

THIRD EDITION

# UNUSUAL WORLD COINS

A STANDARD CATALOG OF WORLD COINS  
COMPANION LISTING AND PRICE GUIDE OF  
NOVEL NON-CIRCULATING COINS



by Colin R. Bruce II

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by Colin R. Bruce II

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### ***UNCIRCULATED VALUATIONS***

The Uncirculated valuations represented in this edition are for typical quality specimens; for some of the more popularly collected series, superior quality examples may easily command 10% to 50% premiums, or even greater where particularly popular or rare types or dates are concerned.

### ***BULLION VALUE (BV) MARKET VALUATIONS***

Valuations for all platinum, gold or silver coins of the more common, basically bullion types, or those possessing only modest numismatic premiums, are presented in this edition based on market levels of \$390 per ounce for platinum, \$360 for gold, and \$3.60 per ounce for silver. Where the letters "BV" — Bullion Value — appear in a value column, that particular issue in the condition indicated generally trades at or near the bullion value of its precious metal content. Further information on using this catalog to evaluate platinum, gold or silver coins amid fluctuating precious metal market conditions is presented on page 8.

*The best histories may sometimes be those in which a little of the exaggeration of fictitious narrative is judiciously employed.—Something lost in accuracy, but much is gained in effect.—The fainter lines are neglected, but the great characteristic features are imprinted on the mind forever.—***Macaulay.**

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# DEDICATION

Following the aftermath of Operations "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm" many medallions, military service medals and other objects were produced documenting these historical events. The New Queensland Mint on contract for Australia's Hutt River Province has pro-

duced a pictorial series of coins portraying the equipment and manpower involved in these operations. Thus we have chosen the cover design to honor all those who were involved in curtailing the advances of Iraq and expelling their forces out of Kuwait.

## FORWARD

"I have a coin not listed in your *Standard Catalog of World Coins*". How many times had I heard that familiar phrase? Well I happened to have some also and knew of many others. Richard D. Kenney and Eduard Kann documented many but that was decades ago. The various numismatic periodicals and auction catalogs over the past two decades have pre-

sented many more and it was a good time to round up all these "unusual world coins" and include some rascals also.

The purpose of this new catalog is to provide an easy to use reference to what I've referred to sometimes as the old back of the book listings that appeared in the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* many editions back.

## INTRODUCTION

This third edition of this "newcomer" to the field of numismatic references has been enhanced with many new listings, new and improved illustrations and accurate market valuations. Many of these have appeared in auction catalogs over the past few decades leaving a mysterious enigma about them. The auctioneer usually provided an illustration, the metal in which it was struck and an estimate for the bidder to consider. The "what for" and "by whom" is what I've tried to establish in many of these listings.

Using *Unofficial Coins of the World* by Richard D. Kenney a series that appeared in *The Numismatist* between 1962-1964 and later reprinted by the ANA along with the fantasy section found in Eduard Kann's *Illustrated Catalog of Chinese Coins* first published in 1966 I was able to develop a strong base. This rapidly expanded over the months

to over 2250 individual listings. The shortcomings of the first title previously mentioned were soon encountered.

Again certain areas of extreme specialty which have already been removed from or not intended for inclusion in future editions of the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* have been added including most anything thought to be or auctioned off or sold as a coin whether or not it was a government authorized medallic issue or an absolute fantasy piece. Please note that counterfeits of regular circulating coinage have almost been totally ignored, unless they are encountered in various off metal strikes.

Many new listings have been added while keeping any renumbering minimal. Please note that the 'X' prefix found throughout these listings is not meant to be derogatory in any way but to easily distinguish the source of the listing as being from *Unusual World Coins*.

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## ARRANGEMENT

All listings are alphabetically arranged in a historical approach according to the issuing identity of or for the sovereign government concerned. Thus, the pieces of Netherlands East Indies can be located by referring to the listings under I, or the Imperial issues of Russia by turning to R. Certain issues that are not related to any sovereign government, rebel force, or political movement will be found listed under the country of the issuer's origin. Thus the "Aureus Magnus" Ducat series struck for Werner Gaul will be found listed under Germany - Republic while the commemorative medallion pieces struck for various numismatic conventions and expositions by the New China Mint will be found listed under China - Peoples Republic.

The issues of each country are generally arranged by denomination from lowest to highest, except where arrangement by ruler, mint of issue, type or period makes a series easier to understand.

## NUMBERING SYSTEM

Many catalog numbers cross-referenced in this volume are based on established references. As time progressed we found many of these established systems incomplete and inadequate and are now replaced with new Bruce numbers with appropriate cross-referencing.

A few of the items listed in this catalog are cross-referenced by numbers assigned by R.S. Yeoman (Y#), or slight adaptations thereof, in his *Modern World Coins*. For the pre-Yeoman dated issues, the numbers assigned by William D. Craig (C#) in his *Coins of the World* (1750-1850 period), 3rd edition, have generally been applied. Certain crown sized items are cross-referenced to *The Dollars of Africa, Asia and Oceania* by John S. Davenport (Dav. #).

The majority of the items listed in this catalog are cross-referenced to *The Standard Catalog of World Coins* by Chester Krause and Clifford Mishler (KM #). Another popular cross-reference used was published in a series of articles about *Unofficial Coins of the World* by Richard D. Kenney (KY #) which appeared in *The Numismatist* between June 1962 and February 1964.

Pieces issued under the Chinese sphere of influence are frequently assigned numbers from E. Kann's (Kann #) *Illustrated Catalog of Chinese Coins*.

## MINT AND PRIVY MARKS

The presence of distinctive, but frequently inconspicuously placed, mint marks indicates the mint of issue for many of the coins listed in this catalog. An appropriate designation in the date listings notes the presence, if any, of a mint mark on a particular coin type by incorporating the letter or letters of the mint mark adjoining the date; i.e., 1950D or 1927R.

The presence of mint and/or mintmaster's privy marks on a coin in non-letter form is indicated by incorporating the mint letter in lower case within parentheses adjoining the date; i.e., 1927 (a). The corresponding mark is illustrated or identified in the introduction of the country.

A listing format by mints of Issue has been adopted for some countries — including France, Germany, Spain and

Mexico — to allow for a more logical arrangement. In these instances, the name of the mint and its mint mark letter or letters is presented at the beginning of each series.

Where listings incorporate mintmaster initials, they are always presented in capital letters separated from the date; i.e., 1850 MF. The different mint mark and mintmaster letters found on the coins of any country, state or city of issue are always shown at the beginning of listings.

## MINTAGES

Quantities minted of each date are indicated where that information is available; generally stated in millions, rounded off to the nearest 10,000 pieces. On quantities of a few thousand or less, actual mintages are generally indicated, a fact that can be determined by the presence of a comma, rather than a decimal point, in the stated figure. The following mintage conversion formulas have been observed:

10,000,000	-	10.000
1,000,000	-	1.000
100,000	-	.100
10,000	-	.010
9,999	-	9,999
1,000	-	1,000
842	-	842 pcs. (Pieces)
27	-	27 pcs.

The abbreviation "Inc. Ab." or "I.A." means Included Above, while the abbreviation "Inc. Be." or "I.B." means Included Below. A "\*" listing beside a mintage figure indicates the number given is an estimate.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

To assist the reader in coin identification, every effort has been made to present actual size photographs of every coinage type listed. Obverse and reverse are illustrated, except when a change in design is restricted to one side, and the coin has a diameter of 39mm or larger, in which case only the side, required for identification of the type is generally illustrated. All coins up to 60mm are illustrated actual-size; to the nearly ½mm up to 25mm, and to the nearest 1mm thereafter. Coins larger than 60mm diameter are illustrated in reduced size, with the actual size noted thereunder. Where slight change in size is important to coin type identification, actual millimeter measurements are stated.

## MEDALLIC ISSUES

Medallic issues are segregated following the regular issue listings. Grouped there are coin-type issues which can generally be identified as commemoratives produced to the country's established coinage standards but without the usual indicator of denomination. These pieces may or may not feature designs adapted from the country's regular issue or commemorative coinage, and may or may not have been issued in conjunction with related coinage issues.