Coins with Special Significance

Lecture Set #17
Electrum Coins

Obverse, Facing heads of Lion & Bull; Reverse, Punch Marks
Ptolemy - Tetradrachm

Obverse, Ptolemy’s Portrait; Reverse, Eagle Standing, circa 300 BC
Shekel of Tyre

Purportedly One of the 30 Pieces of Silver Paid to Judas
Obverse, Head of Herakles (Hercules); Reverse, Standing Eagle
Tyrol Crown
[Gulden Groschen equal to a Gold Gulden]

1486 Silver Crown of Arch-Duke Sigmund of Tyrol (First Dated Crown)
Obverse, Arch-Duke in Royal Dress; Reverse, Mounted Duke
Joachimstaler

Undated Silver Crown From Silver Discovered at Joachimstal, Bohemia
Obverse, Rampant Lion
Maria Theresa Thaler
[Dated 1780, it has been struck for centuries]

Maria Theresa, Empress for 40 Years, Daughter of an Emperor, Wife of an Emperor, Mother of 5 Sons & 11 Daughters; 2 Sons Became Emperors, 1 Became an Archbishop, 1 Became a Duke, & 2 Daughters Became Queens
Pine Tree Shilling

The First Coin Issued in Quantity within the United States
Coined for 30 Years, the Date Remained 1652 to Avoid the King’s Wrath
No Value is Stated on this Coin & No Official Records Have Been Uncovered to Explain it’s History, But it is Called the Continental Currency Dollar
The Fugio Design is Similar to the Continental Dollar but Records Exist Showing that Congress Authorized 300 Tons of Copper for Coining
Spanish 8 Real Pillar Dollar

Sometimes, the coin was cut into 8 pieces to make small change, thus 1 “bit” became 1/8 of a Dollar, 2 “bits” a Quarter Dollar.

Commonly Called the “Spanish Milled Dollar,” “Pillar Dollar” or “Piece of Eight”

Struck in Mexico & at Many Different South American Mints
Colonial & Continental Paper Money was Payable in Spanish Milled Dollars
Bit Pieces

Part of a Pillar Dollar

Part of a Bust Dollar
Bust Type Spanish Milled Dollar

First Valued at 4 Shillings, 9 Pence, they were revalued in 1800 to 5 Shillings

In 1797, the Bank of England began buying & Countermarking Spanish Dollars With a Small Oval Bust of the King
Bust Type Spanish Milled Dollar

The Reverse of the Countermarked 8 Real
Bust Type Spanish Milled Dollar

To Avoid Counterfeiting, in 1799, a New Octogonl Punch was Used
In 1804, the Bank Began Overstriking the Entire 8 Real

Many Times the Under Coin can be Identified

The 1804 Dies were used again in 1810 & 1811

In 1812, the coin was revalued to 5 Shillings, 6 Pence

The Bank of Ireland made overstrikes also, valued at 6 Shillings
Sierra Leone Dollar

Issued in 1791 only, it is the first Coin on which the word Dollar appears
French Medal

Issued around 1790 by the French to Celebrate American Independence
The Head of Liberty Resembles the first Cents of 1793
Reverse shows France Protecting the Infant Nation against the British Lion
United States Dollar

Thomas Jefferson & Alexander Hamilton Established the U.S. Monetary System
The Basic Unit was called a “Dollar” although some wanted to call it a “Unit”
Value appears on the Edge reading “Hundred Cents * One Dollar or Unit”
Silver 3 Cents

The Silver 3 Cent Piece became the first U.S. "subsidiary" coin, meaning its metal content did not equal its intrinsic value.
U.S. $10 Note of 2/25/1862

Massive Debt incurred by the Civil War caused issuance of paper money
U.S. $10 Note of 2/25/1862

This note was made “legal tender” by a Clause on the Back
Notes were issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 & 1,000 Dollars
Authorized in 1873, the Trade Dollar with 2% more silver than a standard silver dollar was minted to compete with the Spanish Milled Dollar in Asia. Many were chop-marked by merchants to guarantee their value.
Columbian Half Dollar

The Columbian Half is perhaps the First U.S. coin to commemorate an event.
And it is the first to portray an historical person.
Columbian Exposition Quarter

The Columbian Quarter Dollar was the first commemorative quarter. It depicts a Foreign Monarch, Queen Isabel of Spain.
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And More Later