

NUMISMATIC SECTION

By Serge Huard, numismatist

After a silence of several months due to an unfortunate motorcycle accident, the author of this modest chronicle is back to his passion, i.e. coins, coins-of-tradition and medallic issues from Cinderellas, "dead" countries, Royal Houses and Governments in-exile, and other numismatic oddities. As in the past, contributions from readers are welcomed. Since the last chronicle, many discoveries were made and several new issues were produced... watch the future editions of ATALAYA for more information on these and where to get them (when still available). for further information or to send contributions, please write to Serge Huard, FRNS, C. P. 402, Pointe-aux-trembles, Quebec, H1B 5K3, Canada

THE VINLAND 2246 10 FEHU "FREYJA" COIN-OF-TRADITION

The description of the reverse of this unusual and superb coin-of-tradition is interesting and instructive in many aspects. The upper inscription, **Vinland**, means the geographical location of the issuer, historically the North-Eastern part (which was visited by the Norse people around the year 1000) of what is now called the North American continent but traditionally the continent as a whole, while the lower inscription, **Midhgardhr**, means the geographical and spiritual location where Vinland is situated, that is on Earth (i.e. Midhgardhr in the Old Norse spelling). In the *Eddas*, Midhgardhr is one of the Three Realms, the home of the humans.

The central illustration, the **Valknutr**, also called the Knot of Odin in the Old Norse mythology, is the symbol of the Nine Worlds embodied in the Three Realms in eternal unity. The Three Realms are: Asgardhr, the stronghold of the gods and goddesses; Midhgardhr, the center of the world, the Earth inhabited by men and women but also denote the protective wall surrounding it; Hel, not a place of punishment, not a hell, it is simply the realm of the dead. The Nine Worlds are: Asgardhr (consciousness), Midhgardhr (self), Hel (unconsciousness), Ljossalfheimr (intellect), Svartalfheimr (emotion), Vanaheim (balance), Muspellsheimr (fiery energy) Niflheimr (icy energy) and Jotunheimr (motion).



The rune **Tywaz**, to the left of the central illustration, is the rune of the God of Tyr, the god of sky, war and council in the Old Norse mythology while the **double Mjollnir** (Thor's Hammer), to the right of the central illustration, is the welding of the rune Hagalaz (the letter H) and of the rune Tywaz (the letter T) meaning Heritage and Tradition, the issuer, an "organization" dedicated to the promotion and diffusion of the cultural and cultural heritage and tradition of the North European peoples in Vinland.

The inscription below the central illustration is the denomination: the number 10 with the rune Fehu, the rune of fortune and monetary wealth. These **10 Fehu** coins-of-tradition have a real exchange value of US\$10 among Heritage and Tradition and affiliates.

The superb obverse of this unusual Vinland coin-of-tradition illustrate in full detail and in extremely deep relief the Goddess **Freyja**, the Old Norse goddess of nature, of fertility and of love, but who has a warrior aspect. The most honored goddess in the Old

Norse "pantheon", the most beautiful and the most important of the goddesses, Freyja is the idealized womanhood, she can be loving or fierce, tender or harsh, erotic or maternal but always competent, willful and independent. When she moves into battle, she gets half of the fallen warriors (Odhinn receiving the other half).

On this Vinland coin-of-tradition, the nude Freyja is laying on the ground (the Earth-Mother) near the **Yggdrasil**, the world tree of Eddic mythology. The rune **Berkano**, the rune normally associated with this goddess is reproduced in high relief on the Yggdrasil. The final inscription, **2246-2-17**, is the year of issue, that is the year 2247 of the Runic Era (i.e. 1996 C.E.).

The mintage is not known yet but it is estimated to be around a hundred pieces in nickel-silver and less than forty in pure silver (one Troy ounce). The diameter of both versions is of 39mm. (crown size). The original issue prices are of US\$18.00 for the Proof nickel-silver version and of US\$39.00 for the Proof pure silver version. A superb addition to any collection. [The author of this chronicle has a few specimens of each version available for sale (add \$4 for airmail postage) or for trade for similar coins-of-tradition (send only descriptions or photocopies, not the pieces, for possible exchange)]

THE 1994 "PEACE" PATTERN-ESSAI OF THE KINGDOM OF ARAUCANIA-PATAGONIA

A Pattern ("Essai" in French) of a Soberano (in English a "Sovereign", the denomination) was issued in 1994 to commemorate the peace process that evolved in the year 1994. The central illustration is a two-dimensions **dove of peace** with the year of issue (1994).

As inscriptions, the **word peace** appear in several of the languages involved in that process: in German (to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and the re-unification of Germany), in English and Irish (to commemorate the peace agreement between the British government and the I.R.A.) and in Arab and Hebrew (to commemorate the peace treaty between the state of Israel and the Palestinians and the creation of the Authority of Palestine).

As usual on the Araucanian-Patagonian coins-of-tradition, the reverse illustrate a portrait of H.R.H. Prince Felipe, head of the Royal House of Araucania-Patagonia (in exile in France).



Only 8 of these 38mm. Patterns-Essais were minted, all of them in beautiful Antiqued finish nickel, exclusively for presentation purpose mainly to members of the Royal House. These Patterns-Essais were not followed by a regular issue of coins-of-tradition. They are extremely rare as none are available on the numismatic market and are not expected to be in the near future.

For more information on the Araucania-Patagonia Kingdom, its history and its coinage-of-tradition, please refer to the issues #37, #38 and #39 of ATALAYA. For the English language readers, the best source of information is without doubt the magazine "The Steel Crown" published quarterly by the North American Araucanian Royalist Society who can be contacted at the following address: N.A.A.R.S., Mr. Daniel Morrison, Secretary, Post Office Box 9033, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15224, United States. If you request a sample copy of "The Steel Crown", please include a few dollars to help cover the cost of your request.