

specimens all in Proof quality with an unusually high relief making it one of the most beautiful coins-of-pleasure in several decades. Other coins-of-pleasure were issued in 1977 but since then no news was reported from the Principality of Sealand. Is it still in "existence"? Any information relating to Sealand and its stamps and coins, etc., or where to contact the Sealand authorities would be welcomed by the numismatic editor of this magazine.

GREENLAND - Only a few numismatic items were issued by Greenland and these were issued several decades ago even if it has been a "colony" of Denmark for many centuries. This may explain the interest in a recent discovery, a 1 Piaster 1989 silver Proof coin. It is of exceptional beauty, with a diameter of 32mm and a weight of one full troy ounce of 0.999 pure silver; because of its relatively small diameter and its silver content, it is unusually thick and attractive looking like a Piéfort (double-thick coin of prestige). Illustrating a Polar bear on the obverse with the inscriptions "Grønland", the denomination "1 Piaster", and the information relating to its fineness and weight, "1 OZ .999" and depicting the official coat of arms of Greenland on the reverse with the inscriptions "Kalaallit Nunaat" (the official name of Greenland in the native language) and the year of issue "1989". No information as to where it was struck or how many were struck is available at this point. However, we can say without any doubt that it is a first quality Proof piece and we presume that only a small number was issued because it rarely appears on the numismatic market. Is it a pattern, a trial piece, a coin-of-tradition, a coin-of-pleasure or simply a fantasy coin? I don't know but it certainly is a "piece-of-art" worth adding to any exnumist collection.

BURKINA FASO - Formerly known as Upper Volta, in 1990, the Republic of Burkina Faso was planning a celebration for the 30th anniversary of its independence and among various projects was a commemorative legal tender coin. A very small quantity of the pattern of this commemorative coin was issued mainly for presentation, among others, to members of the government but, for some unknown reasons, the project was cancelled. The reverse of the pattern reproduces the official coat of arms of the Republic of Burkina Faso with the motto "La patrie ou la mort, nous vaincrons" ("The fatherland or death, we will win"). The obverse depicts two eagle heads meaning the solidarity of the Burkinabé people with the inscription "1 once Troy" and the year of issue "1990". It was minted in pure silver with a mintage of 300 pieces and in pure copper with a mintage of only 30 pieces. Both versions are in high relief, in Proof quality. It is of special interest to note that this issue of Pattern is the very first numismatic issue of the Republic of Burkina Faso as the legal tender coins that circulate in the country are those of the Union Monétaire Ouest-Africaine (West African Monetary Union) of which it is a member.

SULTANATE OF OCCUSSI-AMBENO - The second "pleasure-coin" of the Sultanate of Occussi-Ambeno recently appeared on the after-market. It is of the same diameter and weight as the first issue (see ATALAYA 37 for more information) which is 40mm and one full Troy ounce of pure silver. The reverse reproduces a superb and famous nude painting by Velázquez while the obverse is similar to the previous \$100 with the nude Goya painting. The year of issue is also 1990. The coin seems to be very scarce but it is probably because coins with nudes are always popular with coin collectors and numismatists and not necessarily because the



mintage is small (no indication regarding the actual mintage is available from our sources). Again, the only problem with this superb piece is the issue price which is relatively expensive (US\$49).

FURSTENTUM WIKINGLAND - The Principality of Wikingland recently issued its first decoration and its first mythological-religious symbol. The "Mjöllnir" (Thor's Hammer) decoration has 3 classes: with ribbons, with stars (to be worn at the chest) and around the neck (as the highest decoration). The "Mjöllnir" mythological-religious symbol is an attractive pin. Both pieces (which are similar), the decoration and the pin, based on a historic specimen from Kabbara in Scania (South Sweden), are elaborate models with, in the upper part, many features associated with the god Thor, such as staring eyes, an eagle's beak, a stylised beard, and a reminiscence of the World Serpent, in the middle, a reproduction of the Sunwheel, one of the oldest human symbols (according to several researchers, its origins go back to more than 6.000 years) which represents among other things, the eye of the god Odin, and in the lower part, a series of runes (the alphabet of the Vikings) meaning as a whole "Wikingland" and, if taken individually, joy, ice, torch, fire, god, energy, property need and day. These Thor's Hammers which are charged with symbolism were considered by the Vikings as good luck charms. Minted in antiqued Fleur-de-coin quality showing all the delicate details, these exnumist items are certainly beautiful and unusual additions to any collection. Both are struck in German silver, a very resistant and attractive alloy. The official price is \$25 each. Your numismatic editor is able to offer, in exclusivity to the readers of ATALAYA, a small quantity of the decoration (of course without the official ribbons) and of the pin at the special price of only US\$10 each (please add US\$2 for airmail postage per order). Naturally, this special offer is subject to availability; as usual, first come, first-served.



INFORMATION WANTED - Coins-of-tradition, pleasure-coins, fantasy coins, patterns, and trial strikes issued by Royal Houses or Governments-in-exile, fantasy countries, or nationalist organisations; new or old issues, new discoveries or classic issues. Any information regarding these would be of interest to the editor of the numismatic section of ATALAYA. Please contact (in English or French) Serge Huard, C.P. 244, Succ. P.A.T., Montréal, Québec, H1B 5K3, Canada.

FREE Araucania 1988 100 Pesos Nickel-Silver Proof

In 1988, on the 128th anniversary of the founding of the Kingdom, to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the death of H.M. Orélie-Antoine I, the Royal House of Araucania-Patagonia issued its first numismatic issue since the 1874 Two Centavos and One Peso: a crown size (38.25mm) nickel-silver 100 Pesos Proof coin-of-tradition with a total and final mintage limited to only 2.000 pieces. The reverse is based on the extremely rare (and expensive) 1874 Peso with the inscriptions "Reino del Mapu", the denomination, "100 Pesos", and the year of issue, "1988". The obverse depicts a portrait of H.E. Prince Philip, the current head of the Royal House of Araucania and Patagonia. This Proof coin-of-tradition, which comes with a certificate of authenticity is superb, unusual and quite scarce...and it is FREE (absolutely without any obligation) upon request from the first 47 readers of ATALAYA. Simply write a letter to the numismatic editor stating that you are a reader of ATALAYA and request your free specimen. Please add US\$2 for airmail postage. As for the previous offer in ATALAYA 37, this offer is limited by the quantity in stock on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

