEST SILVER

Spain, 2,000 Peseta, Silver, *Barcelona Olympics*





BEST CROWN

Austria, 100-Schilling, Silver, *Kaiser Karl V*



SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MERIT OF DESIGN

South Africa, 2-Rand, Silver, *Minting Process*



1995 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1993



COIN OF THE YEAR

France, 500 Franc, Gold, *Louvre Museum—Mona Lisa*



The 500 Franc gold Bicentennial of the Louvre with the reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* on the obverse won the Best Gold Coin award as well as the Coin of the Year Award for coins dated 1993. France also won the Most Historically Significant Coin honor with its 1 Franc silver D-Day commemorative.

The *Mona Lisa* was part of a gold and silver miniseries celebrating the bicentennial of the Louvre. It was issued in both proof and mint state both in 1993 and again in 1994 as a proof-only issue. The other coins in the set reproduce the images of the *Venus de Milo*, the Delacroix's *Liberty Guiding the People*, the *Samothrace Victory*, the *Marie-Marquerite* and the painting of *Napoleon Crowning Josephine as Empress*. Five-ounce gold proof-only coins of these designs were issued in 1993 and 1994 with a mintage of less than 100.

All of the coins in both the 100 Franc and 500 Franc denomination share a common reverse showing the facade of the Louvre along with Pei's glass pyramid standing in front of it. The Louvre is the world's largest museum and houses one of the most impressive art collections in history. The magnificent, baroque-style palace and museum — LeMusée du Louvre in French — sits along the banks of the Seine River in Paris. These coins were issued to commemorate the rich history of the museum since it was founded.

The gold coins were issued in both one ounce and five ounces carrying a denomination of 500 Francs. The one-ounce coins have a mintage of about 5,000 and the five-ounce coins have a mintage of less than 100. While the five-ounce coins rarely appear for sale, the silver 100 Franc coins are often seen in sets of six. The one-ounce gold 500 Franc coins, while not rare, appear infrequently as do their 100 Franc gold siblings.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

France, 1 Franc, Silver, *D-Day*



MOST POPULAR

Gibraltar, 1 Crown, Cupronickel, *Stegosaurus*





MOST ARTISTIC

Austria, 500 Schillings, Silver, *Halstatt*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Andorra, 20-Diner European Currency Unit, Silver, *Saint George*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Poland, 300,000-Zlotych, Silver, *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*



BEST GOLD

France, 500 Francs, Gold, *Louvre Museum, Mona Lisa*





BEST SILVER

China, 150 Yuan, Silver, *Peacocks*



BEST CROWN

Fiji, 10 Dollars, Silver, *Captain William Bligh*





BEST TRADE

Czech Republic, 50 Korun, Bi-Metallic, *Prague City*



1996 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1994



COIN OF THE YEAR

United Kingdom, 50 Pence, Cupronickel, *50th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy*



The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy was the subject of the United Kingdom's 50 Pence copper-nickel coin. It won Best Contemporary Event and Most Popular honors, as well as walking away with the top prize of Coin of the Year for coins dated 1994.

As stated in the leaflet that accompanies the coin:

It was realized that an invasion was likely in the summer of 1944 but the exact date and location remained one of the best kept secrets of the War. Thus Operation Overlord, one of the most difficult military operations ever undertaken, was able to begin just after midnight on 6 June, 1944—in the first hour of the day that would forever be known as D-Day.

The allied invasion force filling the sea and sky and heading for Normandy on 6 June 1944 is vividly captured on this splendid commemorative coin. The design was created by award winning sculptor John Mills and was inspired by his boyhood recollections of that historic day. Looking up at the sky he saw it filled with distinctively marked planes and realized that the invasion of France was underway.

John Mills is a past president of the Royal British Society of Sculptors and his monumental work appears throughout London. His more well known pieces include the National Firefighters Memorial in front of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Monument to the Women of World War II near Whitehall.

While the committee considers the copper-nickel version of the coin as the award winner, the British Royal Mint issued this coin in a variety of options and offered as a single and in sets:

- KM#966 Copper Nickel in proof and mint state
- KM#966a, silver proof
- KM#966b, silver proof Piefort



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Thomas Jefferson Architect of Democracy*



MOST POPULAR, BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

United Kingdom, 50 Pence, Cupronickel, *50th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy*





MOST ARTISTIC

Finland, 100 Markkaa, Silver, *European Athletic Championships*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Bahamas, 5 Dollars, Silver, *Golf, Hole In One*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Poland, 300,000 Zlotych, Silver, *Warsaw Uprising*



BEST GOLD

Austria, 1,000 Schillings, Gold/Silver, *800th Anniversary of the Vienna Mint*





BEST SILVER

Italy, 1,000 Lire, Silver, *400th Anniversary of Tintoretto*



BEST CROWN

France, 100 Francs, Silver, *Olympics, Javelin Thrower*





BEST TRADE

France, 20 Franc, Tri-Metallic, *Pierre de Coubertin*



1997 **AWARDS**

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1995



COIN OF THE YEAR

Finland, 100 Markkaa, Silver, *50th Anniversary of the United Nations*



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Finland won Coin of the Year with a design by Reijo Paavilainen. The entry also won Best Silver Coin and Most Artistic Coin honors in the competition.

Several countries commemorated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations with coins. As it was, Finland issued two coins for this anniversary: a gold 2000 Markkaa and the silver 100 Markkaa. For Finland, the anniversary of the United Nations coincided with joining the European Union.

Paavilainen's design depicts a stylized dove with olive branch on the obverse. Both the obverse and the reverse of the coin use straight lines with part of the central image breaking through. On the obverse, the dove's wings are stylized to cut a line between the relief and the field. On the reverse, two straight lines forming a triangle against the edge of the coin separate the relief from the field. The curved branch breaks the line.

This coin exists in proof with a mintage of 3,000 and in uncirculated with a mintage of 40,000. The uncirculated version is relatively common and the proof comes up from time to time. Grades up to MS67 and Proof-68 can be expected. Higher grades are rare.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Germany, 10 Marks, Silver, *Centennial of the X-ray*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 50 Cents, Silver, *Olympic Baseball*





MOST ARTISTIC, BEST SILVER

Finland, 100 Markkaa, Silver, *50th Anniversary of the United Nations*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Austria, 500 Schilling, Bi-Metallic, *Austria in the European Union*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL, BEST GOLD

France, 500 Franc, Gold, *50th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (V.E.) Day*



BEST CROWN

Austria, 200 Schilling, Silver, *Olympics, Ribbon Dancer*





BEST TRADE

Australia, 1 Dollar, Aluminum, *Bronze*, *Waltzing Matilda*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Russia, 100 Rouble, Silver, *50th Anniversary of the End of World War II*



1998 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1996



COIN OF THE YEAR

Bermuda, 60 Dollars, Gold, *Bermuda Triangle*



Bermuda's first coin in the shape of a triangle, the Bermuda 60 Dollar gold coin depicting the Bermuda Triangle on the reverse, was selected as the Most Innovative Coin for design and received the Coin of the Year Award for coins dated 1996.

Known for centuries as the "Isle of Devils" because of the hazardous reefs, bad storms and tropical wildlife that makes uncommon sounds, Bermuda gave rise to a legend that its location causes mysterious disappearances. The first coin in a three-coin series honoring Bermuda's maritime tradition depicts the islands of Bermuda. The coin was marketed and titled "Bermuda Triangle" because of the triangular planchet shape.

Robert Elderton's design for the reverse of the coin depicts the discovery and mapping of the islands of Bermuda. The island chain is depicted in the style of a map. It is positioned between a compass rose and a sixteenth century Spanish Caravel in full sail. The Caravel was the style of ship that Christopher Columbus and the early Spanish explorers sailed when they originally discovered and charted the islands. A single rope with an overhand knot in each corner is used as a border separating the design from the legend on each side.

Although these coins are legal tender in Bermuda they were struck only in proof for collectors. While judges selected the 60 Dollar gold coin as the nominee, there are four denominations. The 30 Dollar gold coin is the most difficult to find. Nice examples of the 5-ounce 9 Dollar coin are also somewhat scarce.

- KM#92, 1996 Proof \$3 silver ½ ounce (about 5,000 minted)
- KM#96, 1996 Proof \$9 silver 5 ounce (about 1,000 minted)
- KM#97, 1996 Proof \$30 gold ½ ounce (less than 1,000 minted)
- KM#93, 1996 Proof \$60 gold 1 ounce (about 1500 minted)



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Israel, 30 New Sheqalim, Silver, *3,000th Anniversary of Jerusalem*



MOST POPULAR, BEST TRADE

Canada, 2 Dollar, Bi-Metallic, *Polar Bear*





MOST ARTISTIC

Finland, 100 Markkaa, Silver, *Helene Schjerfbeck*



MOST INNOVATIVE, BEST GOLD

Bermuda, 60 Dollars, Gold, *Bermuda Triangle*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Paralympics*



BEST SILVER

Russia, 100 Rouble, Silver, *The Nutcracker Ballet, Marsha and the Nutcracker*





BEST CROWN

Austria, 500 Schillings, Silver, *Innsbruck Town Market*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Bosnia-Herzegovina, 14 Euro, Silver, *Dayton Peace Accord*



1999 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1997



COIN OF THE YEAR

South Africa, 1 Rand, Silver, *Women of South Africa*



South Africa won several awards for coins dated 1997. The 1 Rand gold, *First Heart Transplant* commemorative, won the award for Best Contemporary Event. The 1 Rand silver, *Women of South Africa*, won the Most Artistic Coin and went on to win the Coin of the Year.

By 1997, the plight of women in South Africa had been recognized by various human rights groups around the world. Writing on the subject, Waheeda Amien, Gender Convener at the legal aid clinic for the University of South Africa said, “Although women comprise 52% of the South African population, it has been acknowledged that they constitute one of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in this country.”

The obverse design by A.L. Sutherland depicts the king protea, the national flower of South Africa, in full bloom. It is set in the center of the coin with clean fields on either side. The country name and date is above and below respectively. This design has since been used as the obverse of other 1 Rand coins of South Africa.

Susan Erasmus’ reverse design is an interesting frontal view of a woman’s face cracked by the South African countryside. Below is a lunar landscape. The earth and the moon blend together in the design. They form the coins relief along with the woman’s face suggesting mother earth flowing into sister moon. The word, “protea” creates a link to the flower on the reverse and identifies the coin’s South African focus.

As most coins of South Africa, this one is rare in any grade. In uncirculated, 3,312 were minted and 2,329 were minted in proof.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Canada, 100 Dollars, Gold, *Alexander Graham Bell*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 100 Dollars, Platinum, *Statue of Liberty, Eagle*





MOST ARTISTIC

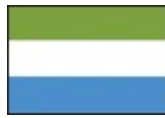
South Africa, 1 Rand, Silver, *Women of South Africa*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Kiribati & Western Samoa, 5 Dollars, Silver, *War and Peace*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Sierra Leon, 10 Leon, Silver, *Mother Teresa and Princess Diana*



BEST GOLD

Canada, 200 Dollars, Gold, *Haida Carved Mask*





BEST SILVER

Austria, 100 Schillings, Silver, *Emperor Maximilian of Mexico*



BEST CROWN

United Kingdom, 2 Pounds, Silver, *Britannia*





BEST TRADE

Poland, 2 Zlote, Brass, *Pieskowa Skala Castle*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

South Africa, 1 Rand, Gold, *First Heart Transplant*



2000 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1998



COIN OF THE YEAR

Austria, 500 Schillings, Silver, *Book Printing*



Austria won the Coin of the Year honor, as well as Best Silver Coin, for its 500 Schilling silver coin dated 1998 commemorating book printing. Austria also won the Best Trade Coin award for its 50 Schilling bi-metal celebrating the Austrian president of the European Union.

The reverse of the Coin of the Year designed by Thomas Pesendorfer shows an interior view of Adimont Abbey Library. Perhaps it was chosen because it houses the largest collection of manuscripts copied by medieval monks in the world. Located at the site of former Benedictine monastery, the main hall was built in 1776 and became the largest library in the world at the time.

The artist's choice to use the interior design of the main hall on the reverse brings together the history of printing by blending the collection of medieval manuscripts on the shelves with the enlightenment style of architecture. The floor space creates a field for the country name, denomination and date.

The obverse designed by Herbert Wahner shows printers at work. Austria has a claim to being the origin of movable type printing allowing books to be mass-produced in the early Renaissance. Arguably the world's most famous printer was German-born Johannes Gutenberg, who is credited with printing the world's first book using movable type and ushering in the age of mass communication.

Austria minted this coin for circulation as well as for collectors. The circulation strike with a mintage of 68,000 is most commonly found in grades below MS65. Higher grade uncirculated specimens most likely came from the special uncirculated strike made for collectors and sold in capsules from the Mint. 40,000 proof coins were minted and these typically come in high grades averaging Proof-67. They were sold in official mint boxes.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Portugal, 200 Escudos, Cupronickel, *500th Anniversary of the Voyage to India*



MOST POPULAR

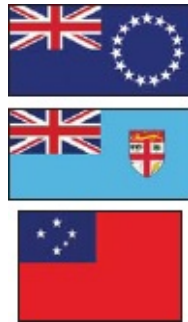
Canada, 1 Dollar, Silver, *125th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police*





MOST ARTISTIC

Andorra, 10 Dinars, Silver, *Europa Driving a Quadriga*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Cook Islands, Fiji, Western Samoa, 2 Dollars, Silver *Three Coin Set, Tripartite Convention*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Bosnia-Herzegovina, 14 Euro, Silver, *Dove of Peace*



BEST GOLD

Singapore, 250 Dollar, Gold, *Year of the Tiger*





BEST SILVER

Austria, 500 Schilling, Silver, *Book Printing*



BEST CROWN

Portugal, 1,000 Escudos, Silver, *International Oceans Exposition*





BEST TRADE

Austria, 50 Schilling, Bi-Metallic, *Austrian Presidency of the European Union*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Israel, 2 New Sheqalim, Silver, *50th Anniversary of Israel*



2001 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 1999



COIN OF THE YEAR

Italy, 5,000 Lira, Silver, *World Encircled by Birds and Stars*



While both the United Kingdom and the United States had two coins winning in categories this year, it was Italy's *World Encircled by Birds and Stars* coin for the new millennium that won the Coin of the Year. This was the third time Italy won the high prize.

Laura Cretara's obverse design depicts a globe with latitude and longitude markings. It is circled by an elliptical halo of stars with three birds flying along its path. The ellipse separates the central design from the country name and date along the edge. The earth is in high relief.

The reverse depicts wheels and a satellite dish. The wheel is both a form of transportation and communication. The design depicts a wagon wheel, a ship's steering wheel and a concave satellite dish. The placement of the satellite dish in this image shows the evolution of the wheel in the last millennium. Three bands with stylized ground, ocean and stars complement the three wheels.

Italy used the obverse of this coin design again for the 10,000 Lira silver new millennium coin in 2000. It was paired with a new reverse that depicts Leonardo Da Vinci's wing and airplane design. Between 1999 and 2002 Italy was still using the Lira even though it had switched to the Euro.

This coin is not particularly hard to find and comes in grades averaging MS65 or Proof-67. There were 37,600 mint state coins minted and sold with an information card. There were 8170 proof coins made. They were also sold in sets with 5000 Lira Birds Sprouting from Globe design, KM#197, minted that year.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Austria, 100 Schilling, Silver, *Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand*



MOST POPULAR

United Kingdom, 5 Pounds, Cupronickel, *Diana, Princess of Wales*





MOST ARTISTIC

Italy, 5,000 Lire, Silver, *World Encircled by Birds and Stars*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Latvia, 1 Lats, Silver, *Millennium, Button*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Ukraine, 10 Hyrven, Silver, *Birth of Jesus*



BEST GOLD

Czech Republic, 10,000 Korun, Gold, *Charles IV*





BEST SILVER

United Kingdom, 2 Pound, Silver, *Britannia in a Chariot*



BEST CROWN

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Dolley Madison*





BEST TRADE

United States, 25 Cent, Clad, *New Jersey, Crossroads of the Revolution*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Austria, 50 Schilling, Bi-Metallic, *European Monetary Union*



2002 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2000



COIN OF THE YEAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, Voyage of Leif Ericson



The United States received the award for Most Historically Significant Coin and, for the first time since the 1986 *Centennial of the Statue of Liberty* gold \$5 coin, the Coin of the Year for coins dated 2000.

John Mercanti designed the portrait of a helmeted Viking voyager. In the absence of any portraits of Leif Ericson, Mercanti conceived of a generic Nordic face with long hair protruding from the helmet, a beard and a bushy mustache and eyebrows. The portrait looks a lot like a crusty New England sailing captain, which might have been the Mercanti's intention.

T. James Ferrell designed the reverse design depicting a Viking ship under sail. The image is the best guess at the type of ship that Leif Ericson might have used around the time he landed on what was probably the northern tip of Newfoundland in 1000 A.D.

This is the first time the United States Mint worked collaboratively with a foreign mint to market a product. Iceland issued a 1000 Kroner silver coin honoring Leif Ericson the same year. Throstur Magnusson's design depicts his interpretation of the Stirling Calder statue of Leif Ericson on the obverse and a stylized drawing of the Icelandic Coat of Arms on the reverse. The Calder statue was a gift by the United States to the people of Iceland in 1930 to commemorate the millennium of the Iceland Parliament.

As all United States commemorative coins, this coin was authorized by the Congress of the United States as Public Law: 106-126 with high mintage limits of 500,000 which was not reached. This coin is easily obtainable in grades of MS68 and MS69, while grades of MS70 coins exist. The Proof coins in a Proof-70 grade are extremely rare, but it is not hard to find them in Proof-69. They were minted at the Philadelphia Mint and bear the "P" mintmark.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Voyage of Leif Ericson*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Copper, Zinc, Manganese, Nickel, *Sacagawea*





MOST ARTISTIC

Lithuania, 50-Litu, Silver, *Discus Thrower*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Japan, 500 Yen, Copper, Zinc, Nickel, *Paulownia Flower*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Australia, 5 Dollars, Aluminum, Bronze, *Paralympics*



BEST GOLD

Canada, 200 Dollars, Gold, *Inuit Mother and Child*





BEST SILVER

Mexico, 1 Onza, Silver, *Winged Victory*



BEST CROWN

Austria, 100 Schilling, Silver, *Celtic Heritage*





BEST TRADE

Australia, 50 Cents, Cupronickel, *Visit by Queen Elizabeth II*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Germany, 10 Marks, Silver, *10th Anniversary of German Reunification*



2003 **AWARDS**

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2001



COIN OF THE YEAR

France 1 Franc, Silver, *The Last Franc*



The 2003 Coin of the Year awards proved a grand going away party for the Franc. France's salute to its national currency won both the Coin of the Year and Most Innovative Coin for coins dated 2001.

The name of the French currency unit 2001 was derived from the Latin inscription, "Francorum rex" that appeared on a gold coin of King John II in 1360. It became the national currency in 1795. When France switched to the Euro, the 1 Euro coin was valued at 6.5 Francs. The Franc was demonetized on February 28, 2002. This coin was issued just a few months earlier on September 1, 2001.

To commemorate the end of a long run of coins the Paris Mint worked with Philippe Starck to design a coin in the shape of a wave or discarded planchet found in the Mint's reject bin. The obverse bears a number "1" with the serif edges cut off by the rim. The reverse bears only the inscription, "un ultime franc" the "c" in franc only partly appearing. The date, country and motto are inscribed faintly on the rim.

Although this coin was never intended for circulation, it was a fitting tribute to the end of an era in French coinage. By 2001 more than 36 countries used the Franc as the denomination of their country's coinage.

Paris Mint officials were stunned by the success of this coin. 49,838 were minted. The coin was also issued in gold with a mintage of 4,963. Both the silver and gold coins are readily available in grades of MS66 to MS68.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Australia, 10 Dollar, Silver, *The Evolution of the Calendar*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Buffalo*





MOST ARTISTIC

Russia, 25 Rouble, Silver, *225th Anniversary of the Bolshoi Theater*



MOST INNOVATIVE

France, 1 Franc, Silver, *The Last Franc*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Gibraltar, 1 Crown, Cupronickel, *Florence Nightingale*



BEST GOLD

China, 500 Yuan, Gold, *Panda*





BEST SILVER

China, 20 Yuan, Silver, *Mogao Grottoes*



BEST CROWN

Australia, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Aboriginal Kangaroo*





BEST TRADE

United States, 25 Cents, Clad, *Rhode Island, The Ocean State*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Belgium, 500 Franc, Silver, *The Birth of the European Euro*



2004 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2002



COIN OF THE YEAR

2002 Austria, 5 Euro, Silver, *Schoenbrunn Zoo*



Austria's 5 Euro coin, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Schoenbrunn Zoo, earned both the Coin of the Year and Most Popular Coin for coins dated 2002.

The Schoenbrunn Zoo is the oldest continuously operated zoo in the world. It was founded by Empress Maria Theresa and her husband Franz Stephan Von Lothringen in a park in Schoenbrunn and originally consisted of 12 animal enclosures, a pond and two farmyards. After the central pavilion and the wall were erected, animals were brought to the zoo and it opened to the public in the summer of 1752.

Helmut Andexlinger's reverse design shows the pavilion surrounded by some of the zoo animals. The pavilion is in the center of the coin with the commemorative inscription above and the anniversary dates below.

The nine points of the coin symbolize the nine federal provinces of Austria. Herbert Wahner uses these nine points of his sun with rays design. The connection between the coin's design and shape adds power to the symbolism of unity, history and enlightenment. The coats of arms of each of the nine provinces between the slopes of the star points encircle the denomination. Wahner's obverse design on a nine-sided planchet has been used as the standard obverse on 5 Euro commemorative coins ever since.

These coins were sold in capsules and in a blister pack with a description of the coin with a mintage of 100,000. More were sold at the gift shop in the zoo. These were offered in four different packages, each showing a different zoo animal. 500,000 were struck making this coin quite common.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 25 Cent, Clad, *Ohio, Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers*



MOST POPULAR

Austria, 5 Euro, Silver, *Schoenbrunn Zoo*





MOST ARTISTIC

Latvia, 1 Lats, Silver, *Destiny, Roots*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Isle of Man, 60 Pence, Bronze, Silver, *Currency Converter*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Alderney, 5 Pound, Silver, *Princess Diana of Wales*



BEST GOLD

Austria, 50 Euro, Gold, *The Order of Saint Benedict and the Order of Saint Scholastica*





BEST SILVER

Austria, 10 Euro, Silver, *Ambras Palace*



BEST CROWN

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *West Point Military Academy*





BEST TRADE

Brazil, 1 Real, Bi-Metallic, *Liberty*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

United Kingdom, 5 Pound, Gold, *50th Anniversary of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II*



2005 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2003



COIN OF THE YEAR

Belarus, 100 Rouble, Silver, *Belarus Ballet*



Belarus took the award for Best Crown Coin with its 20 Rouble, *Mute Swan*, and for Most Artistic Coin with the 100 Rouble, Belarus Ballet. The 100 Rouble earned Coin of the Year for coins dated 2003. It was the second time that a five-ounce silver coin won top honors.

Svetlana Zaskevich, an artist at the National Bank of Belarus, designed this coin and it was minted at the Lithuanian Mint for the Republic of Belarus.

The obverse depicts the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater of the Republic of Belarus. Above it is the state coat of arms with the inscription, “Republic of Belarus.” The face value of the coin is written in script at the bottom of the obverse under the year.

The reverse is a scene from the national ballet, *Passions*, by Andrey Mdivani and the inscription in two lines, “Ballet Belarusian.” Two dancers glide across the proof surface of the coin reaching the edge as if to fall gracefully off the coin’s surface. The dancers embrace and look into each other’s eyes with delicate facial expressions.

Unlike many of the 100 Rouble five-ounce coins of Belarus, no 20 Rouble equivalent of this coin exists. With the low proof mintage of 1,000, this is one of the rarest coins to receive the Coin of the Year award. As a result of the demand for this coin after it received the Award, the reverse design was used again beginning in 2006 for other gold coins of Belarus in denominations of 10, 200 and 1000 Roubles.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Australia, 10 Dollar, Silver, *Evolution of the Alphabet*



MOST POPULAR

New Zealand, 1 Dollar, Nickel, *The Lord of the Rings*





MOST ARTISTIC

Belarus, 100 Rouble, Silver, *Belarus Ballet*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Cook Islands, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Emerald, Gemstone Zodiac Locket*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Australia, 50 Cents, Cupronickel, *Australia's Volunteers*



BEST GOLD

Austria, 100 Euro, Gold, *Klimt's "The Kiss"*





BEST SILVER

Spain, 10 Euro, Silver, *75th Anniversary of the School Ship, El Cano*



BEST CROWN

Belarus, 20-Rouble, Silver, *Mute Swan*





BEST TRADE

Finland, 5 Euro, Bi-metallic, *Ice Hockey World Championships*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

United Kingdom, 2 Pound, Bi-Metallic, *The Discovery of DNA*



2006 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2004



COIN OF THE YEAR

Italy, 5 Euro, Silver, *Madame Butterfly*



Italy won the Coin of the Year Award for the fourth time in 2006. The 5 Euro *Madame Butterfly* won the award for Most Artistic Coin and then went on to win the top honor for coins dated 2004.

Italy celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first performance of Giacomo Puccini's opera, "Madame Butterfly," by issuing two coins, a 5 Euro and a 10 Euro. In earning the top honor for the fourth time, Italy tied the United States for winning the most Coin of the Year awards.

Luciana de Simoni designed the coin. The obverse of the 5 Euro coin depicts the La Scala opera house in Milan where "Madame Butterfly" was initially performed in 1904. An encircled bird is perched on a branch above the opera house unifying the obverse and reverse with the attached foliage.

The reverse depicts an image of Madame Butterfly while waiting in her home in Japan for her American husband to return. This image, which may have been taken from the statue next to the statue of Puccini in Milan, or it may be the artist's representation of Rosina Storchio, the first soprano to play the part of Madame Butterfly in 1904.

These coins were sold in a set with the 10 Euro Puccini coin in both proof and uncirculated with 12,000 proof coins minted. They were sold singly and in sets with the 10 Euro of Giacomo Puccini. 30,000 mint state coins were made. Proof and uncirculated specimens are not difficult to find.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *125th Anniversary of Edison's Electric Light*



MOST POPULAR

France, 1.5 Euro, Silver, *FIFA Soccer*





MOST ARTISTIC

Italy, 5 Euro, Silver, *Madame Butterfly*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Liberia, 10 Dollar, Silver, *Window with Tiffany Glass Inlay*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Poland, 20 Zlotych, Silver, *Victims of the Lodz Ghetto*



BEST GOLD

China, 2,000 Yuan, *Gold, Maijishan Grottoes*





BEST SILVER

Australia, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Kangaroo*



BEST CROWN

Cyprus, 1 Pound, Cupronickel, *Triton Sounding a Conch*





BEST TRADE

Greece, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, *Olympic Discus Thrower*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Alderney, 50 Pound, Silver, *60th Anniversary of D-Day Invasion of Normandy*



2007 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2005



COIN OF THE YEAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *U.S. Marine Corps*



The United States Silver 1 Dollar salute to the Marine Corps won the Best Crown for coins dated 2005. It marched off with the Coin of the Year award as well, marking the fifth time the United States won high honors and in the process surpassing Italy as the country with the most top awards.

Funds from the sale of the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary silver dollars benefited the Marine Corps heritage foundation and helped to construct the national museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia.

Norman E. Nemeth designed the obverse of the coin. The chosen design copies a photograph by Joe Rosenthal of the United States Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1943. In addition to the inscription, “Marines 1775-2005,” the obverse contains two mottoes required by law on all United States coins, “In God We Trust,” and “Liberty.”

The denomination, name of the country and the other third legend required by law to appear on all United States Coins, “E. Pluribus Unum” were inscribed on Charles L. Vickers’ reverse design. It features an engraving of an eagle, globe and anchor, the official emblem of the United States Marine Corps.

The commemorative was minted at the Philadelphia Mint in both uncirculated and proof. All 600,000 coins were sold. Because of the high mintage and the care taken to strike these coins at the Mint, they are readily available in high grades of MS69, Proof-69 and better.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Germany, 10 Euro, Silver, *Albert Einstein, Theory of Relativity*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 5 Cents, Cupronickel, *Bison*





MOST ARTISTIC

Belarus, 20 Rouble, Silver, *Easter Egg*



MOST INNOVATIVE. BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Australia, 1 Dollar, Silver, *End of World War II, Dancing Man*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Israel, 2 New Sheqalim, Silver, *Moses and the 10 Commandments*



BEST GOLD

Germany, 100 Euro, Gold, *World Cup Soccer*





BEST SILVER

Austria, 20 Euro, Silver, *S.M.S. Saint George*



BEST CROWN

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *U.S. Marine Corps*





BEST TRADE

United States, 25 Cents, Clad, *Oregon State Quarter*



2008 **AWARDS**

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2006



COIN OF THE YEAR

Canada, 50 Dollar, Palladium, *Ursa Major and Ursa Minor* *Through the Seasons*



For the first time in the history of the Coin of the Year Award, the winner for coins dated 2006 went to a four-coin set. While this had not been the first time a coin in a set was selected, it is the first time the committee of judges selected a complete set of coins.

The four palladium coins won in the Most Innovative Coin category because of the use of a special laser effect. The judges nominated the four-coin set because the total vision for the coins requires them to be viewed together. The coins illustrate the unique location of Canada's capital where the constellations Ursa Major (big bear) and Ursa Minor (little bear) never disappear from the night sky. They just change locations.

Colin Mayne designed the coins to show the movement of the constellations in the spring, summer, fall and winter. The perspective of the viewer does not change. The landscape on the bottom third of each coin is the same. The four coins viewed together show the complete circle of the constellations in the sky over the course of a single year.

Each coin contains one ounce of palladium. With fewer than 300 specimen coins minted for each of the four coins in this set, it is the rarest and most expensive set of coins to receive the Krause Coin of the Year Award. These coins are seldom, if ever, offered for sale so even when the price of palladium retreats from its current high levels, this set is likely to remain pricy. The set was packaged in a maroon clamshell case lined with flock and protected by a black beauty box.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *Benjamin Franklin, Elder Statesman*



MOST POPULAR, BEST TRADE

United States, 25 Cent, Clad, *Nevada State Quarter*





MOST ARTISTIC

Denmark, 10 Kroner, Silver, *Hans Christian Andersen's "Snow Queen"*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Canada, 50 Dollar, Palladium, *Ursa Major and Ursa Minor Through the Seasons*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Canada, 25 cents, Nickel-Clad, *Pink Ribbon*



MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Finland, 5 Euro, Gold, *150th Anniversary of the Demilitarization of the Aland Islands*





BEST GOLD

Austria, 100 Euro, Gold, *The Rivergate of Vienna*



BEST SILVER

Japan, 1,000 Yen, Silver, *50th Anniversary of Japanese Entry into the United Nations*





BEST CROWN

France, 1 ½ Euro, Silver, *Jules Verne's "Five Weeks in a Balloon"*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Latvia, 1 Lats, Silver, *Latvian Independence, 1918*





PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Hungary, 50 Forint, Cupronickel, *50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution Against Soviet Occupation*



2009 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2007



COIN OF THE YEAR

Mongolia, 500 Tugrik, Silver, *Wildlife Protection, Gulo Gulo*
(*Wolverine*)



Mongolia won the award for Best Silver Coin with the 500 Tugrik *Wolverine* which was ultimately selected Coin of the Year for coins dated 2007.

The first coin in Mongolia's new Wildlife Series of coins featured an animal on the endangered species list, the wolverine. The National Bank of Mongolia hired CIT to develop, manufacture and sell the coins in the series.

Known for its innovative coin designs, CIT took the challenge to present animals in a new and modern way for the Mongolian series. The wolverine is sculpted to appear as if it is squeezing its way through the rim of a bottle. The rim of the coin is used as a design element to constrain the wolf's face and neck. The high relief enhances the effect.

In order to show the penetrating eyes of the wolf, the artist used crystallized Swarovski inserts that shine light and make the wolf's eyes glisten. The antique finish on the silver deadens the reflectivity of the metal and focuses the viewer's attention on the animal's eyes.

While a mintage of 2,500 is low, the popularity of these coins among collectors has created significant demand. This coin is not likely to be found for less than five times its original issue price. The coins were sold in capsules with an information leaflet. Grading services do not place this coin in a holder due to the crystallized Swarovski insert.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *The Founding of Jamestown in 1607*



MOST POPULAR

United States, 1 Dollar, Copper, Zinc, Manganese, Nickel, *George Washington*





MOST ARTISTIC

Austria, 10 Euro, Silver, *Melk Abbey*



MOST INNOVATIVE

British Virgin Islands, 50 Dollar, Silver, *Centenary of the First Color Photograph*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Belarus, 1,000 Rouble, Silver, *St. Euphrasyne of Polatsk*



BEST GOLD

Denmark, 1,000 Kroner, *Gold, Polar Bear*





BEST SILVER

Mongolia, 500 Tugrik, Silver, *Wildlife Protection, Gulo Gulo (Wolverine)*



BEST CROWN

Belarus, 20 Rouble, Silver, *Pancake Week*





BEST TRADE

Italy, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, *Raphael's Dante Alighieri*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *The Desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in 1957*





PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Hungary, 5,000 Forint, Silver, *Castle of Gyula*



2010 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2008



COIN OF THE YEAR

Latvia, 20 Lati, Gold, *Coins of Latvia*



The nominators at Krause broke with tradition to nominate the Latvia 20 Lati as a candidate for Best Gold Coin. It won the category award and went on to win the Coin of the Year award for coins dated 2008.

Krause judges have generally refused to consider reproductions of unused coin designs from the past. This coin design for a 1922 coin by Teodors Zajkalns was kept at the Latvian National Museum of History as a plaster model. It was never struck. The coin model was finally used in 2008 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the renewal of the Lats currency following Latvian independence from the Soviet Union.

Zajkalns' obverse portrait of a woman was modeled after an unnamed refugee during World War I. The woman wears a headscarf, signifying motherhood in the Latvian tradition. One of the loose ends of the scarf is tied in a knot because it is said that it helps one remember and that if tied when a star is fallen and a wish is made, the wish will come true.

The narrative from coin's accompanying leaflet explains the symbolism of the reverse as follows:

The feminine principle gives life to an individual and likewise is at the core of the family and state. The feminine principle unites the spiritual with the material; the symbols on the reverse of the coin, bread, apple, vessel with a curdled milk beverage and a jug of milk, also signify fertility and plentitude. A knife, symbolizing masculine action, is placed next to the feminine images.

Only 5,000 of these coins were minted at the Austrian Mint on behalf of the Bank of Latvia. While they are not rare, grades above MS67 are scarce.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
Kazakhstan, 100 Tenge, Silver, *Genghis Khan*



MOST POPULAR
United States, 1 Dollar, Silver, *American Eagle*





MOST ARTISTIC

Poland, 200 Zlotych, Gold, *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Austria, 25-Euro, Silver and Niobium, *Fascination Light*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Canada 2,500 Dollars, Gold, *Towards Confederation*



BEST GOLD

Latvia, 20 Lati, Gold, *Coins of Latvia*





BEST SILVER

Germany, 10 Euro, Silver, *Fanz Kafka*



BEST CROWN

Austria, 10 Euro, Silver, *The Abbey of Klosterneuburg*





BEST TRADE

Cyprus, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, *Ancient Statue Cross*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Israel, 1 New Sheqalim, Silver, *60th Anniversary of Israel*





PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Hungary, 5,000 Forint, Silver, *Tokaj Wine Region*



2011 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2009



COIN OF THE YEAR

South Africa, 100 Rand, Gold, *White Rhino*



The South Africa 100 Rand *White Rhino* coin won the award for Best Gold Coin and then went on to win the Coin of the Year for coins dated 2009, marking the second time South Africa won the highest honor.

South Africa's gold bullion coin series began its new theme "Safari through South Africa" in 2009 by featuring the white rhinoceros on the "Save the Rhino" project. The white rhino is an endangered species with fewer than 18,000 surviving in the wild. Not more than 100 years earlier fewer than 18 white rhino's remained in existence.

Natanya van Niekerk designed this coin with a strong animal conservation theme. The coin's obverse features a rhino peeking through a silhouette of itself. On the reverse, the animal boldly stomps through its own shadow as if defying extinction. Niekerk blends the country name and denomination into the animal habitat design of fields.

Four denominations with different designs—100 Rand, 50 Rand, 20 Rand and 10 Rand—were issued depicting the white rhino on the obverse and a scene in the life of the rhino on the reverse. They were sold separately, but 400 numbered box sets containing all four denominations were sold along with a silver Rhino figure made exclusively for the box set by Stephen Sutherland.

The coin comes both with and without a privy mark. The coins marked, "EWT" (Endangered Wildlife Trust) are extremely rare with a mintage of only 300. Because of the way they were handled, grades above Proof-63 are rare for coins with the privy mark.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
Kazakhstan, 100-Tenge, Silver, *Attila the Hun*



MOST POPULAR
Austria, 10-Euro, Silver, *Basilisk of Vienna*





MOST ARTISTIC

Canada, 300-Dollar, Gold, *Native American Summer Moon Mask*



MOST INNOVATIVE

British Indian Ocean Territory, 2-Pound, Silver-Crystal, *Life of the Sea Turtle*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Poland, 10-Zlotych, Silver, *World War II Polish Underground*



BEST GOLD

South Africa, 100-Rand, Gold, *White Rhino*





BEST SILVER

Canada, 20-Dollar, Silver, *Crystal Snowflake*



BEST CROWN

Finland, 20-Euro, Silver, *Peace and Security*





BEST TRADE

Slovakia, 2-Euro, Bi-Metallic, *First Year of Euro Issuance*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

France, 10-Euro, Silver, *Fall of the Berlin Wall*





PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Hungary, 5,000-Forint, Silver, *World Heritage Sites in Hungary, Budapest*



2012 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2010



COIN OF THE YEAR

Israel, 2 New Sheqalim, Silver, *Jonah in the Whale*



Israel won the Most Artistic Coin Award with its 2 New Sheqalim depicting Jonah in the whale. This striking silver coin went on to win the Coin of the Year for coins dated 2010.

The reverse design by Gideon Keich depicts a whale in relief. Opposite is a proof field. The figure of Jonah with outstretched arms praying for forgiveness is incuse in the belly of the whale from which he rises after three days. Depending on how you view the coin, you can see either a wave engulfing Jonah or a whale with Jonah in its belly. The synergy of the optical illusion suggests a “yin yang” interpretation to the biblical story of Jonah.

Aharon Shevo’s obverse design shows the denomination in the center encircled by the bible passage, Jonah 2:1, “Jonah in the belly of the fish,” in Hebrew, English and Arabic. At the bottom is a small figure of Jonah in prayer and supplication. The proof 2 New Sheqalim coin bears mintmark, “mem” in Hebrew below the denomination.

Only 2,800 of the 2 New Sheqalim coins were minted, but this coin is available in high grades because of the care taken by the mint in coining and packaging them. The same design appears on a 1 New Sheqel, which is also available in Mint State with the Star of David mintmark. A gold 10 New Sheqalim was also made. These coins were sold as sets in limited quantities.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Canada, 100 Dollars, Gold, *400th Anniversary of Hudson Bay*



MOST POPULAR

Austrian Mint, 1.5 Euro, Silver, *Austrian Philharmonic*





MOST ARTISTIC

Israel, 2 New Sheqalim, Silver, *Jonah in the Whale*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Ivory Coast, 1,500 Francs CFA, Silver, *Mecca Quibla Compass*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Finland, 20 Euro, Silver, *Children & Creativity*



BEST GOLD

United Kingdom, 100 Pounds, Gold, *Olympic Games Faster Series Neptune*





BEST SILVER

Austria, 10 Euros, Silver, *Erzberg in Styria*



BEST CROWN

Andorra, 5 Dinars, Silver, *Brown Bear*





BEST TRADE

San Marino, 2 Euros, Bi-Metallic, *500th Birth of Sandro Botticelli*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Germany, 10 Euro, Silver, *German Unification*





PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Hungary, 5,000 Forint, *Silver, Orseg National Park*



2013 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2011



COIN OF THE YEAR

Royal Dutch Mint, 5 Euro, Silver, *100th Anniversary of the Dutch Mint*



Netherlands took the prize for Most Innovative Coin and the prestigious Coin of the Year for coins dated 2011 with its 5 Euro commemorative for the centennial of the Utrecht Mint building. This is the first coin to have a working QR barcode in the design.

Juan Jose Sanches Sastano designed the coin with a two dimensional QR barcode. When a mobile devise equipped with a barcode reader scans the barcode on the coin it takes you to a website with information about the Mint you can read on your device. The bar code sits on top of a screw press, the first mechanical device used to strike coins after they stopped hammering them.

The web page that the QR code used contained a video and a button to a memory coin game. The content of the website can change. For the initial issuance of the coin, proving that the QR code could be used was point enough. The obverse portrait of Queen Beatrix is in the new, modern style with computer modeling and lazar application at the Royal Dutch Mint.

Silver plated copper-nickel coins were sold on cards containing an information booklet about the coin and the mint. Proof coins with a mintage of 12,000 were sold in capsules attached to a blister pack. A 10 Euro gold coin with the same design was also made with a mintage of 3,500 and sold in a wood box. They are not difficult to obtain except in grades over Proof-65.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, 10 Som, Silver, *The Silk Road*



MOST POPULAR

National Bank of Mongolia, 500 Togrog, Silver, *Ural Owl*





MOST ARTISTIC

Bank of Latvia, 1 Lats, Silver, *Alexsanders Caks*



MOST INNOVATIVE

Royal Dutch Mint, 5 Euro, Silver, *100th Anniversary of the Dutch Mint with QR Code*





MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Mint of Poland, 10 Zlotych, Silver, *100th Anniversary of the Society for the Protection of the Blind*



BEST GOLD

South African Mint, 50 Rand, Gold, *Nature's Families: The Meerkat*





BEST SILVER

Royal Canadian Mint, 20 Dollars, Silver, *Canoe*



BEST CROWN

Monnaie de Paris, 10 Euro, Silver, *From Clovis to the Republic: Charlemagne*





BEST TRADE

National Bank of Lithuania, 1 Litas, Copper-Nickel, *Basketball*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Austrian Mint, 25 Euro, Silver & Niobium, *Robotics*



2014 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2012



COIN OF THE YEAR

France, 10 Euro, Silver, *Yves Klein*



For the first time in the history of the Krause Coin of the Year Award, top honors went to a coin with coloring. The French 10 Euro coin commemorating Yves Klein won the award for Most Artistic Coin and was selected by the judges as the Coin of the Year for coins dated 2012.

This was the fourth time France won the Coin of the Year Award tying with Italy as the second most honored country. France also won the award for Best Silver Coin for coins dated 2012 with the 10 Euro SS France Ocean Liner, Le France.

Yves Klein (1928-1962) is regarded as one of the most important French artists of the modern era. In 1960 he was among those who founded *Nouveau Realisme*, France's response to the American pop art movement. Klein was also a leader in body art and an early influence in performance art. Klein created a recipe for "International Klein Blue" which became his signature color.

The obverse design shows the bow-tied Klein with his outstretched hand drenched in International Klein Blue. His eyes are penetrating. The color on Klein's hand is an integral part of the coin design. The reverse is a rendition of one of Klein's paintings.

The Paris Mint made this coin in several denominations in both gold and silver. There is a 10-ounce proof silver 100 Euro coin with a mintage of 500; a 5-ounce silver proof 50 Euro coin with a mintage of 500; a 5-ounce gold 500 Euro weighing 5 ounces with a mintage of 99; and a ¼ ounce 50 Euro gold coin with a mintage of 1,000. The 10 Euro silver proof Coin of the Year award winner has a mintage of 30,000 and is not difficult to obtain.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
Bank of Greece - Mint, 10 Euro, Silver, *Socrates*



MOST ARTISTIC
Monnaie de Paris, 10 Euro, Silver, *Yves Klein*





MOST INNOVATIVE

Royal Canadian Mint, 25 Cents, Nickel-Plated Steel, *Glow-In-The-Dark Dinosaur Skeleton*



MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Alderney, 5 Pounds, Copper-Nickel, *Remembrance Day*





BEST GOLD

Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, 20 Euro, Gold, *Flora in the Arts - Middle Ages*



BEST SILVER

Monnaie de Paris, 10 Euro, Silver, *Ocean Liner "Le France"*





BEST CROWN

Royal Australian Mint, 5 Dollars, Silver, *Southern Cross in Night Sky*



BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

Great Britain, 10 Pounds, Silver, *2012 London Olympic Games*





BEST BI-METALLIC

Mint of Finland, 50 Euro, Silver & Gold, *Helsinki - World Design Capital*



BEST CIRCULATING

Royal Australian Mint, 1 Dollar, Aluminum-Bronze, *Australian Year of the Farmer*



2015 AWARDS

FOR COINS MINTED IN 2013



COIN OF THE YEAR

Austrian Mint, 50 Euro, Gold, *Gustav Klimt*



The Austrian Mint won three of the ten categories for coins dated 2013, including the prestigious Coin of the Year for the 50 Euro gold coin, “Klimt & His Women, The Expectation.” The spectacular coin celebrating the work of famed artist Gustav Klimt, also won the “Best Gold” category. A 100 Euro gold coin, KM-3225, depicting a Red Deer as part of the Austrian Wildlife series won the “Most Artistic” category. A 25 Euro silver and niobium coin, KM-321, depicting the theme of tunneling won in the “Best Bi-metallic” category.

The 50 Euro gold Klimt, the second in a five coin series celebrating the important artist depicts his painting, “The Expectation” on the reverse.

The reverse, designed by mint engraver Herbert Waehner, depicts a Klimt painting of the face of a young dancer yearning for love. Her hand is held in a pose reminiscent of Egyptian paintings. The letter “L” in the right field is the second letter of Klimt’s name which all five gold coins spell when they are assembled.

The obverse design by chief engraver Thomas Pesendorfer, features the “Tree of Life” from the Stoclet dining room in Brussels commissioned to Klimt. His tree bears both flowers and fruit symbolizing man and woman together and on their own. To the right, the image of a falcon interprets the Eye of Horus in the manner of Klimt.

This is the second time Klimt has been honored as a subject for the Coin of the Year award. In 2003, Austria’s 100 Euro depicting Klimt’s, “The Kiss,” KM-3108, won “Best Gold.”

The 50 Euro gold is 22mm, 10 grams gold, struck in proof only with a mintage of 30,000. Grades in Proof 69 should be readily available. Each coin is sold in a box with a numbered certificate. A wood collection case is available for the five coin series.



MOST HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Royal Dutch Mint 5 Euro, Silver, *1713 Treaty of Utrecht*



MOST ARTISTIC

Austrian Mint 100 Euro, Gold, *Austrian Wildlife - Red Deer*





MOST INNOVATIVE

Bank of Mongolia 500 Tugrik, Gold-plated Silver, *Howling Wolf Laser Cutout*



MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Royal Canadian Mint 3 Dollars, Silver, *Grandfather and Grandson Fishing*





BEST GOLD

Austrian Mint 50 Euro, Gold, *Gustav Klimt*



BEST SILVER

Bank of Latvia 1 Lats, Silver, *Richard Wagner*





BEST CROWN

Central Bank of Ireland 10 Euro, Silver, *James Joyce*



BEST BI-METALLIC

Austrian Mint 25 Euro, Silver & Niobium, *Tunneling*





BEST CONTEMPORARY EVENT

National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, 1 Ruble, Copper-Nickel *90th Anniversary of BPS-Sberbank*



BEST CIRCULATING

United States Mint 25 Cents, Copper-Nickel *Mount Rushmore National Memorial*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Donald Scarinci is the senior partner in one of the largest law firms in New Jersey. He has collected coins since high school and he is considered an international authority in the field of contemporary art medals having assembled one of the largest privately held collections of art medals in the United States.

Scarinci has written and lectured extensively about medallic art and design. He is a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society and serves on the J. Sanford Saltus Award Committee. He also serves on the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture.

In 2005, Scarinci was appointed by the United States Secretary of the Treasury to serve on the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and is now in his third term. He lends his expertise as a nominating judge for the Krause Coin of the Year Award. Most of the photographs in this book are coins from his near complete collection of Coin of the Year award winners in every category.

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