

# CINDERELLA COINS & CURRENCY

by Serge Huard

Sovereign State of the Island of Barbe - Located somewhere in France, according to some sources, the "Etat Souverain de l' Ile Barbe" issued some years ago a fantasy coin in bronze without date of issue. The coin has a diameter of 40 mm and a reeded edge. The obverse illustrates an old city with castle while the reverse depicts a portrait of Charlemagne. There is no date of issue on the coin but it was probably issued between 1978 and 1984. The mintage is not known but was probably low as the coin is scarce. Any information on this fantasy issue and country would be welcome.

Russian Imperial Union-Order - To commemorate its 60th anniversary of foundation (in Paris, in 1929) the Russian Imperial Union-Order, a Russian monarchist organization in exile, issued a copper commemorative coin-of-tradition. The obverse features the emblem of the RIU-0, the Czarist eagle with the sword of the freedom fighter, with the following inscriptions: "Russian Imperial Union-Order", "For the Faith, the Czar and the Fatherland", "1929-1989", "60 Years of Struggle" and "We are Russian, God is with us". The reverse depicts a portrait of Czar Nicholas II with the inscriptions "1894-1917" (The date of his accession to the Imperial throne and the date of his abdication), "Only National Assembly Will Choose a Worthy Successor" and the denomination "Rouble". The "Monarchist Rouble", as it is called in Russian Monarchist Circles, has a diameter of 38.25 mm and a weight of 23.5 gr. of pure copper. The mintage is of 10.000 pieces in proof-like quality. According to the official organ of the RIU-0, "The Imperial Messenger" (a Russian-language periodical distributed worldwide), the "Monarchist Rouble" does circulate extensively among Russian monarchists in Russian and around the world.

Araucania-Patagonia - The Royal House of Araucania-Patagonia (in exile) issued in 1990 a coin-of-tradition to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the succession of Prince Felipe. The coin, which is minted in nickel-silver and in proof quality, illustrates on its obverse the French battleship "Entrecasteaux" which was sent, according to many historians, by Napoleon III of France to help Orélie-Antoine in his project to build an independent kingdom under the protection of the French Empire. These events took place in 1870. The reverse depicts a portrait of Prince Felipe, the 6th head of the Royal House of Araucania-Patagonia. Previous issues include the rare 1874 2 centavos (in copper) and the extremely rare 1874 1 peso (in silver), the 1988 100 pesos, the first issue under the succession of Prince Felipe and the 1989 100 pesos which commemorated the visit of the prince in Argentina and Chile (who now respectively control Araucania and Patagonia). The mintage of the 1990 100 pesos is of 2.000 pieces.

Republic of Latvia - To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Latvia, the Legation of Latvia, in Washington, issued in 1988 a 1 Trojas Unce commemorative coin-of-tradition featuring, on the obverse, the Monument of Freedom which is located in Riga, the Latvian capital and metropolis with the inscriptions "For Motherland and Freedom" and "1918-1988" and, on the reverse, the official coat of arms of the Republic of Latvia with the inscriptions "Republic of Latvia" and the denomination "1 Trojas Unce". A pure silver version, with a weight of 31.1 grams and a bronze

pattern version were issued with mintage respectively of 7.000 and 400. The diameter of each is of 38 mm. This issue was distributed in all countries where there is a Latvian community and, of course, in Latvia itself. It is to be noted that the legation of Latvia in Washington has a diplomatic status and that the United States, and almost all major countries, never acknowledged the occupation of Latvia by the USSR. These are now scarce, especially the bronze pattern, due probably to the events actually going on in Latvia which is struggling to regain its independence.

Information Wanted - Coinage-of-tradition, fantasy coins or coins from Royal Houses or Governments-in-Exile or coins from fantasy countries, from nationalist organizations....new or old issues, classic or new discoveries....any information regarding these would be of interest to the editor of the numismatic section of ATALAYA. Please contact Serge Huard, CP 244, Succ. P.A.T., Montréal, Québec, H1B 5K3, Canada.

