

NUMISMATIC SECTION

By Serge Huard, numismatist and exnumist

A «PATRIOTIC» COIN-OF-TRADITION ISSUED IN QUEBEC (CANADA)

As several readers will know, a second referendum on the independance of Quebec from Canada was held in the province of Quebec some months ago (in October 1995). Those in favor of Quebec remaining a province of Canada won at the polls but the Independantists received no less than 49,5% of the vote, losing by less than 50,000 votes. Since then, the interest in the «patriotic» or independantist numismatic issues issued during the last decade (as well as philatelic issues which, by the way, has been issued almost since the beginning of the century) has been growing tremendously and new issues from several patriotic and independantists organizations are expected in the coming months especially in view of a possible thrd referendum if the Independantist party (Parti Québécois) is again elected.

One of these «patriotic» memorabilia recently appeared on the market in the Montreal area. This new numismatic issue is a superb Proof full crown size (i.e. 39.75 mm), in gold plated, undated 1 Lys (one of the projected denominations for an independant Quebec) coin-of-tradition.

The central illustration of the obverse is a one half of a Fleur-de-lys, the national emblem of the province of Quebec with the inscription «Fiertés et Traditions d'un Pays» (Pride and Tradition of a country) on the other half and the denomination 1 Lys (which is theoretically equal to one Canadian dollar). The year of issue is not inscribed on the piece but we believe it was struck around the months of September or October of 1997.

The reverse depicts a geographical map of Quebec with a Fleur-de-lys incuse in its center with, above, the inscription «Je me souviens» (I remember), the national watchword of Quebec.

The coin-of-tradition is reeded edge with the illustrations and inscriptions in matte finish on a brilliant background. The mintage is not know yet but, according to our sources, it is below 1,000 pieces and was not offered to the general public. No information is available at this moment as to under which authority or which Independantist organization this coin-of-tradition was issued. The original issue price was of \$15. [NOTE: A few pieces are available exclusively to readers of ATALAYA at the special price of only US\$7 each, airmail postage included, on a strictly first-come, first served basis].

FREE TO ALL THE READERS TO ATALAYA

I recently acquired a small quantity of the superb Hutt River Province Principality 1977 nickel-silver Proof 50¢ coins. The total mintage is of only 1,000 pieces and, twenty years after issue, they are quite scarce and difficult to obtain. In order to stimulate interest in numismatic among the readers of ATALAYA, I am offering these FREE on the basis of the first-come, the first served. Please note that only a few are still available. Simply send your name and address with \$2 to cover the airmail cost to: Serge Huard, C.P. 402, Pointe-aux-trembles, Quebec, H1B 5K3, Canada.

