

Crown and Minor Commemorative Coins of the 19th and 20th Centuries

American Numismatic Association

Lecture Set #27A

Part 3 – Brazil

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Crown & Minor Commemoratives of the 19th & 20th Centuries



The obverse of the 4000 reis - diameter is 50 millimeters or approximately 1 15/16 inches. The central figure is a full length heroic portrait of Cabral with right arm outstretched and clutching his hat, the left hand grasping the standard of the King of Portugal indicates he has just taken possession of the new land in the name of his king. His name is engraved on a circular ribbon underneath the ground on which he stands. Around the outer edge is the legend: 4th CENTURY OF DISCOVERY OF BRAZIL.

Reverse of the 4000 reis piece shows a heavy raised circular line. Within this line are two elipsoidal shields on which are emblazoned the arms of royal Portugal and democratic Brazil.

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Silver 2000 reis piece of the Discovery of Brazil series issued in 1900. The main device is a Portuguese ship under full sail - the same kind of vessel which brought Cabral to Brazil's shore. On each sail is emblazoned the cross of Portugal.

On the reverse side is a heavy wreath. The left side is of oak; the right, laurel. The wreath is divided at the top by the date, 1500, at the bottom by the date, 1900. Within the wreath is the value, 2000 reis. Around the outer edge is the legend "4th CENTURY OF DISCOVERY OF BRAZIL." At the bottom is a five-pointed star.

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Around the periphery is the inscription which means in English, Republic of the United States of Brazil



The 1000 reis coin was struck to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of Brazil, a rectangular plaque with ribbon fold at the top is within the center of a raised circular line. On the ribbon is engraved, "LIBERTAS (LIBERTY)". Within the plaque is the head of Liberty enclosed within a circle. Underneath the plaque is a walking plow resting on grassy land with shrubs. To the right of Liberty within the circle is a steam locomotive and telegraph lines and pole; to the left is a steamship - both representing communication and progress.

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The 400 reis coin of the Discovery of Brazil series; the cross of Portugal within a circle. Within the circle and around the cross is the motto, IN HOC SIGNO VINCES (IN THIS SIGN YOU CONQUER). The cross and the motto is the same which the Roman Emperor Constantine saw in the sky while fighting a rival at the Battle of Millvian Bridge in 312 A.D. Constantine won the battle and later legalized Christianity. In circular arrangement around the outer edge: REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL. Silver, reeded edge.

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In 1922 Brazil issued 500, 1000 and 2000 reis coins to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Brazil's Independence from Portugal. When Napoleon's army invaded Portugal successfully in 1808, the Regent - John VI - fled to Brazil. He was accompanied by a large number of his court. Rio de Janeiro instead of Lisbon became the seat of the royal government for the next 14 years. Conjoined busts of Pedro I, first ruler of Brazil and Epitacio Pessoa, president in 1922.

In 1821 John returned to Portugal, leaving his son - Dom Pedro as regent. The Brazilians disliked the idea of becoming just an ordinary colony. There was a bloodless revolution on September 7, 1822, and Pedro was proclaimed emperor.

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Brasil misspelled (Bbasil) at the bottom of the conjoined busts.

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The same design is common to the 500 and 1000 reis (normal and error) reverses for Centenary of Independence. In the center there are two crossed branches. On the one to the left is a crown; on the one to the right, a liberty cap - symbolizing the fact that Brazil has been both an empire and a republic.

In between the crossed branches is the lighted torch of freedom. Above the torch is the date, 7th OF SEPTEMBER. This was the date when the bloodless revolution established the independence of Brazil. At the bottom translated; FIRST CENTENARY OF INDEPENDENCE.

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The main device for the reverse of the 2000 reis piece is a plaque on which is imposed the arms of the Empire of Brazil at left and the arms of the Republic of Brazil at the right. Above the arms in three lines 1ST CENTENARY OF INDEPENDENCE. Underneath the arms, the dates. 1822-1922. At the bottom is the value, 2 mil reis. Silver, reeded edge.

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For the 400th Anniversary of the Colonization of Brazil, a series of coins was issued: 100, 200, 400, 500, 1000 and 2000 reis. Obverse of the copper-nickel 100 reis piece pictures Cazique or Chief Tiberica; the chief of the seacoast Indians when the second settlement of white men was founded in Brazil. He was also the father-in-law of Romahlo, the founder of that settlement. From this union of the Portuguese- men and Indian women came the Paulistas or half-breeds - the most feared of all by the early settlers of Brazil. A long and bloody series of wars was waged against the Paulistas until they were brought under control. On either side of the head of the chief is the legend 4TH CENTENARY OF COLONIZATION OF BRAZIL.

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For the 200 reis, the main device is a stylized representation of the globe - part of the coat of arms of Portugal and also the central figure in Brazil's flag. Around the outer edge: 4TH CENTENARY OF COLONIZATION.

Reverse pictures a ship - typical of those which brought over the first colonists. Prominently displayed on the sails is the cross of Portugal. At the top on either side of the ship are the dates, 1532-1932. At the bottom in two lines, the value: 200 reis. Edge is plain; metal is copper-nickel.

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For the 400 reis Colonization Commemorative, there is a relief map of South America, with a representation of the equator latitude. The line representing longitude stands for the Line of Demarcation. Portugal's discovery and settlements in the New World vitalized the Line of Demarcation which had been set by Pope Alexander VI.

Disputes between Spain and Portugal caused the imaginary line to be set in 1493 at a distance of 370 leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands. All land "west of the line" was Spain's; all land to the east of the Line of Demarcation was Portugal's. This imaginary line was changed a number of times by treaties. Although not wholly effective, the Line of Demarcation did set the destiny for the New World in those early years of exploration.

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Central figure is a full bust of Joao Romalho, the founder of Brazil's second settlement and the colonist who married Tiberica's daughter. On either side of the figure 4TH CENTENARY OF THE COLONIZATION OF BRAZIL and the dates - 1532-1932.

Reverse features a typical suit of armor as worn by soldiers of the 16th century; on either side, the value 500 reis in modernistic arrangement and style. The edge is reeded, metal, aluminum~bronze.

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The 1000 reis piece has a an almost full-length portrait of Martim Affonso de Sousa, founder of the first formal settlement in Brazil. The first settlement was brought about by rumors of silver in the south. John III sent de Sousa with an expedition. He founded Sao Vicente in 1532. On either side of the portrait in several lines, the legend. 4TH CENTENARY OF THE COLONIZATION OF BRAZIL and the dates, 1532-1932.

Reverse features arms with 1000 reis around the top. The edge is reeded, metal is aluminum-bronze.

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This silver commemorative of the 400th Anniversary of Colonization of Brazil pictures a full bust portrait of John III of Portugal, 1502-1557, reigning monarch of that country who sent out settlers and colonists to Brazil. John III was the son of Emmanuel I. He came to the throne in 1521. His reign was mostly disastrous for commerce and social prosperity. However, he did succeed in luring attention away from India to the Western Hemisphere and was responsible for the first settlement in Brazil.

Reverse is the coat of arms of the royal house. Value, 2000 reis, around top; at bottom in smaller letters - KING OF PORTUGAL. Edge is reeded, silver.

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Obverse of the 100 reis piece commemorating the Marquis of Lisbon and Tamandare, who was born in 1807 and lived for a century, was an admiral in the imperial navy of Brazil. He was one of the most striking figures of the Brazilian Empire and very loyal and devoted to the Emperor. He was held in high esteem and his advice carried much weight in matters of government. The obverse shows his bearded portrait full with TAMANDARE in small letters across the bottom in a divided straight line.

On reverse, the main device is a ship's anchor because Tamandare was a naval man. BRASIL is across the top; the date, 1936, to the right. On either side of the anchor in straight vertical lines 100 REIS. Metal is copper-nickel; edge is plain.

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The obverse of the 200 reis coin honoring the Viscount de Maua, a Brazilian capitalist, industrialist, builder of railroads, ports, telegraph lines and textile mills. Since the date of issue of this coin is 1936, the piece might commemorate the 90th anniversary of Maua establishing a large number of banks and helping stabilize the finances of Brazil. The obverse shows Maua's portrait in full, his name is across in a divided straight line.

Reverse center is a locomotive of the mid-19th century. Maua built Brazil's first railroad line; nine miles of track in 1854. At top, BRASIL, and in smaller numerals the date, 1936. At the bottom, 200 reis. Copper-nickel, edge is plain.

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This is a 300 reis piece struck in 1936 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Carlos Gomes. The leonine head of Gomes is portrayed: on the obverse. Carlos Gomes was perhaps the greatest of Brazilian composers. His operas, written in the Italian style, are still produced. His best known operatic work was "THE GUARANI," He died in 1896.

Reverse of the 300 reis coin shows a lyre as its main device, symbolizing the music of Gomes. At top in two lines, BRASIL and the date, 1936. On either side of the lyre in vertical lines: 300 REIS. Copper-nickel, edge is plain.

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Oswaldo Cruz was honored on a 400 reis piece struck in 1936. His portrait facing slightly left is on the obverse together with his name at the bottom. Cruz was a Brazilian physician and scientist who was responsible for ridding Rio de Janeiro of yellow fever and bubonic plague and the rapid disappearance of small pox. This coin commemorates the 30th anniversary of this monumental work. Cruz was one of the first to realize the importance of sanitation in a large city.

The reverse shows the traditional lamp of knowledge. BRASIL and the date, 1936, are above. The denomination is at the bottom. Copper-nickel, edge is plain.

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This 500 reis piece honors Father Diogo Antonio Feijo. Feijo was a priest with very liberal ideas of government. By an amendment to the Constitution of Brazil in 1832, a single regent was to rule during the minority of Dom Pedro II. Feijo assumed that office on October 12, 1835. Since the coin is dated 1935, therefore it commemorates the 100th Anniversary of that event. After a stormy interval, he resigned on September 19, 1837.

Reverse carries a classic column with BRASIL above. The denomination is on either side of the column. The date, 1935, is at the bottom. Aluminum-bronze, edge is plain.

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The head of Father Jose Anchieta facing right is on the obverse of this 1000 reis piece struck to honor him. Father Anchieta was a Jesuit priest - one of four missionaries who came to Brazil in 1553. Because of his work with the Indians in establishing a school, creating a written language and encouraging the Indians to live as civilized creatures, Anchieta is often called the Apostle of Brazil. He wrote the first poetry in the New World and may be thought of as the founder of Brazilian literature.

An open book symbolic of his work as a teacher and author of text books, poetry and plays occupies the center of the reverse. Above is the denomination; below, BRASIL and the date, 1935. Aluminum-bronze; edge is plain.

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Brazil honored one of its most distinguished men - the Duke of Caxias with this 2,000 reis silver coin in 1935. Obverse portrays the Duke in full dress uniform and facing left. Caxias was the only Brazilian ever to hold the title of Duke in the history of imperial Brazil. He was born in 1800 and died in 1880. He was a successful general and in later years commander-in-chief of the imperial armies.

The sword on the reverse is symbolic of the role of the Duke as a military man. BRASIL at bottom left; the denomination center with numerals divided by the sword. Date is lower right. Silver, edge is reeded.

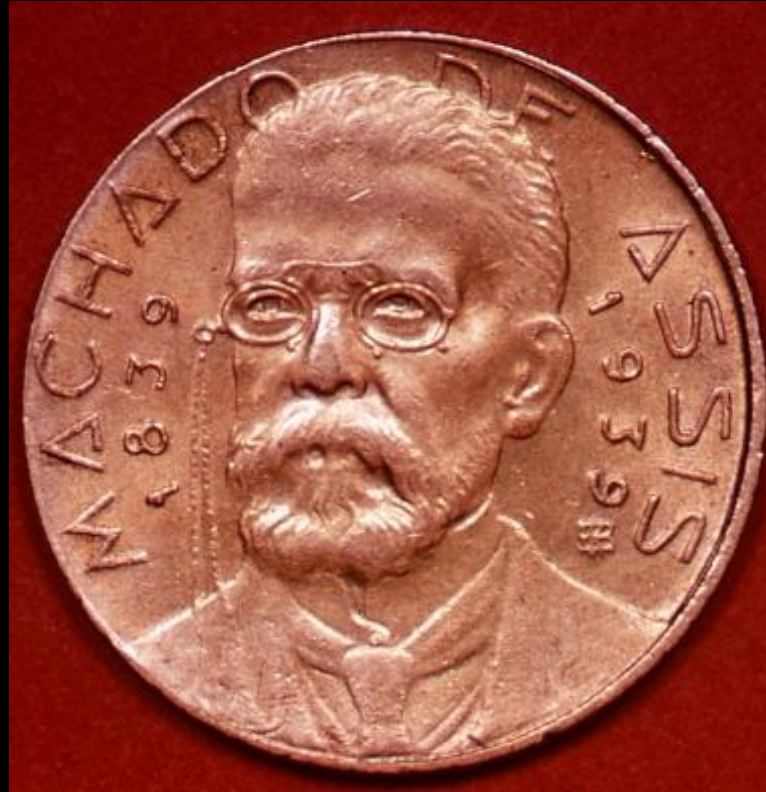
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Santos Dumont is honored by this 5000 reis piece. His portrait appears, facing left. Alberto Santos Dumont was born in Brazil in 1873, but was educated and lived most of his life in France. He used his great wealth to promote the cause of aviation. He pioneered in heavier-than-air machines. In 1897 he flew a small dirigible powered by two small motors. Later he built the first French flying machine, He died in 1932. The coin might commemorate Dumont's flying of a dirigible in 1901 staying in the air and winning \$20,000.

Reverse; prominent is the stylized wing which symbolizes his great interest in aviation. In large numerals, the denomination and BRASIL at the top. Metal is silver. Edge is reeded.

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This is the first of three commemorative coins honoring Famous Men of Brazil - all issued in 1939 for the 100th year of the birth of each man. This one honors Machado de Assis who was born of humble parents and came to be recognized as one of the greatest figures in Brazilian literature. This is his portrait on the obverse of a 500 reis piece. Assis was an exponent of naturalism which was most conspicuous for its description of life and society from the psychological viewpoint. He was well known for his fine sense of observation and sharp irony.

Metal is aluminum-bronze; edge is reeded.

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This 1000 reis piece portrays the bust of Tobias Barreto another brilliant literary figure of Brazil and critic of renown in his day. The edge is reeded; metal, aluminum bronze.

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Marshal Floriano Peixoto whose portrait facing full appears on the obverse of this 2000 reis piece was Brazil's first vice-president. This occurred after Dom Pedro II was deposed. He became Brazil's President on November 23, 1891. With much difficulty he put down a serious naval revolt soon after he became president. Peixoto is credited with consolidating and preserving the young republic during critical years and the preserver of the republican form of government in Brazil. Metal is aluminum-bronze; edge is multi-sided (24 sides).

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Common reverse for the three preceding coins.

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THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE AMERICAN
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