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The Numismatist

NOVEMBER 2014

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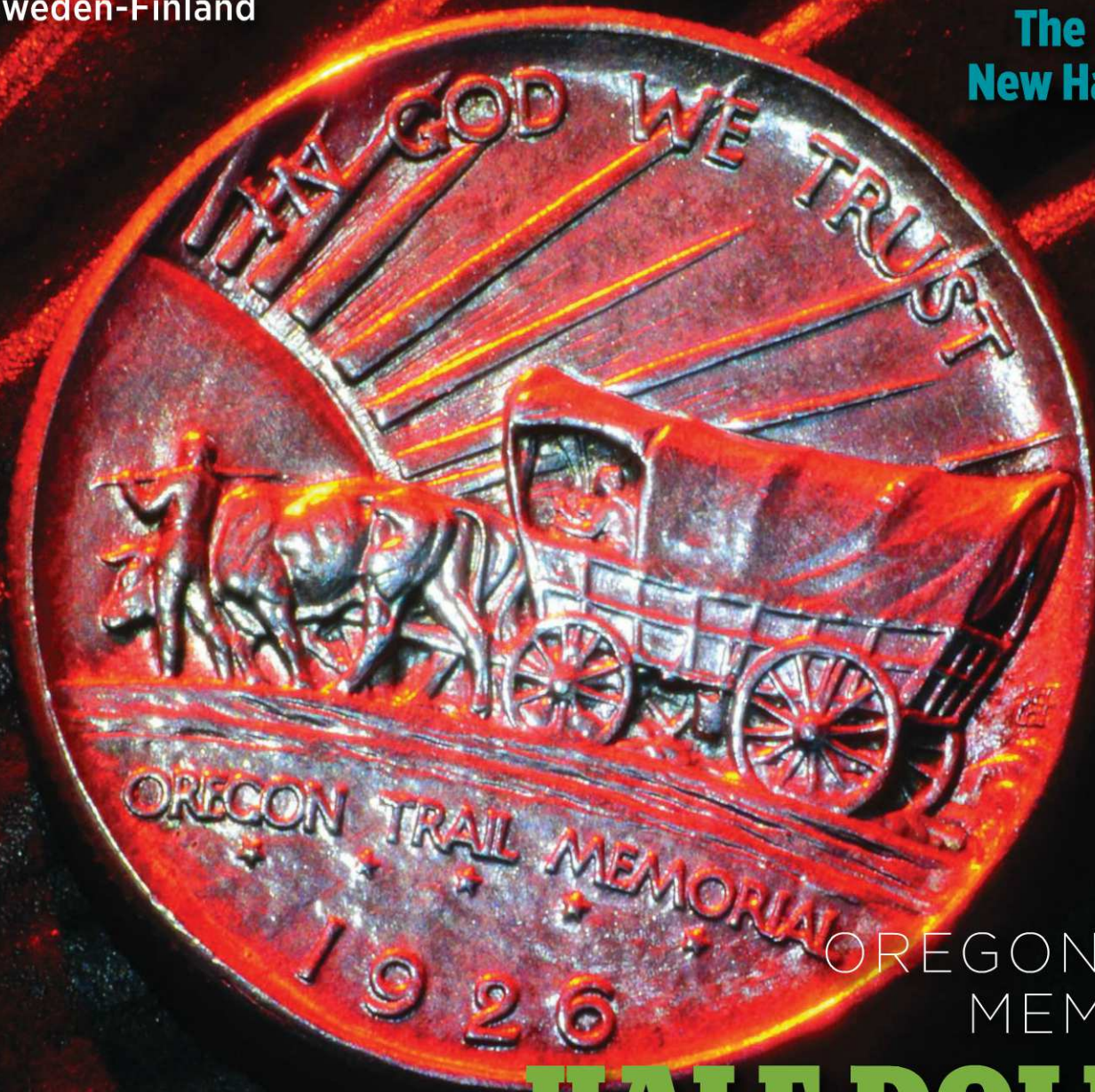
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The Portugalöser
in the Kingdom of
Sweden-Finland

Where's Waldo's Coins?

**The Iconic 1838
New Haven Medal**



OREGON TRAIL
MEMORIAL

HALF DOLLAR

Sunrise at Pocatello

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TAKE YOUR PICK

Subjects appeal to a wide range of readers.

AT *THE NUMISMATIST*, we work hard to bring you thoughtful, well-written articles on a variety of topics—something for everyone. That's why we were delighted to read ANA member Douglas Keefe's October 12 commentary online at www.shorenewstoday.com. (Since 1974, he and his wife, Linda, have operated Beachcomber Coin & Collectibles in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey.)

In his regular column, "The Gold and Silver Mine," Doug had a lot of nice things to say about the ANA and its magazine. "This is the time of the month I look forward to, when I receive my copy of *The Numismatist*, the monthly publication put out by the American Numismatic Association and mailed to members," he wrote. "Articles...range from stories behind the creation of certain items, historical facts about the changes in coinage and metal content, identifying characteristics of common counterfeit coins, and a whole...spectrum of topics. It's safe to say [that] whatever your collecting interest, there will be at least one article in each issue that will address [it]."

Doug went on to describe the ANA's many programs and benefits, from its annual Summer Seminar to its world-class museum, library and conventions. "If I sound like a cheerleader for the ANA, I am. Nowhere else can you get this amount of knowledge in one place from an organization whose main purpose is education and support of the hobby."

In recent years, *The Numismatist* has strived to expand the scope of its feature articles and monthly columns, as well as its stable of authors. In 2013, at the suggestion of ANA life member Harlan Berk, we recruited experts in the field of Greek, Roman and Byzantine coinage to write 12 installments annually for the "Ancients" column. Since then, especially with the demise of *The Celator*, that excellent publication edited by Kerry Wetterstrom, *The Numismatist* has earned a reputation among collectors for well-researched articles in this popular field. Likewise, hobbyists who pursue world material welcome the wide selection of global subjects presented here throughout the year, from new issues to historic coins, tokens, medals and paper money.

This month's edition is no exception. "Ancients" guest columnist Cole Schenewerk discusses Roman coins that chronicle the "Social War" (p. 62), while António Trigueiros, former director of the Portuguese State Mint, explores "The Portugalöser in the Kingdom of Sweden-Finland" (p. 40). Gary Greenbaum's cover story, "Sunrise at Pocatello" (p. 32), describes the genesis of the 1926-39 Oregon Trail Memorial half dollar. Finally, Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly pursue the mystery of legendary numismatist Waldo Newcomer's stolen coins (p. 48), and Q. David Bowers considers "The Iconic 1838 New Haven Medal" (p. 57).

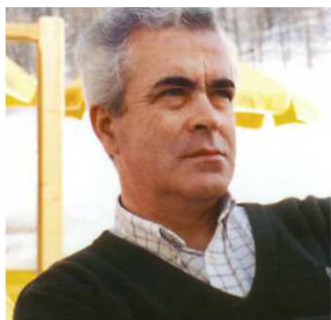
As Douglas Keefe promises, you are sure to find one or more articles of interest in this issue. Don't hesitate to let me know (at gregory@money.org) what strikes your fancy.

Barbara



PHOTO: BRAD ARMSTRONG

Gary M. Greenbaum was born in New York City and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He received his MBA from New York University and his law degree from The George Washington University. He has practiced law in Northern Virginia since 1992. Greenbaum has authored more than 40 articles about coins. His article "The



TRIGUEIROS

Other Side of the Oregon Trail Half Dollar" appeared in the October 2013 issue of *The Numismatist*.

A chemical engineer by training, **António Trigueiros** is a former director of the Portuguese State Mint (1985-98) and the author of dozens of scholarly articles about Portuguese numismatics. In 1992 he became the first mint director to receive Europe's Vreneli Prize, which honors individual contributions to the advancement of numismatics. Trigueiros is a director of the Lisbon Geographic Society and editor of the website www.estudosde-numismatica.org, hosted by a nonprofit organization dedicated to articles about



OLIVER & KELLY

Portuguese coinage, art medals, bank notes, and orders and decorations.

Californians **Nancy Oliver** and **Richard Kelly** consider themselves "numismatic history detectives" who enjoy delving into "cold cases" and digging up clues that sometimes conflict with traditional beliefs. All six of their books evolved from articles they wrote for *The*

Numismatist. They received the ANA's Wayte and Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award (2006) and also have earned four Heath Literary Awards (2006, 2007, 2008 and 2013). Partners in life and the hobby, the couple has been together for more than 39 years.

An ANA life member since 1956, **Q. David Bowers** is the author of numerous hobby references, as well as *The Numismatist's* monthly column "Coins & Collectors." Chairman emeritus of Stack's Bowers Galleries and an ANA past president, he was inducted into the Numismatic Hall of Fame (1994) and named one of *COINage* magazine's "Numismatists of the Century."

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the PORTUGALÖSER in the Kingdom of SWEDEN-FINLAND

Inspired by Portugal's impressive gold coins, King John III followed the lead of other Northern European countries and struck his own.

THE PORTUGALÖSER—a large, impressive gold coin struck from the mid-16th century into the 18th century—was introduced in 1499 by King Emanuel of Portugal, where it was known as a *Portuguez* and carried a value of 10 *cruzados* (or *ducats*). Several states in Northern Europe minted pieces of similar size and/or weight, often as commemoratives or gifts rather than circulating coinage.

◀ **IN HIS 1731 BOOK, *Thesaurus Nummorum Sueo-Gothicorum* (“Swedish Numismatic Treasures”), Elias Brenner illustrated a Swedish Portugalöser (bottom).**

The first to imitate the 35.5g, .989 fine Por-

tugalöser was the German city of Hamburg in 1553-60. As its big, gold coins became known, appreciated and admired by members of the Hanseatic League (a confederation of merchant guilds), various cities and states along the main trade routes began to produce their own Portugalösers.

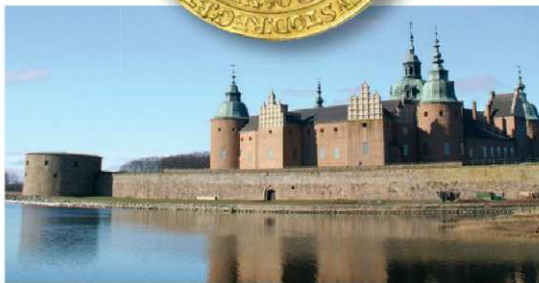


These did not copy Portugal's original *Portuguez*, but Hamburg's issue, with its characteristic legend on the obverse, *NACH PORTUGALIS SCHROT UND KORN* (“According to the fine alloy and weight of the coin of Portugal”), encircling the city's coat of arms. On the reverse was a stylized cross of the Portuguese Order of Christ (later dubbed the “Cross of Portugal”).

Later, throughout the 17th century and beyond, the popularity of the 10-ducat denomination increased, as it was very convenient in trade dealings. Some European issues quickly adopted this value and embraced its submultiples (2½ and 5 ducats) and

multiples (20 and 40 ducats). In most cases, however, the coins did not carry the traditional designs of the Hamburg Portugalösers, but rather were heraldic types representative of the issuing entities.

Historical records indicate that, in 1585, King John III Vasa of Sweden

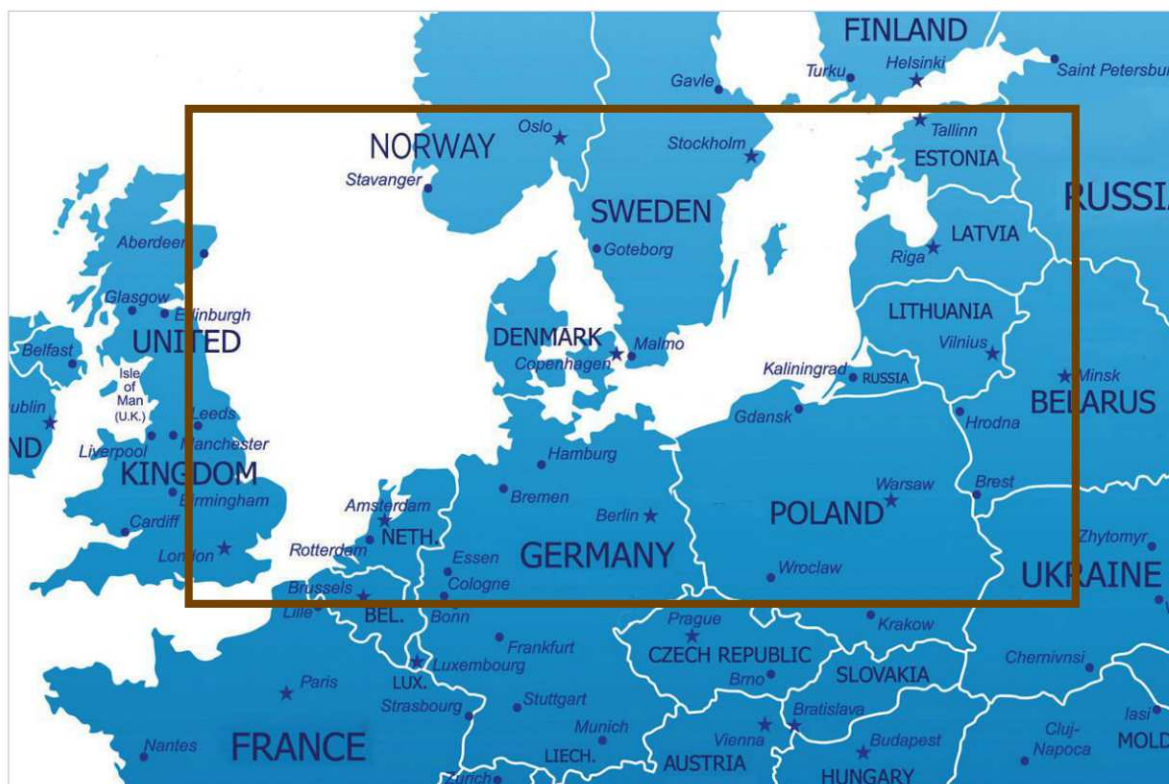


▲ **THIS 1585-86 PORTUGALÖSER** sold in Fritz Rudolf Künker's Auction 219 for €65,000. Kalmar Castle (shown), constructed in the 12th century, was home to Kings Gustav I, Eric XIV and John III.

Not Actual Size

PHOTOS: ISTOCKPHOTO/MARCUS LINDSTRÖM (CASTLE) & ANTÓNIO TRIGUEIROS

Swedish Royal Mintmaster Gillis Coyet wanted to adapt the characteristic style of Hamburg coinage to the Swedish reality.



PHOTOS: ANTONIO TRIGUEIROS (COIN) & ISTOCKPHOTO/BERSENG

▲ **AREA OF INFLUENCE** of gold Portugalösers in Northern Europe: to the North, from Hamburg to the Jutland peninsula, Denmark and Sweden; to the East, throughout Northern Germany and the coasts of the Baltic Sea, Poland and Lithuania, reaching the borders of the Russian Empire; to the West, from the trading cities of the Netherlands; and to the South, along the trade routes of the Elbe River to the heart of Bohemia.

ordered the minting of “Portugalöser,” which entered the Swedish numismatic nomenclature as *Portugalös*. As such, I feel it is important to include these issues among known Portugalösers, despite their nontraditional iconography.

Swedish Royal Mintmaster Gillis Coyet wanted to adapt the characteristic style of Hamburg coinage to the Swedish reality. On the obverse, replacing the city’s coat of arms, the king’s image appeared in the center of two concentric rings—the outer one filled with Sweden’s provincial

escutcheons, the inner one with royal titles. On the reverse, three rings bearing royal mottos surrounded the arms of the Vasa dynasty, a design intended to promote the Swedish king’s goodness and kindness.

However, my thoughts differ with regard to the 5- and 10-ducat coins struck on behalf of the Swedish kings in Stockholm between 1606 and 1620; in the Swedish possessions in Northern Germany (Erfurt, Elbing, Bremen-Verden); and in the Baltic States between 1632 and 1650. It seems contemporary sources and literature offer no evidence that allows us to identify these gold coins as Portugalösers, as they sometimes are cataloged.



▲ **GOLD PORTUGALÖSER** from the City of Hamburg.
Not Actual Size

The Kingdom of Sweden-Finland & Its Baltic States

Modern Sweden emerged from the Kalmar Union in 1397, when Queen Margaret I of Denmark unified Sweden, Norway and Denmark. However, the succeeding Danish sovereigns were unable to control the Swedish nobility. For long periods, the

As in neighboring Denmark, the gold coins that circulated along the trade routes in the Baltic region included the English rose noble.

real power was exercised by rulers chosen by the Swedish parliament. An attempt to break the Swedish resistance degenerated into a massacre of nobles at Stockholm, ordered in 1520 by King Christian II of Denmark. As a result, the Swedish nobility rebelled, led by Gustav Eriksson, an influential man from the House of Vasa. In June 1523, he was elected king of Sweden and thereafter was known as Gustav I Vasa (r. 1523-60), the "Father of the Nation."

Gustav I successfully overhauled the state's entire bureaucratic and administrative structure, centralizing power and government. The autocratic ruler requested that Pope Clement VII appoint a Swedish archbishop, Johannes Magnus, to represent the kingdom of Sweden, but the Roman Curia refused, insisting on a Danish bishop. In 1531 Gustav broke with the Roman Catholic Church and instituted Lutheran reform in the kingdom.

In the years that followed, Sweden would be the great palatine of Protestantism in Europe, participating in the Thirty Years' War alongside the German Protestant princes, with great military success. Between 1630 and 1721, Sweden was the most powerful state in Northern Europe. Its empire in the Baltic extended from Finland to the City of Riga, Latvia (annexed in 1621), with dependencies across Northern Germany and Western Pomerania (encompassing parts of modern-day Poland and Germany).

Most of the conquered territories outside the

Scandinavian peninsula were lost by 1721, and Finland became a dependency of the Russian Empire in 1809. The last war in which Sweden was directly involved was in 1814, when it forced Norway to accept a "personal union" (two or more states

that have the same monarch, but their own distinct boundaries, laws and interests). This arrangement lasted until 1905, after which Sweden adopted a foreign policy of nonalignment in peacetime, and neutrality in wartime (which is why it has not joined the European Union).

Circulating Gold Coins in Sweden

In the 14th century, Swedish cities were strongly influenced by the German merchants of the Hanseatic League. These tradesmen were particularly active in the City of Visby on the west coast of the island of Gotland, in direct connection with Hamburg and Riga.

As in neighboring Denmark, the gold coins that circulated along the trade routes in the Baltic region included the English *rose noble* (or *noble*, weighing 7.69g and equal to 4 silver *dalers*, the Scandinavian equivalent to the *Joachimstaler*) and *angelot* (or *angel*, weighing 5.06g and equal to 2.25 silver *dalers*). Also readily accepted was the French *crona* (or *crown*, weighing 3.38g and equal to 1.25 silver *dalers*); the Hungarian *gulden* (or ducat, weighing 3.50g and equal to 1.5 silver *dalers*), double ducat (6.91g, equal to 3 silver *dalers*) and Rhine gulden (3.27g, equal to 1 silver *daler*); and finally the Portugalöser of Portugal and Hamburg (35g, equal to 15 silver *dalers*).

Rich in copper and silver, Sweden belatedly began coining gold in 1568-73, during the reign of Eric XIV, in the form of Hungarian gulden (known as *ungersk gyllen*) and golden crown (*krongyllen*). The former weighed 4.21g, much heavier than the international currency of the same name. Ducat-denominated coinage did not appear in Sweden until 1654, under Charles X Gustav, despite that nearly 70 years earlier King John III Vasa ordered the minting of commemorative Portugalösers, whose gold content was valued at 10 or 20 ducats.



◀ **SWEDISH KINGS:** Gustav I and John III (above).

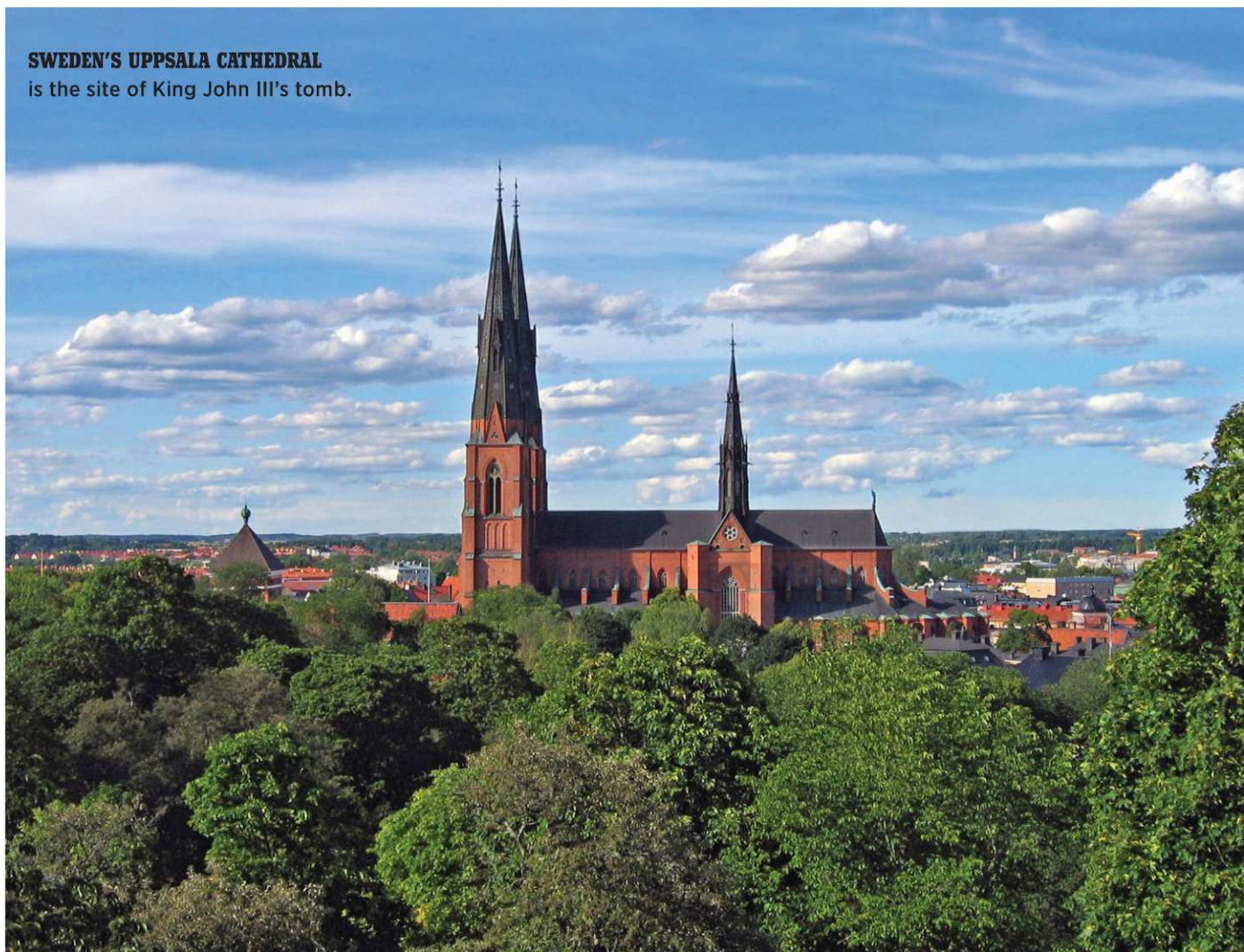
PHOTOS: HERITAGE AUCTIONS



▲ **AMONG THE GOLD COINS** that circulated in Sweden in the mid- to late-15th century were the English rose noble (top) and Hungarian gulden. Not Actual Size

After Gustav's death, John's half brother ascended the throne as Eric XIV, and the conflicts between the two began.

SWEDEN'S UPPSALA CATHEDRAL
is the site of King John III's tomb.



PHOTOS: ISTOCKPHOTO/RHOBERAZZI (INTERIOR) & SERGEE

(Interestingly, in 1584, Frederick II of Denmark ordered trial strikes of the most current gold coins for presentation to his wife, Sofie; his Swedish neighbor, John III, obviously followed suit, but his intentions were quite different, as we shall see.)

The Reign of John III

John III Vasa was born in the Swedish province of East Gothland (*Östergötland*) in 1537, the second son of Gustav I Vasa and his second wife, Margaret. At age 19, John was granted the duchy of Finland,



and he moved to Turku, where he created a princely court. In 1559-60, he was the Swedish ambassador to the court of England's Queen Elizabeth I, having been highly respected for his command of the English language.

After Gustav's death, John's half brother ascended the throne as Eric XIV, and the conflicts between the two began. Against the wishes of the new king, John married Princess Catherine, daughter of King Sigismund I Jagellon of Poland in 1562. Angered by his brother's rebellious con-

On June 20, 1585, John III apparently authorized the purchase of good Hungarian gold using proceeds from the sale of copper in Stockholm and Lübeck.

duct, Eric accused John of treason and condemned him to death. The king's troops besieged and captured John's castle in Turku, Finland, and imprisoned him and his family in 1563. They were released five years later, when the mentally unstable King Eric was deposed.

Elected king by the Swedish parliament in 1568, John III also assumed the title of Grand Prince of Finland. He had fought successfully against Denmark in the Seven Years' War (1563-70) and against Russia in the Livonian War (1558-83).

John III was well educated and an enthusiastic patron of arts and architecture (it seems he liked to build castles). He spoke German, English, Italian and Polish, as well as the universal language of Latin. The influence of his Polish queen, and his sympathy for the Catholic cause, caused serious problems with the Protestant Swedish nobility. He and Catherine bore a son, Sigismund (1566-1632), who was elected king of Poland-Lithuania in 1587 as Sigismund III Vasa.

John III's personal mottos, engraved on his coins to further his image, were mighty indeed: GOD PROTECTOR NOSTER ("God Is Our Protector," Psalms 37:20); BENEFACIENDO NEMINEM TIMEMUS ("Doing the Good, We Do Not Fear Anyone," Proverbs 20:28); and MISERICORDIA ET VERITAS CUSTODIUNT REGERN... ("The Compassion and Truth Preserve the King...," Proverbs 20:28). He died in 1618 and was interred at the cathedral of Uppsala.

The Swedish Portugalöser

Revealed in 1961 by historian Birgitta Odén, and further studied by the renowned numismatist Bengt Hemmingsson, contemporary documents testify to the existence of the 1585-86 Swedish 10- and 20-ducat Portugalösers as donative coins of King John III Vasa, and how he used them to expedite the election of his son, Sigismund, to the throne of Poland in 1587. Both denominations bore essentially the same design.

A unique example of the 51mm, .979 fine gold 20 ducats, weighing 69.30g, resides in the Royal Coin Cabinet in Stockholm. A specimen of the 10 ducats, likewise measuring 51mm but weighing 35g, was auctioned in March 2012 by Fritz Rudolf Künker GmbH & Co. KG in Osnabrück, Germany (Lot 7009). The coin also is represented in the Royal Coin Cabinet in Stockholm (two examples weighing 33.54g and 33.94g); the Numismatic Cabinet

of the University of Uppsala (34.687g); and the National Museum of Finland in Helsinki (35.07g).

Because a fire destroyed Sweden's Royal Archives in 1597, documentary knowledge of Swedish coinage up to the late 16th century is lacking. However, startling information about the gold coinage of 1585-86 was discovered by Birgitta Oden as she studied documents in the Royal Treasury Archives about the buying and selling of Swedish copper.

On June 20, 1585, John III apparently authorized the purchase of good Hungarian gold using proceeds from the sale of copper in Stockholm and Lübeck. According to the instructions he gave his copper steward, the gold was to be delivered to the Royal Mint in Stockholm, where the following coins were to be produced: "Portugalöser, double rose noble and other gold coins that I will state later." Both the Portugalöser and the rose noble were to be struck in .979 fine gold, with weights of 35.05g and 15.02g, respectively.

Four batches of gold coins were acquired and melted between June 1585 and September 1586. The first—452 Hungarian gulden, obtained in Stockholm in June 1585—were used to produce 45 Portugalösers with an individual cost of 18 öre and 13½ penningen. The new coins were given to the king and stored in his private safe. Their intended use is not known.

The second batch, consisting of 347½ rose nobles, 175 double ducats and 1,166 angelots, acquired in Lübeck in May 1586, yielded 641 Swedish double rose nobles at a cost of 12 öre each. The coins were delivered to the king in September 1586. The third batch—48 English angels—was obtained about the same time and produced 3 Portugalösers (16 öre each) and 9 Swedish double rose nobles (12 öre each). According to documents of the king's secretary, the coins were given to a famous professor at the University of Rostock, Dr. David Chytraeus and his son, Johannes Frederus, both known humanists and theologians, as a reward for influencing the Swedish church to respond more positively to John III's religious policies.

From another document found in the Treasury Chamber Archives, it is known that the fourth batch was received by Mintmaster Gillis Coyet on November 4, 1586, and consisted of 400 Hungarian gulden. From these, 20 Portugalösers and 46 Swedish double rose nobles were struck for delivery to Prince Sigismund.

In all probability, these gold coins, along with

In total, 68 Portugalösers of the 10-ducat denomination were minted in 1585-86. As for the double Portugalösers of 20 ducats, there are no records.



PHOTOS: ANTONIO TRIGUEROS

▲ A 1570 PORTUGALÖSER of Electoral Brandenburg (top) and a 1610 specimen of Electoral Saxony.

Not Actual Size

many other silver dalers also coined at that time, served to help Sigismund's election to the Polish throne. This explains how Portugalösers turned up in Poland, where Sigismund authorized their mintage in large numbers and varieties.

In total, 68 Portugalösers of the 10-ducat denomination were minted in 1585-86. As for the double Portugalösers of 20 ducats, of which a single copy has survived, there are no records. It is estimated they were manufactured on the same occasion and used for very special royal gifts.

Acknowledgments

The impetus behind this article about the remarkable Swedish Portugalösers of King John III Vasa was four magnificent and profusely illustrated catalogs, in Swedish and German, issued for Künker's 2011-12 auctions of the grand collection of Julius Hagander (1925-2009). From these publications, I began to understand and appreciate the elaborate coins of Sweden and its possessions in the Baltic and Northern Germany.

I would like to thank Jan-Olof Björk, chairman of the Swedish Numismatic Association (medlem@numismatik.se/kontakt), for suggesting suitable numismatic references and putting me in contact with numismatist and editor Magnus Wijk, who stoically endured my many questions, always answering, commenting and directing. It was from these two men that I learned about the important

study published in 1961 by historian Birgitta Odén, revealing the royal instructions for the mintage of Portugalösers in Stockholm, a fact that was previously unknown. ■

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PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/OLLIKAINEN

▲ KING JOHN AND HIS QUEEN, CATHERINE, were captured at Turko Castle in Finland in 1563.