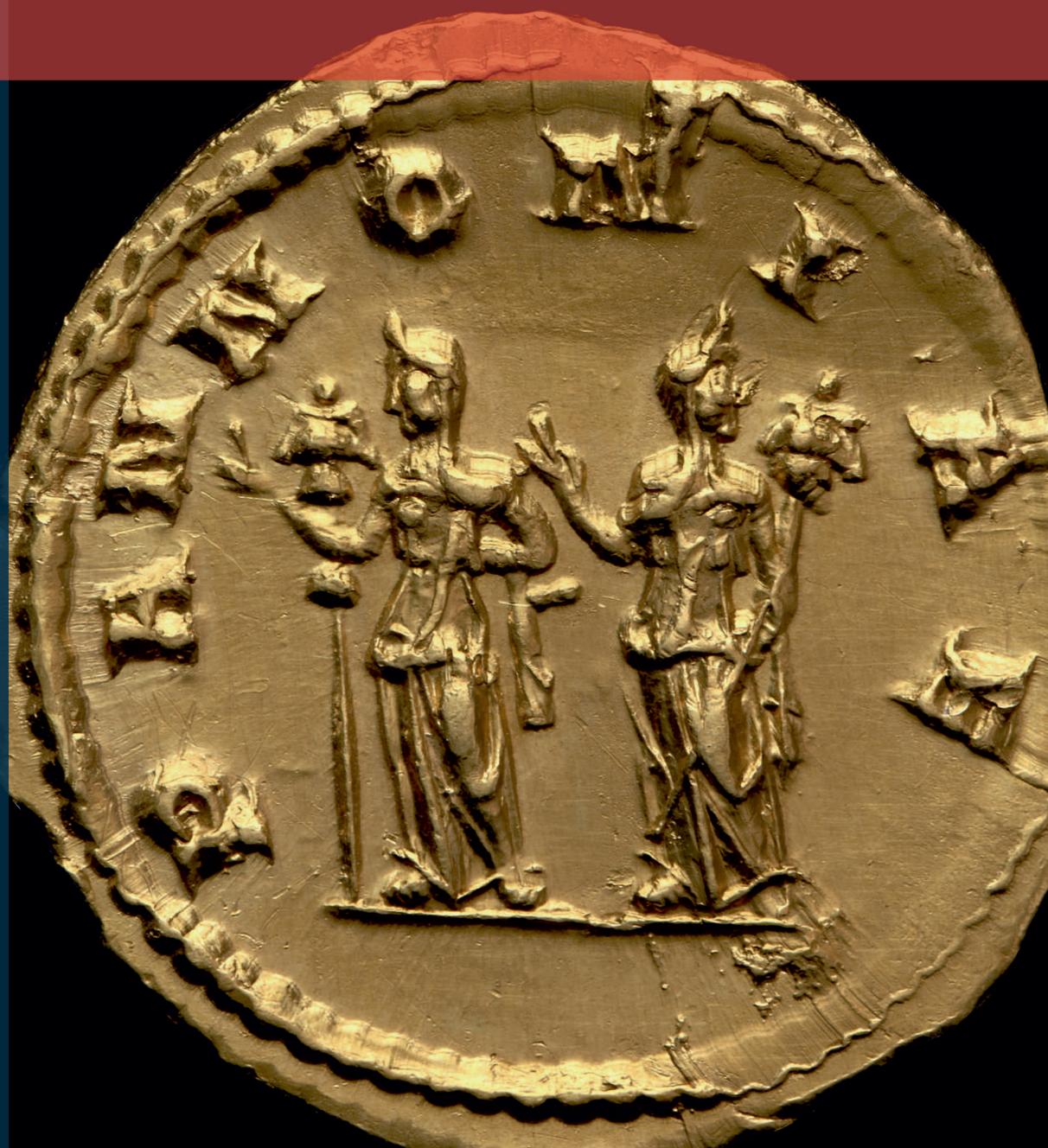


ACTA NUMISMATICA HUNGARICA

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JOURNAL OF THE HUNGARIAN
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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HUNGARICA

II

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Abbreviations of Journals and Periodicals

ActaNumHung	Acta Numismatica Hungarica. Budapest.
AECO	Archivum Europae Centro Orientalis. Budapest.
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő. Budapest.
ArsDec	Ars Decorativa. Az Iparművészeti Múzeum és a Hopp Ferenc Keletázsiai Művészeti Múzeum Évkönyve. Budapest.
AT	Antik Tanulmányok. Studia Antiqua. Budapest.
BIMf	Blätter für Münzfreunde. Leipzig-Dresden-Halle-Heidelberg.
BolNum	Bollettino di Numismatica. Roma.
CommArchHung	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae. Budapest.
DissArch	Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae. Budapest.
Érem	Az Érem. Budapest.
FolArch	Folia Archaeologica. Budapest.
FolHist	Folia Historica. Budapest.
HaRég	Határtalan Régészet. Szeged.
HtMÉ	A Hadtörténeti Múzeum Értesítője. Budapest.
MEFRA	Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire de l'École Française de Rome. Rome.
MFME MonArch	Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – Monumentum Archaeologica. Szeged.
MK	Múzeumi Közlemények. Budapest.
MM	Magyar Múzeumok. Budapest.
MÖNG	Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Numismatischen Gesellschaft in Wien. Wien.
Művészet	Művészet. Budapest.
Numizmatičar	Numizmatičar, Beograd.
NK	Numizmatikai Közlöny. Budapest.
NZ	Numismatische Zeitschrift. Wien.
Pontica	Pontica. Studii și materiale de istorie, arheologie și muzeografie. Constanta.
RégFüz	Régészeti Füzetek, Budapest.
RIN	Rivista Italiana di Numismatica. Milano.
Stratpl	Stratum plus. Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology. Kishinev.
TÜBA-KED	Kültür Envanteri Dergisi – Journal of Cultural Inventory, Online Journal.
ZiStA	Ziridava Studia Archaeologica. Arad.

The Numismatic Collection of the Hungarian National Museum II.

Lajos PALLOS

The interwar period

Returning from the front after World War One, former Collection apprentice ANDRÁS ALFÖLDI (1895–1981), who would later become a renowned scholar of ancient history, worked for a few years for the collection from 1919, where his main area of research became Roman numismatics. In addition to his various excavation reports¹ he also wrote several studies on Roman numismatic history in his years at the museum.² He also dealt with Roman numismatics afterwards. From 1926 to 1936 he was the editor of the *Numizmatikai Közlöny*.³ Alföldi began reorganization of the Collection's late Roman collection by mint site and reidentification of some of the coins on the basis of Voetter's Gerin catalogue.⁴ At the same time Ödön Gohl conducted a redefinition of the Greek collection based on the British Museum catalogue.

In the period following World War One growth was equivalent in quantity to that of previous years, but different in character. There was less money for purchases, but excavations and various official transfers added several thousand coins and banknotes to the collection annually, including the Szabadszállás find of five gold florins and 22,110 small coins of King Sigismund (1387–1437) in 1923. The chief addition in 1924 was the collection of wartime money of necessity, mainly featuring scrip from POW camps and various local currencies of necessity. The 7470-object collection consisted largely of emergency paper currency, mainly issued by Budapest and other Hungarian cities as well as examples from Austria, Germany, France, Belgium and other European countries. (Fig. 1–2) In 1925



Fig. 1 Emergency note, Marseille, World War I.



Fig. 2 POW note, the Toulouse officer camp, World War I.



Fig. 3 100-crown banknote of the Austro-Hungarian Bank with a 1919 Serbian overstamp.

1 ALFÖLDI 1921.

2 ALFÖLDI 1922, 172–173. and ALFÖLDI 1923, 351–355. and 393–396.

3 FITZ 1981–1982, 141–142.

4 VOETTER 1921.

the Royal Hungarian Central Treasury gave the museum 1073 paper notes issued during and immediately after the war, including notes issued by the German and Austro-Hungarian military, post-stamped banknotes of the monarchy, and Russian and Bulgarian money. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 4 Order of Vasa, 1st Class Star of the Commander's Cross, Sweden.

Of the most important acquisitions of the post-war period, mention should be made of Károly Niklovits' donation of 101 Greek coins. In 1921 the collection received a rare example of a posthumous tetradrachma of Lysimachos countersigned by Roman Emperor Claudius.⁵ In 1922 the Collection traded to obtain an extremely rare award: an early example of a Class I Star of the Order of the Iron Crown, an order founded by Napoleon and the medal itself dating from the Emperor's rule at the beginning of the 19th century.⁶ In 1923 the heirs of Jenő Radisics, former director of the Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest, donated Radisics' awards to the National Museum,⁷ including the Knight's Cross of the French Legion of Honor, the Star and Officer's Cross of the Italian Order of

the Crown, the Class II Star of the Russian Order of St. Stanislav, and the Class I Star of the Commander's Cross of the Swedish Order of Vasa.⁸ (Fig. 4)

Statistics taken in 1924 place the Numismatic Collection's total stock at approximately 250,000 objects, with the figures for the individual corrections in round numbers, sometimes rounded downwards, as follows: 8000 Greek, 3000 barbarian, 30,000 Roman and Byzantine, 35,000 Hungarian and Transylvanian, 12,000 Austrian and 100,000 other foreign coins, plus 30,000 medals and tokens and 20,000 paper notes.⁹

Parallel to the growth in the Numismatic Collection's stock of objects, its officials in the 1920's increasingly became more aware than before of the need for the coin collection to become structurally separate from the collections of archeological objects. In late 1923 Ödön Gohl sent a memo to the general director of the museum advocating independence. The collection had already been handled independently from the archeological collections in a number of respects: a separate inventory since 1877, and separate location and independent archive since 1907.¹⁰ Gohl considered an independent Numismatic Collection to be necessary because, first, the Numismatic Collection presented numismatic history in an international context in contrast to the archeological collection's Hungarian-centered approach, and, second, with Hungary having shrunk to one-third its pre-war size by the peace treaty following World War One and the consequent loss of the coin collections of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Nagyszeben (Sibiu), Pozsony (Bratislava) and elsewhere, the Numismatic Collection of the National Museum was the only major numismatic collection. With regard to collection groups like Greek, barbarian or Byzantine coins, or Renaissance Italian, German or French medals, the Numismatic Collection remained the only significant Hungarian collection. With regard to increasing the collections of an independent Numismatic Collection Gohl enumerated a vast range of tasks from the most primitive monetary devices (seashells, metal nuggets, etc.) through various neglected numismatic groups like the various types of securities, sports medals and awards all the

5 G[OHL] 1921, 32.

6 MAKAI-HÉRI 1990, Fig. 55.

7 Ibid. 33.

8 Ibid. Fig. 35.

9 MNM Éremtár 1933, 11.

10 GOHL 1923.

way to books, financial legislation, money-weighting equipment, old coin chests, numismatic correspondence, and numismatic and monetary history drawings.¹¹ The Numismatic Collection became independent in 1926, but by that time there had been personnel changes. In 1923 András Alföldi was appointed professor of ancient history at Debrecen University. His successor at the Numismatic Collection was one of his students, ELEMÉR JÓNÁS (1899–1939). (Fig. 5) Jónás dealt with the ancient (Greek, Roman, barbarian and Byzantine) material. Of the many topics in ancient numismatic with which he dealt, he was one of the top researchers in the late Roman minting and barbarian coins imitating Roman and Byzantine coins. Through analysis of excavations he came to the problem of the late Roman mint at Viminacium, and to a study of imitations (Fig. 6) of the Avars and the Sarmatian-Jazigians.¹² The latter study is in fact the publication of the 2816-piece Roman imperial coins from Kecel (Hungary, Bács-Kiskun county). His research was aided by study visits to Vienna, Rome and the Balkans.¹³ Ödön Gohl retired in 1925, as a result of which Pál Harsányi was named head of the independent Numismatic Collection, who in the same year visited the major coin collections of Italy, France and Germany in connection with the reorganization of the Numismatic Collection.¹⁴ Harsányi was director of the collection for only a short time, as he died with tragic suddenness on May 26, 1929. (Fig. 7)



Fig. 5 Portrait photo of Elemér Jónás, around 1920.



Fig. 6 Barbarian imitation of Marcus Aurelius, denarius, c. 4th century AD.



Fig. 7 Portrait photo of Pál Harsányi, around 1930.

In the second half of the 1920's the majority of the acquisitions came from smaller donations, purchases and excavation finds. Of the finds only the 560-object find at Petőhenye, Zala County, was noteworthy in quantity, containing numerous variations of different coins of Leopold I (1658–1705). Purchases were aimed primarily at the acquisition of outstanding rarities. In 1926 the museum purchased a unique gold coin of Charles III (1711–1740) weighing

11 Ibid. 30–33.

12 HUSZÁR 1939–1940, 3–6. and JÓNÁS 1935, 254–261.

13 JÓNÁS 1937–1938, 89–91.

14 JÓNÁS 1929–1930, 1–3.



Fig. 8 Commemorative medal of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI for the receipt of Belgrade, 1717.



Fig. 9 Commemorative medal of Prince Ferenc II Rákóczi for the beginning of the War of Independence, 1703.



Fig. 10 Cistophorus of Marcus Antonius



Fig. 11 Portrait medal of Lajos Huszár, 1935.

45.62 grams from Merzbacher of Munich, for 500 gold marks. (Fig. 8) The coin was made in commemoration of the capture of Belgrade in 1717.¹⁵ In 1927 the collection acquired another rarity, a 1661 gold coin of Leopold I made from the Körmöcbánya thaler casting plate.¹⁶ This 34.45-gram, ten-ducat coin was discovered at Egger Brothers. In 1928 the museum received an unmatched rarity unearthed from a dig at Nagykálló: a gold medal minted by Ferenc II Rákóczi (1703–1711). (Fig. 9) in commemoration of the beginning of the Hungarian Independent War. There were many known gold and silver examples of this coin designed by Daniel Warou, but this was the only extant example at a unique weight of 79.80 grams.¹⁷ In 1926 August Loehr donated badges and medals to the Numismatic Collection from duplications at the Viennese Bundessammlung. The library added a valuable donation when Ödön Gohl's widow donated approximately 800 major reference books from her husband's estate. During this time, a few smaller purchases also enriched the collection valuable pieces. (Fig. 10)

It was still under Harsányi that LAJOS HUSZÁR (1906–1987) joined the Numismatic Collection on February 1, 1929. (Fig. 11) In his forty-year career at the museum his scientific work was unmatched in scope, primarily in the areas of numismatic art and Hungarian numismatic history.¹⁸ His first fifteen years at the collection resulted in such achievements as the corpus of Hungarian numismatic art, co-authored with Béla

Procopius.¹⁹ In 1940 he published a monograph on medals of St. George. Of his numerous early studies on Hungarian numismatic history the most important were his monographic writings on the coins of St. Stephen (997–1038), the coins of King Mathias (1458–1490), the

15 HUSZÁR 1978, Fig. 728.

16 HUSZÁR 1979, 1267.

17 HUSZÁR–PROCOPIUS 1932, 182.

18 GEDAI 1987–1988, 3–4. and HUSZÁR 1987–1988, 7–21.

19 HUSZÁR–PROCOPIUS 1932.

Transylvanian coins of Gabriel Bethlen (1613–1627), and the numismatics of the *kuruc* era.²⁰ In 1933 he became co-editor of the *Numizmatikai Közlöny* with Alföldi, then independent editor in 1937.

After Harsányi's death Jónás handled the ancient coin collections at the Numismatic Collection while Huszár handled the other collections. In 1933 they prepared the first standing exhibition of the independent Numismatic Collection. Of the nearly 270,000 objects then in the Collection, 323 Greek, 579 Roman, 160 barbarian, 129 Byzantine, 284 medieval, 565 early modern, 245 late modern, 227 Oriental and miscellaneous, 1226 Hungarian, 217 Transylvanian and 228 foreign coins were displayed, along with 320 Hungarian medals, 82 banknotes and a 160-object group of new acquisitions, for a grand total of 4805 objects.²¹ The exhibition remained open until the end of World War Two.

In 1939 Elemér Jónás died unexpectedly at the age of 40. He was replaced on September 15, 1939, by ANDRÁS KERÉNYI (1909–1961) as a voluntary apprentice. In the 1940's Kerényi conducted an identification of the Byzantine coins in the ancient collection based on current literature of the day, at the same time that Huszár reclassified the Hungarian and Transylvanian coins into more transparent categories.

The period from 1930 to 1944 saw a drop in growth, for financial reasons. The limited availability of funds had an impact on acquisitions from excavations. Although the Numismatic Collection analyzed material from numerous finds during this period, relatively little was added to the Collection; for example, of the 15,558 coins analyzed in 1936, only 284 were added. At the same time, the collections were becoming increasingly complete, and the Collection's officials strove only to obtain the most important finds. Exchanges were an increasingly important element in growth. The assessed value of the exchanges was considerable in comparison to the amounts which could be allocated to purchases, even with a budget of 2000 pengő a year: 685 pengő in 1936, and 2208 in 1937. An example of a good exchange is a Roman gold medal converted into a wearable copy. The piece was obtained for 60 pengő replacement material. (Fig. 12)



Fig. 12 Roman gold coin converted into a wearable medal.



Fig. 13 Hexadrachm of the Celtic Boi tribe from the Dessewffy collection.

The most important additions in this period were from two generous donations: Count Miklós Dessewffy's collection of Greek and barbarian coins, and Béla Procopius' collection of papal medals.

Count Miklós Dessewffy (1854–1918) originally collected Greek coins only, but at the beginning of the 20th century he was influenced by Gohl to start collecting barbarian coins as well. With the necessary knowledge and finances behind him, he rapidly assembled an unrivaled collection of Celtic coins, including series of various sizes from a number of outstanding Italian and Hungarian excavations.²² (Fig. 13) With Gohl's assistance he regularly published

20 See bibliography of Huszár's works in NK 86–87. (1987–1988), 22–36.

21 MNM Éremtár 1933, 12.

22 GOHL 1918, 93–98.

reports on the material collected, starting in 1910.²³ After his death Dessewffy's widow left his collections to the museum.²⁴ The Greek collection consisted of 40 gold coins, 1062 silver and 377 copper, and was inventoried in 1941.²⁵ Among the most valuable objects in the collection were the Sicilian and southern Italian series, including lovely deca- and tetradrachmas, and coins of Athens, Corinth and other Greek cities (*Fig. 14*), and rarities among the coins of Phillip II of Macedon and Alexander the Great. The barbarian collection contained 87 gold coins, 797 silver and 190 copper.²⁶ This collection's value derived from the fact that in addition to the most important foreign coin types it also illustrated the extraordinary abundance of coins of the barbarian peoples on Hungarian soil.



*Fig. 14
Tetradrachm
Naxos, Sicily
from the
Dessewffy
collection.*

The greatest addition to Numismatic Collection's medal collection was the donation from diplomat Béla Procopius (1868–1945). Procopius was from a family of art collectors, and he himself collected a variety of objects, but his main passion was coin collection. In specific he dealt with papal medals, partly as a result of having been in Rome from 1910 to 1915 as an economic reporter. Later he expanded his sphere of collection to include Hungarian medals and plaques as well.²⁷ From Procopius' enormous collection the Collection received a number of occasional donations of various sizes as well as his 3300-object collection of papal medals in 1943,²⁸ (*Fig. 15–16*) and an extremely favorable trade in 1944 for 60 16th and 17th century medals, mainly from the Italian Renaissance, in exchange for 10,000 pengő. Finally, after his death the Numismatic Collection received nearly 1500 coins from his estate: a minor series of thalers, and collections of 16th to 18th century Italian medals and 19th and 20th century Hungarian medals.²⁹ (*Fig. 17*)



*Fig. 15 Portrait medal
of Pope Calixtus III,
1450s. From the Procopius
collection.*



*Fig. 17 Commemorative
medal the trip of Franz
Joseph I and Elizabeth in the
Jász-Kun districts, 1857.*



*Fig. 16 Commemorative
medal on the occasion of
Pope Pius's (IX) accession to
the throne, 1846. From the
Procopius collection.*



23 DESSEWFFY 1910–1915.

24 TORBÁGYI 2000, 24–28.

25 ANONYM 1942.

26 ANONYM 1943.

27 HUSZÁR 1945–1946, 3–5.

28 ANONYM 1944, 52.

29 MM December 1945, 93–94.

In addition to these two large donations the Collection also received a number of smaller donations in the interwar period. In 1932 Archduke Frederick placed several hundred Hungarian and Transylvanian coins in the museum as an advance inheritance. In 1937 Heinrich Kautsch, an Austrian sculptor and numismatist “driven by sympathy to the Hungarian nation,” donated a sizable medal collection to the Collection. The collection contained 32 models and 113 medals and plaques of Kautsch’s own work (he was an acknowledged numismatic artist), as well as 18 medals Kautsch had won, and 66 Austrian and 24 French medals. (Fig.18)



Fig. 18 Award medal of the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts for Heinrich Kautsch for serving Austrian museums. The medal was made in 1871, with donation from the 1st half of the 20th century

Supplementing these were 8 Italian Renaissance book ornamentations cast from original seals known to be the works of Francesco Francia. In 1939 Géza Jeszenszky, honorary director of the Numismatic Collection, donated 193 coins missing from the museum series from his own vast collection of Hungarian coins. The donation particularly enriched the Collection with rare examples in a 165-object series of Árpád-era coins. Later, in 1941 Jeszenszky gave the museum objects it was missing – 1 gold coin, 14 silver and 2 copper – from his special series of coins of Francis of Lorraine, Holy Roman Emperor (1745–1765).

Extreme rarities came to the collections not only through donations of collections, but also of individual objects. Foremost mention should be made of the greatest rarity of the former Festetics collection, the gold groat of King Mathias (Fig. 19). This unique example was not sold by the Festetics family with the rest of its coin collection; rather, Duke György Festetics kept it until 1933, when he gave it to the museum.³⁰ In 1940 the Numismatic Collection acquired the Nobel Prize Medal of the famous biologist Albert Szent-Györgyi in an interesting fashion: following the outbreak of the Russo-Finnish war, the famous biologist offered the 206-gram gold medal received with the Nobel Prize Medal to a Finnish relief committee. Helsinki business executive Wilhelm Hilbert bought the medal from the committee and donated it to the museum (Fig.20)



Fig. 19 Groat of King Mathias (1458–1490) struck in gold, from the Festetics collection, late 15th century.

Fig. 20 Nobel Prize Medal, it was awarded to Albert Szent-Györgyi, 1937.



Major Hungarian collectors and coin dealers frequently gave smaller donations to the museum. Numismatic artists Ö. Fülöp Beck, Lajos Berán, Walter Madarassy, Pál Pátzay and Ede Telcs donated their own works. Archbishop of Esztergom Jusztinián Serédi regularly sent the museum an example of the medals of the current pope and Hungarian church medals.

The most important of the purchases was in 1937 when the museum bought 481 objects from the Alfréd Schulek collection for 10,000. This collection almost exclusively contained Hungarian-related material, largely rarities, which had been systematically and individually

30 ANONYM 1933–1934, 96.

collected over many years.³¹ The main units of the collection were Hungarian and Transylvanian gold coins from Maximilian II to Ferdinand V, and from John Sigismund to Maria Theresa, medals of Hungarian rulers from Ferdinand II to Franz Joseph, as well as Hungarian personal (*Fig. 21*), city, county, school, St. George, Freemason and society medals, and the works of numismatic artist Ferenc Stuckhart.



Fig. 21 Empress Elisabeth decorated Count Miklós Esterházy in St. Petersburg with the badge of the Order of St. Andrew in 1765. Commemorative medal from the Alfréd Schulek collection

In 1933 the Collection obtained valuable objects from László Bárdossy, the Hungarian chargé d'affaires in London. Glendining Auctions sold 1860 Kossuth notes from exile in London in several denominations as well as copies of the judgment in which the English court upheld the request by Franz Joseph I (1848–1916) and ordered the destruction of the Kossuth notes and stencils. Bárdossy (later Hungarian Prime Minister) obtained these unique objects for 2 pounds. (*Fig. 22*)



Fig. 22 5 forint Hungarian statenote. Made by Lajos Kossuth in London, 1860.



Fig. 23 The 1870 Gold Prize Medal of the Paris Salon for Mihály Munkácsy

In 1935 the museum purchased 78 previously missing coins for its Roman collection at a Viennese auction of a larger collection. This was the largest auction purchase of the interwar period. The Numismatic Collection also frequently made smaller purchases at the Budapest Auction Hall, such as at the auction of the Ernst collection in 1939. The ancient collection made several additions in the late 1930's through purchases by Sofia coin dealer A. Dorin of coins, including Macedonian, Thasian, barbarian and Roman coins, from Bulgarian excavations. Purchases from foreign exhibitions were made regularly for the group of artistic modern coins, such as 1935 in Austria, 1936 in Finland, and 1937 in Holland. In 1943 the Numismatic Collection purchased 20 medals and trial mintings of coins from the estate of artist Lajos Berán from his widow for 600 pengő.

A significant source of growth for the Collection in the interwar period came from other sections of the National Museum in the course of profile clarifications, and from material transferred from other museums. These included awards from the 1848–49 rebellion, and award and honors from the estate of painter Mihály Munkácsy. (*Fig. 23*) A major rarity among

31 KERÉNYI 1945–1946, 7.

the latter was a fine example of the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Badge of Honour for Art and Science (*Literis et Artibus*)³² (Fig. 24). The Budapest Museum of Fine Arts gave artistic foreign and Hungarian medals, including a portrait of Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta by Matteo di Pasti, one of the masterpieces of Italian Renaissance numismatic art.³³ In 1936 the War Museum gave the Collection 150 Hungarian and foreign medals, including important series of medals from the wars against the Turks and the wars of King Louis XIV of France.



Fig. 24 Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Badge of Honour for Art and Science. It was awarded to Mihály Munkácsy, 1898

The Collection received medals and models from the Museum of Applied Art on several occasions. These included many famous creations of numismatic art from the Renaissance to the turn of the century, such as the works of Charpentier.³⁴ Other important material received from the Applied Arts Museum was the György Ráth medal collection, the most valuable part of which was works by Renaissance Italian, Flemish and German numismatic artists. A fine series represented the art of Antonio Abondio, Matthes Gebel and Valentin Maler, as well as medals by outstanding numismatic artists like Pisanello, Sperandio, Leone Leoni and Guillaume Dupré. The Capital Gallery gave a total of 100 items (Fig. 25), primarily medals, including a series of 19th century Russian medals from the collection of Count Jenő Zichy issued to commemorate the war against Napoleon.



Fig. 25 2 thalers commemorative coin for the opening of the Austrian Southern Railway, 1857

Fig. 26 20 Hungarian gold crowns of Emperor and King Charles, 1918

In the interwar period the Numismatic Collection received a number of coins and medals from the State Mint. (Fig. 26) In 1929 the financial minister allowed the museum to select free of charge from the gold and silver coins scheduled to be melted down at the mint. Then in 1930 the museum was also permitted to receive one or two copies of medals and plaques made at the Mint. Thus in the years following the Numismatic Collection continuously added small amounts of money in circulation and Hungarian medals.³⁵

Finally, a small but significant acquisition should be remembered. After the collapse of the dual monarchy negotiations had begun on the jointly owned art treasures preserved in Vienna. Of the art treasures returned to Hungary on the basis of the Venice Accord, a few

32 MAKAI-HÉRI 1990, 243.

33 HILL 1930, 182 and PEREGRINY 1915, 390.

34 PANDUR 1997, 111–142.

35 MNM Éremtár 1933, 11.

singular rarities were added to the Numismatic Collection, such as a 1486 gold coin of King Mathias,³⁶ an 1892 medal on the golden anniversary of the coronation of Franz Joseph I (Fig. 27),³⁷ and a badge of the Order of St. Stephen (Fig. 28) decorated with emeralds and diamonds worn by Maria Theresa (1740–1780).³⁸



Fig. 27 Commemorative gold medal for the 5th anniversary of the coronation of Franz Joseph I as Hungarian king, 1892.

Fig. 28 Badge of the Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephen decorated with gems. Wearable copy of Queen Maria Theresa, 1764.



1945–1968

The wartime events of World War Two in Hungary also affected the National Museum, but fortunately the Numismatic Collection suffered no major damage. The most important objects from the collection were hidden in a cellar during the siege. The only wartime loss was 1000–1200 ordinary Roman denari.³⁹

The post-1945 brought a number of personnel changes to the Numismatic Collection. In 1945 MÁRIA ALFÖLDI RADNÓTINÉ joined the collection, where she worked with Kerényi in the ancient collection. Alföldi's scientific interest centered on Roman numismatic history. The majority of her Hungarian publications were reports of excavations, but she also dealt with Roman mints and the problems of smaller coin groups. Her professional career reached fulfillment while abroad in Germany.⁴⁰ In 1958 university graduate KATALIN SEY BÍRÓNÉ joined the Numismatic Collection, where she worked in the ancient collection. Most of her publications in the early stage of her career were reports on Roman and Byzantine finds, including the Roman find at Ószóny and the Byzantine gold find at Szikáncs.⁴¹ In 1961 András Kerényi died unexpectedly. From 1940 until his death Kerényi had published continuously on various topics of ancient numismatics, while his main area of research was barbarian coin groups.⁴² After 1961 only Sey and Huszár worked in the Collection. During these years the Numismatic Collection underwent a revision which closed with the result that the objects listed in the various collections, even without duplications, totaled more than 200,000.⁴³

36 WESZERLE 1873, B. X. 4.

37 HUSZÁR-PROCOPIUS 1932, 5054.

38 GÖDÖLLE-PALLOS 2015, 154.

39 MM October 1945, 46. and in verbal information from István Gedai.

40 NOESKE – SCHUBERT 1991, XIII–XXIII. and ALFÖLDI 2001.

41 BERTÓK – TORBÁGYI 1999, 16–17.

42 HUSZÁR 1961–1962, 3–4., and KERÉNYI 1949–1950, 48–49., KERÉNYI 1951–1952, 50–51., KERÉNYI 1959–1960, 58–59.

43 HUSZÁR 1968, 87–90.

Annual growth figures for the post-war period – averaging 1000-1500 objects per year – demonstrate that growth ultimately was not below the pre-1945 level.

In 1962 the Museum of Applied Art transferred numismatic material from the ducal treasury of the Esterházy family,⁴⁴ except for some 18th century examples of badges of the Order of the Golden Fleece, which remained in the museum's jewelry collection.⁴⁵ The majority of the 192 items transferred were gold coins and medals which the Esterházy treasury had received as a result of the social situation: coronation medals of Hungarian and non-Hungarian rulers, and medals of aristocratic families. This included some exceptional numismatically and historically valuable items such as three examples of a 100-ducat coin of King Sigmund III of Poland, another three examples of a 100-ducat coin of Ferdinand III (1637–1657) (*Fig. 29*), a 1683 four-ducat coin of Imre Thököly, Prince of Upper-Hungary (1682–1690) and Prince of Transylvania (1690), a 1792 gold octagonal coin of Duke Antal Esterházy⁴⁶ and an 1856 gold coronation medal of Tsar Alexander II. The most representative of the coronation medals was an 1825 medal depicting the anointment of King Charles X of France in Reims, (*Fig. 30*) which event Duke Pál Antal Esterházy had attended representing the Habsburg monarchy. In the composition of this extremely well-wrought medal the duke can also be recognized among the guests.⁴⁷ Numismatic rarities in the collection include two spurious gold medals of Domitian, fine examples of the modern-era fashion of imitating ancient art, and a gilded bronze French medal depicting Louis XII and his wife Anna.⁴⁸ These medals were obviously part of the Esterházy family treasury and had nothing to do with the Esterházy coin collection described in 18th century sources.⁴⁹



Fig. 29 100-ducat coin of Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, 1629.



Fig. 30 Gold coronation medal of King Charles X of France, 1825.

44 BIRÓNÉ SEY-GEDAI-HÉRI 1999–2000, 31–37.

45 SZILÁGYI 1994, 126 and 128.

46 BIRÓNÉ SEY-GEDAI-HÉRI 1999–2000, 35–36.

47 Ibid. 36.

48 BIRÓNÉ SEY-GEDAI 1972, Fig. 35 and 46.

49 BIRÓNÉ SEY-GEDAI-HÉRI 1999–2000, 31–32.

In addition to several smaller museum transfers the material obtained with the closing of the Parliamentary Museum in 1951 was the most valuable. Most of the 172 items were badges, medals and awards. Through these, the Numismatic Collection acquired the awards of major historical figures (prime ministers Kálmán Tisza (Fig. 31) and István Tisza, and education minister Kunó Klebelsberg). Of unique numismatic value were the copper pressure plates made by Lajos Kossuth in 1866 in Torino (Fig. 32) for issuing banknotes in exile. The banknotes were never printed, so the only evidence of the plan was the plates, from which a few prints were made later.⁵⁰ (Fig. 33)



Fig. 31 Prussian Order of the Black Eagle, Grand Cross. It was awarded to Prime Minister Kálmán Tisza, around 1880.

Fig. 32 Copper pressure plate for the notes made by Lajos Kossuth in Torino, 1866.



Fig. 33 Print from the Torino copper plate, 20th century.

In addition to the public collections the government offices also transferred objects to the Numismatic Collection. The museum received large quantities of the awards of the Presidential Council and the Justice Ministry, as well as badges from the Historical Landmarks Center. As in the previous era, the State Mint regularly transferred new series of money in domestic circulation.



Fig. 34 Solidus of Valentinian III from the Szikáncs coin hoard, the middle of the 5th century.

The majority of the official excavations from this period were also processed by the Numismatic Collection. Many of these were obtained entirely on in part by the Collection. The most important find of this period was the trove of 5th century Roman coins unearthed at Szikáncs-tanya near Hódmezővásárhely. The 1439 mint-condition gold coins weighed a total of 6446 grams, and are thought to have originated from taxes which Byzantium paid the Huns in the middle of the 5th century⁵¹ (Fig. 34).

During this period the Numismatic Collection acquired important additions to all of its major collection groups through purchases. For the Celtic collection it bought 132 coins from Viktor Renner of Vienna in 1955. This carefully collected material originated partly from foreign sites and partly from sites in historical Hungary. In 1961 the museum purchased 461 Roman imperial coins organized by mint from Pápa collector Gyula Répásy. The medal collection

50 FEJÓS 1949–1950, 47–50.

51 BIRÓNÉ SEY 1975–1976, 7–19.

added a number of valuable collections: József Dániel Böhm's Kelheim stone plaques and a small set of designs in the estate of Ö. Fülöp Beck, as well as a collection consisting largely of the works of 19th century numismatic artist Károly Wurschbauer of Gyulaféhevár. The paper money collection, in addition to several acquisitions of minor importance, purchased scrip used in World War One Siberian POW camps (Fig. 35) in 1956, early examples of the appearance of Hungarian banknotes in 1961 and 18th and 19th century orders on the issuance of money and mint samples of the banknotes.



Fig. 35 Siberian POW camp note from Krasnaia-Riechka, 1918.

The most important event in the growth of the Numismatic Collection in the post-war period was the purchase of the collection of Károly Niklovits (1886–1960). Since the early 1900's Niklovits had assembled the most valuable private Hungarian numismatic collection in this century. His collection ranged from ancient coins to commemorative medals with countless valuable series, and the majority, 40,192 coins in all, was acquired by the Numismatic Collection. One of the special features of his collection was its several hundred gold coins, which by themselves were of exceptional value. The numismatic value of the collection was increased by the fact that practically all of the items were in good condition. The scientific value of the Celtic coins was increased by the fact that Niklovits had designated the place of origin of items unearthed from finds. (Fig. 36–37) The Roman coins included a fine coin of Augustus, rare coins of Marciana, Matidia and Traianus Decius, and a gold medalion of Constantine II, to name just



Fig. 36 Hexadrachm of the Celtic Boi tribe (Biatec type) from the Niklovits collection.



Fig. 37 Silver denarius of the Celtic Eraviscus tribe from the Niklovits collection.



Fig. 38 Guldiner of Ulászló II from the Niklovits collection, 1499

a few. One of the greatest rarities in the rich Hungarian and Transylvanian collection was the first Hungarian coin showing its date, the 1499 guldiner of Ulászló II (1490–1516) (Fig. 38), in addition to excellent examples of Michael Apafi's gold ten-florin hexagonal coins,⁵² a 1690 gold coin of Imre Thököly,⁵³ and a 1770 ten-ducat coin of Miklós Eszterházy. Niklovits

52 HUSZÁR 1995, Fig. 638.

53 HUSZÁR 1995, Fig. 825.

collection of foreign coins included important series of Serbian, Bulgarian, Rumanian and German coins. The medal collection consisted of historical, personal, and church medals, including Biblical medals and a fine series of medals of the war against the Turks. Some of the museum collections added nearly 10,000 objects from the Niklovits collection, such as 13,378 items Niklovits had obtained from the Árpád-era Richárdpuszta find. In all the ancient collection added 5479 coins, the Hungarian and Transylvanian collection 14,216, the foreign coins collection 1036, and the medals and awards collection 1776. (Fig. 39–40) The rest of the material was duplicated, and contributed through exchanges to future expansion for nearly thirty years.



Fig. 39 An eternal memory of loyalty' – Reward medal for the Hungarian soldiers of the 2nd Silesian War, 1748.



Fig. 40 Commemorative medal of 32nd Meeting of German Naturalists and Physicians. Vienna, 1856.



Donations in this period were smaller than in previous periods, but the Collection still made some important additions through smaller donations. One of these was Dr. Elek Soltész's collection of several thousand small bronze Roman coins, which after inspection yielded 2000 new items to the core material, while the other coins were duplications. In 1950 the widow of the famous numismatic artist Ö. Fülöp Beck gave the museum 127 plaster models of coins her husband had designed.

Looking over the acquisitions of the post-war period it can be observed that in addition to the traditional numismatic areas (ancient, medieval and modern coins, and medals) paper money, badges and awards were obtained in ever-increasing amounts by the Numismatic Collection. There was also an increase in the collection of modern numismatic material among Hungarian coin collectors in this period.

1968–1990

Important changes in the history of the Numismatic Collection began in 1968 when Lajos Huszár retired at the age of 62. In the post-war period Huszár had published a number of important articles on Hungarian numismatic history and on numismatic art, and continued to publish important works in the Seventies after his retirement, such as *Bibliographia Numismatica Hungaricae* (co-authored with Mária F. Fejér in 1977), and *Münzkatalog in Ungarn*

von 1000 bis heute (1979). Huszár in his forty years at the Numismatic Collection and twenty years in retirement was the most productive figure in the science of Hungarian numismatics. His achievements include two fundamental works published posthumously: *Az Erdélyi Fejedelemség pénzverése [Coins of the Transylvanian Princes]* (1995) és *Személyi érmek [Personal Medals]* (1999).

After Huszár's death the medieval and modern collection was handled by ISTVÁN GEDAI. Gedai joined the Numismatic Collection in 1966, where his main area was the early Hungarian numismatic history. One of the major achievements of his oeuvre was the series of coins unearthed in 1968 at Nagyharsány with the inscription "Lancea Regis," as he was able to prove that this coin type was the first set of coins of King St. Stephen, marking the beginning of Hungarian money minting (Fig. 41).⁵⁴



Fig. 41 "Lancea Regis" denier, the first set of coins of King St. Stephen (997–1038) from the Nagyharsány find

One of the smaller rooms was refurbished as a restoration studio, as the museum had acquired an independent coin restorer in 1969 with the hiring of ERZSÉBET HORVÁTH HÍDVÉGI. The personnel changes at the Numismatic Collection ended in 1970 with the hiring of VERA G. HÉRI to the staff of officers. Héri, formerly a teacher, worked in the medals collection, which included the collections of awards, tokens and badges as well as medals. Her main area of research was Hungarian historical medals.⁵⁵

In the late 1960's life at the Numismatic Collection changed from a number of points of view. Independent numismatic exhibitions were organized for the first time in a long time. In 1969 the Collection presented its major collection groups in a representative exhibition, then in 1982 it organized an exhibition presenting the history of Hungarian gold coin minting.⁵⁶ The latter exhibition also toured a number of places outside Hungary (East Berlin, West Berlin, Mannheim, Milan, Rome). The Numismatic Collection's exhibition on Hungarian thaler minting also toured abroad: Innsbruck, Sophia, Cracow, Warsaw, Wroclaw. A fine exhibition of medals was organized in 1986 for the 300th anniversary of the recapture of Buda.

One of the major changes in the 1970's was the introduction of an excavations log. Scientific utilization of the cataloging of finds had been done by the Numismatic Collection since the end of the 19th century. However, there had previously been no demand for final cohesiveness. As yet missing types unearthed from the finds were added to the core collections, while the rest of the coins joined the duplications. The scientific perspective of the latter half of the 20th century began to demand the finds be kept together, since that was the only way to ensure authenticity of the historical source value for future research. Cohesively kept finds now amount to roughly 75,000 coins.

In the 1970's and 1980's the individual collections continued to grow through donations, purchases, exchanges and official transfers.

One of the most important donations was from Gyula Szomolányi in 1981, containing a total of 863 foreign 19th and 20th century gold coins. Of these 62 were added to the core collections while 801 were duplications and used for exchanges in the years that followed. Another major donation was from collector and pharmacologist György Sonnenvend of Körmend, who donated 204 Roman coins in 1982, the scientific significance of which lay in the

54 GEDAI 1986.

55 HÉRI 1977–1978, 85–88., HÉRI 1982, 7–21. and HÉRI 1983–1984, 35–42.

56 GEDAI 1982.



Fig. 42 Commemorative medal for the 10th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence, 1966.



Fig. 43 Commemorative medal for the 30th anniversary of the 1958 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence, 1986.



Fig. 44 Gold Bravery Medal of Miklós Horthy, Regent of Hungary (1920–1944)

Transylvania (1661–1690)⁵⁷ as well as two Gold Bravery Medals of Franz Joseph I and one of Miklós Horthy, regent of Hungary (1920–1944).⁵⁸ (Fig. 44) In 1978 the museum purchased a rich 950-piece collection of international and Hungarian red cross badges. For the awards groups the Numismatic Collection acquired nearly 200 Austro-Hungarian and foreign awards from the collection of Vajk Emil Bánki. (Fig. 45) This collection group had previously grown in small increments from bequeathals and official transfers. The material purchased from the Bánki collection formed a substantial core for the present collection of awards. A smaller but extremely important purchase in 1981 was the 32 badges bought from the Freemason collection of Miklós Auer. (Fig. 46) In 1980 a collection of more than 1000 notes, mainly Hungarian, German and Russian, were purchased in order to increase the paper money collection, and a year later another purchase was made of a more selected, largely Hungarian, collection consisting of 508 items. (Fig. 47–48)

fact that most of the material originated from the mint of Viminacium. In the late 1980's a Hungarian emigrant group in Frankfurt called Numismatica Hungarica (Fig. 42–43) made an extremely valuable donation. This organization had preserved the memory of the 1956 Hungarian uprising by numismatic means. For decades they had issued medals designed by German artists. As a result of the political changes in Hungary the organization's activities were no longer necessary, and therefore they donated their remaining medals, casting mints and plaster models to the National Museum.

Material acquired through purchases in this period were more important than the donations. The majority of the larger purchases were linked to the acquisition of the more valuable parts of a private collection. For example, the museum purchased 130 select silver and bronze coins, mostly from the Roman imperial era, from the guarded collection of university professor János Mócsy. Later the Numismatic Collection purchased 263 gold coins from the noted collector László Kelényi, with numerous valuable items ranging from Roman coins to medieval and modern Hungarian, Transylvanian and foreign coins and medals. Standing out among the numismatic rarities in the collection were the gold ten-florin coin of John Sigismund and the semicircular ten-florin gold coin of Michael Apafi, Prince of

57 HUSZÁR 1995, Fig. 30 and 635.

58 MEŘIČKA 1974, 172. Fig. 82. and 174. Fig. 87., FELSZEGHY 1943, 454.



Fig. 45 Chain of the Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephen, 18th century



Fig. 46 Medal of St. László the Masonic Lodge in Nagyvárad (now Oradea, Rumania) from the Auer collection, late 19th – early 20th century



Fig. 47 500-crowns Hungarian state note, 1920.



Fig. 48 One billion bilpengő. Banknote of the Hungarian National Bank, 1946.





Fig. 49 50-ducats coin of Mihály Apafi, Prince of Transylvania (1661–1690).

This was the first period in the history of the Numismatic Collection that exchanges played a major role in the growth of the collection: some of the most important acquisitions of the period came in this manner. The most valuable object obtained through exchanges was one of the most magnificent coins in Transylvanian numismatic history, the fifty-florin gold coin of Michael Apafi⁵⁹ (Fig. 49). This splendid example was once part of the Koburg collection, then went to England after World War Two. In 1972 it was sold at auction in Switzerland, where it was bought by a private Japanese collector, who then sold it to the Swiss company Bank Leu, which in turn offered it to this museum, whereby the coin was added to the Numismatic Collection in 1977.⁶⁰



Fig. 50 Alabaster portrait medal of King Louis II of Hungary (1516–1526), 16th century.



Fig. 51 Alabaster portrait medal of Maria, wife of King Louis II of Hungary, 16th century.

The Numismatic Collection acquired important objects in the 1980's from the Zurich office of Spink & Son, where the purchase price always consisted largely of exchanged material. In 1980 the Collection added two alabaster coins depicting Louis II (1516–1526) and his wife Maria. (Fig. 50–51) Both works were by the numismatic artist Hans Daucher.⁶¹ A year later a genuine rarity was found at Spink & Son: a pierced 1611 ten-florin gold coin of Gabriel Báthory, Prince of Transylvania (1608–1613) from Nagyszeben, covered in blue and green enamel,

59 HUSZÁR 1995, 629.

60 GEDAI 1979, 259.

61 HABICH 1929–1930, I. 1. 97.

decorated with almandines and banded with pearls.⁶² (Fig. 52) At the end of the 1980's a number of exchanges were transacted with Austrian dealer Peter Sauer, including a 1660 heart-shaped ten-florin gold coin of Leopold I, a 1668 semicircular four-florin gold coin of Michael Apafi, and a 30.80-gram bronze medallion of Constantine II. (Fig. 53)

Other exchanges were with foreign museums. In the 1970's the Collection received 54 12th to 14th century English coins from the British Museum and Belgian honors and awards from the city museum of Liege, Belgium, in exchange for Hungarian coins. The city museum of Malmö made exchanges for 70 Danish, Norwegian and Swedish medieval and modern coins and 61 medals.

As in the immediate post-war period, official transfers made valuable additions to the individual collections. The State Mint made a number of transfers of various numismatic material, including coins, mint casts, medals, badges and awards. (Fig. 54) The Presidential Council transferred a large number of state awards. The Defense Ministry sent military awards and badges to the museum. From the Hungarian National Bank, partly as donations and partly as transfers, the Numismatic Collection received medals, honors, awards and badges. The most valuable of these was the foundation badge of Herberstein-Illésházy (Fig. 55), of which Ödön Gohl had thought at the beginning of the 20th century that there may not be even a single copy in existence.⁶³ Since then it was discovered that the Johanneum Numismatic Collection in Graz preserved the only known example of the badge for this foundation, which was founded in 1805 for the support of impoverished noblewomen. Thus the National Museum had acquired the second known copy.⁶⁴

Finally, one of the most important additions came by official transfer from Austria. Austrian authorities returned some objects illegally taken out of Hungary from the Esterházy family treasures. Of these the Numismatic Collection acquired the chain and class I cross of the English Order of Bath (Fig. 56), the class II cross of the Russian order of St. Anna, the chain of the Order of the Iron Crown and the chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece.⁶⁵ These included the first badge of the Order of Bath in a Hungarian public collection.



Fig. 52 10-ducats coin of Gábor Báthory, Prince of Transylvania (1608–1613) converted into jewelry, 1611.



Fig. 53 Bronze medallion of Constantine II.

62 ERDÉLY 1986.

63 ANONYM 1918, 113.

64 PANDULA 1987–1988, 139–144.

65 HÉRI 1987, 33–36.



Fig. 54
Hungarian
Order of Merit,
Star of the
Commander's
Cross, 1930s.



Fig. 55
Badge of
Herberstein-
Illésházy
Foundation,
19th century.

Fig. 56 Chain of the Order of Bath.
It was awarded to Prince Antal Pál
Esterházy, 1837.



The award was received by Duke Pál Antal Esterházy, who served as special ambassador to London from 1830 to 1842. As a sign of special esteem, the English monarch gave the duke not only the official badge of the Order, but also a copy decorated with gems.

The additions through bequeathals were numerous but less important than the others, although they did include a few valuable items. In 1972 the collection acquired the awards earned by Rubidó Zichy in the foreign service, including the Chinese Order of the Dragon and Bulgarian, Danish, German and Rumanian awards. In 1973 the Collection acquired awards from the estate of Lajos Thallóczy, a famous public figure at the turn of the century. In 1986 the Collection acquired 54 ancient gold coins, 26 modern foreign gold coins, 6 gold medals and the Gold Bravery Medal of King Charles IV (1916–1918) from the Dvořák collection.

1990–2002

The last decade of the 20th century brought numerous personal changes for the Numismatic Collection. In 1992 Katalin Sey Bíróné retired. She was replaced in the ancient collection by MELINDA TORBÁGYI, who had been working for the collection since 1982. Torbágyi's main area of research is Celtic numismatics, but she also deals with Greek and Roman numismatics. She publishes on the Greek coins in the collection for an international series and participates in a comprehensive multinational program for the scientific categorization of Roman coin finds in Hungary.⁶⁶ She has been the department head of the Numismatic Collection since 1994. In early 1994 the numismatic collection of the Museum of Modern History was merged into the Numismatic Collection. Along with the collections their curator, museologist LAJOS PALLOS, became an officer in the Numismatic Collection, whose research at that time was tied to collections of historical securities.⁶⁷ In 1994 EDIT FARKAS joined the Roman section of the ancient collection, and in 1995 CSABA TÓTH replaced István Gedai in the medieval and modern collection. Farkas deals with Severus-era money circulation in Pannonia and the monetary finds of barbarian areas east of Pannonia⁶⁸ while Tóth deals with Hungarian coins of the Anjou era and problems of money circulation.⁶⁹

In the 1990's a great many more tasks fell to the workers of the Numismatic Collection than had been the case before. In addition to Hungarian exhibitions they also organized foreign exhibitions. In 1995 an exhibition entitled "Tyrolian Thalers in Hungary" was organized in Austria. In 1997 the coins of the Rákóczi uprising were displayed in Munkachovo, Ukraine. In 1998 as part of a Belgian cultural presentation in Hungary the Numismatic Collection organized a comprehensive presentation of Hungarian numismatic history at the Europalia in Brussels, along with a sampling of Hungary's historical coins.⁷⁰ A year later a slightly smaller presentation was held at the State Archive in Stuttgart. In 2000 Milan was the venue for an exhibition on the Collection's Celtic collection. The Numismatic Collection's employees also attended congresses of the International Numismatic Committee in the 1990's: Brussels in 1991 and Berlin in 1997.

Growth between 1990 and 2002 (between 500 and 1000 objects a year) was less than in earlier periods. Finds in the last decade were very rarely added to the Numismatic Collection, as finds going to public collections went primarily to provincial museums. The Collection's

66 TORBÁGYI 1992–1994 and FMRU 1–3.

67 PALLOS 1993, 289–316. PALLOS 1996–1997 159–175. 2000.

68 FARKAS 2001–2002, 251–260. 2001–2002a, 199–207.

69 TÓTH 2001, 101–121. 2001–2002, 349–366.

70 HÉRI-PALLOS-TÓTH 1998.



Fig. 57 Hungarian Kossuth Order, 1st Class. It was awarded to Nagy Imre. 1948.

supply of duplications weakened significantly due to the number of exchanges in the previous period and again in the mid-1990's. At the same time, prices on the antiques market rose steadily, forcing the museum to adapt. All in all, the Numismatic Collection has had to work hard recently just to acquire top-priority rarities for its collections.

Clearly the most important acquisitions in recent years were the numismatic collections transferred from the Museum of Modern History. In that museum the medal and awards collection had grown slowly, by occasional smaller acquisitions over the years, while the collection of coins and monetary papers was filled by the acquisition of a few large collections, in addition to systematic development. The

museum's awards and badges collection contained 740 awards, 10,710 badges and 50 medals and plaques from the 19th and 20th centuries. An interesting feature of the collection is that a significant portion of the material is tied to historical figures of the 20th century, including a number of politicians from the socialist era. (*Fig. 57*) The major groups in the collection of more than 10,000 badges are World War One badges, song groups, school and political badges. (*Fig. 58–59*) Smaller yet valuable series are comprised by the Freemason, Boy Scout, 'Levente' (Military Youth), Esperanto and 'Schlaraffia' badges. The collection of banknotes and surrogate money contained roughly 15,000 items, nearly all of which related to Hungary, including 10,000 notes (*Fig. 60–62*) (banknotes, state certificates, currency of necessity and surrogate currency), 4000 securities (stocks, bonds, deeds, business shares, lottery tickets, etc.) and a few hundred coins and tokens. The collection gives a complete cross-section of the Hungarian history of paper money and securities, with numerous rare items. (*Fig. 63–64*)

Growth in recent years was relatively slow. The most valuable acquisition in the ancient collection, a unique gold coin of Emperor Galerius (*Fig. 65*), presumably from a Hungarian site, was obtained by exchange. With the published report on the piece scientific evaluation of the unique coin type has begun.⁷¹ In addition the ancient collection has added Celtic coins from Hungary, Roman coins and Roman lead plumbs, through exchanges and purchases.

The modest collection group of primitive money also experienced slight growth. A 380-gram boat-shaped silver piece once used in Indochina was purchased, and at the same time 5 African bronze bracelets were obtained through exchange.

The Mohammedan coin group added a collection thought to be from an excavation: 176 silver dirhems, coins of the Caliph Hisham of the Omayyad dynasty, made at the mint of Wasiti.



Fig. 58 Badge of the Szekler University and College Students Association, 1940.



Fig. 59 Sample military cap badge with Kossuth coat of arms, 1956–1957.

71 PALLOS – TORBÁGYI – TÓTH 1997–1998, 169.



Fig. 60 Phase print of a 100-crown Postal Savings banknote, 1919.



Fig. 61 100-pengő banknote of the Hungarian National Bank, 1943.



Fig. 62 100-pengő state note, a hitherto unknown example of the draft banknotes of the Provisional Government of 1945. It had not been released.

Fig. 63 Share of the Francis Canal Company, 1873.



Fig. 64 Share of the „Kosmos” Litograph, Printing and Press Company Ltd., 1895.



Fig. 65 Unique aureus of Emperor Galerius.

The Hungarian and Transylvanian coin collection made a number of valuable additions in the 1990's. In 1990 an exchange was made with Peter Sauer for Habsburg-era gold and silver coins, including a five-ducats coin of Ferdinand III. A number of medieval and modern coins, including gold coins of the Habsburg rulers, were acquired by exchange with Hungarian coin dealer László Nudelmán in 1993. The most valuable piece in the collection was a 1605 ten-florin gold coin of Stephen Bocskai, Prince of Transylvania (1604–1606) but a goldflorin of King John Sigismund (1540–1570) was very important similarly. (Fig. 66) Also acquired by exchange in 2001 was a 1668 hexagonal ten-florin gold coin of Michael Apafi. A few rare items were acquired at auctions: four unique pieces in 2001, unpublished denarius of King Robert Charles (1308–1342) and King Louis I, the Great (1342–1382).⁷² (Fig. 67–68), an obol of King Mathias I with an unknown mint seal, and a 1935 40-pengő gold coin. The Hungarian National Bank transferred circulated and commemorative notes to the Numismatic Collection on several occasions, as well as nearly 300 samples of trial mintings.



Fig. 66 Gold florin of John Sigismund, as King of Hungary, 1540.



Fig. 67 Formerly unpublished denier of Charles I (1308–1342).



Fig. 68 Formerly unpublished denier of Louis the Great (1342–1382).

The collection of foreign coins grew largely through donations in the 1990's. Small series of Bulgarian, Czech, Canadian, Swedish, Polish, Belgian, Icelandic, English, Russian, Armenian, Israeli, Slovakian and Rumanian modern coins were received in donations.

The medal collection grew substantially. Árpád Göncz, upon leaving the office of republican president which he had held from 1990 to 2000, donated to the museum hundreds Hungarian and foreign medals which he had received in his term of office. István Mészáros, the former president of the Hungarian Coin Collectors' Society, gave the Numismatic Collection his 1000-piece collection of school medals at the turn of the millennium. Cataloging of this valuable collection is underway. Through a major exchange three valuable medals were acquired at the 1994 Swiss auction of the Nikolaus Salgó collection. One is a work by Lukas Richter, a gold coin depicting King Ferdinand I (1526–1564) and Maximilian and Maria,⁷³ the second is a gold coin of King and Emperor Maximilian (1564–1576), with a motto, made by Antonio Abondio.⁷⁴ The third is a gilded silver personal coin, depicting János Ponikau.⁷⁵

The awards collection steadily added exceptionally rare examples in recent years. In 1991 F. Brunó Straub, former chairman of the Presidential Council, donated a class I badge of the Portuguese Order of Henry the Navigator to the museum. The Knights of Malta donated an example of their medal created to help the Hungarians after 1956. In 1994 a purchase was made of the awards of Miklós Horthy (Fig. 69), Regent of Hungary (1920–1944). In the same year the museum acquired a fragment of a chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece by exchange

72 TÓTH 2010, 72–73.

73 Parallel: WESZERLE 1873, C. III. 1., HUSZÁR 1973, 278 and 279.

74 Parallel: HUSZÁR 1972–1984 [1973] 288.

75 HÉRI 2000, 78.



Fig. 69 Miklós Horthy's awards on his navy coat, 1930s.

with László Nudelmann. That chain first appeared in 1991 the Sotheby's auction in Geneva. In 1994 the museum purchased a badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece worn by Count János Cziráky. In 1996 a modern badge of the Order of the Templars of Jerusalem was acquired through exchange. In 1997 the State Mint transferred a total of 22 badges from the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic and the Cross of Merit. In 1998 the Defense Ministry donated 19 military awards. The awards collection made unique additions when former republican president Árpád Göncz deposited the nearly 40 awards he had received while in office. The collection contains awards from Europe and Latin America as well as the awards of Japan, South Korea and the Republic of South Africa. By convention, after his death, the museum received the awards. (Fig. 70)



Fig. 70 Portuguese Order of St. James, Sash Badge, Badge on Grand Collar Chain and Miniature Badge. It was awarded to Hungarian President Árpád Göncz (1990–2000).

At the end of last year an award of historical significance was unexpectedly discovered on the Hungarian art treasure market: the Hungarian Corvin Badge of Honour established in 1930. This award was conferred on foreign persons “for meritorious service in the advance of Hungarian culture.”⁷⁶ Of the few examples of the Hungarian Corvin Badge of Honour (Fig. 71) awarded, this is the only piece to have returned to Hungary to date, having been given to Finnish linguist Eemil Setälä in the 1930’s.

The badges collection showed less growth than the awards did in recent years. In addition to badges of World War One storm troopers, the most interesting acquisition was an officer’s badge with Egyptian motifs, made after the unit had taken part in the 1916 battles against Egypt in Gaza.⁷⁷

The collection of tokens and scrip made only one major acquisition: 90 tokens in 1991 through an exchange. Other than this, the collection made small additions of coffee-house and workplace scrip.



Fig. 71 Hungarian Corvin Badge of Honour. It was awarded to Eemil Setälä in 1935.



Fig. 72 Share of the Csetnek-Pécsi Ironworks Company, 1844.

The collection of paper money and securities grew rapidly in the 1990’s. The Hungarian National Bank transferred series of newly issued banknotes, and from the late 1980’s the museum donations of sample copies of more than 200 securities, partly from the companies issuing them and partly from the printers. In addition, recently expired bonds and stocks removed from circulation were acquired. In 1997 several important items were purchased at a Vienna auction of the Bedő collection, the largest private collection in Hungary. Rarities obtained include an 1844 stock certificate for Csetnek-Pécs Ironworks Company (Fig. 72), an

76 FELSZEGHY 1943, 466. and PANDULA 1991–1992, 171–185.

77 HÉRI – PALLOS – TORBÁGYI 1995–1996, 120–121.

1856 certificate for First Pest Saw- and Planing-Mill and Lumber Goods Manufactory, an 1862 mining share in the Mátra Mining Company, an 1867 share of Losonc Wool and Fine Cloth Factory Company (Fig. 73).⁷⁸ In addition to these the paper money collection added a very rare and highly valuable acquisitions: an 1851 receipt of a National Loan with a facsimile signature of Lajos Kossuth.⁷⁹ (Fig. 74)



Fig. 73 Share of the Losonc Wool and Fine Cloth Factory Company, 1869.

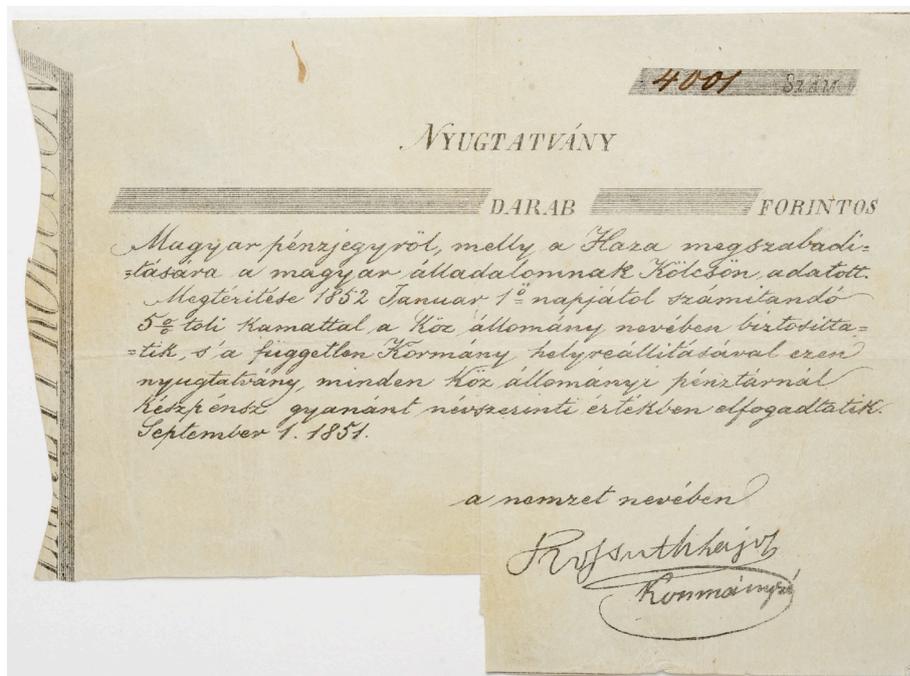


Fig. 74 Receipt of a National Loan signed by Lajos Kossuth, 1851.

78 Historische Wertpapiere 1997. Erste Sonderauktion Sammlung Bedö. 20, 30, 58, 70. and PALLOS 2000, 43, 65, 80.
79 PALLOS 1999, 403–410.

2003–2020

The year 2003 marked a turning point in the history of the Numismatic Collection. During the comprehensive reconstruction of the building of the Hungarian National Museum, it moved to a new location. It used to occupy some of the rooms to the right of the main entrance on the ground floor of the main façade of the building, in 2003 it was moved to the rooms to the left of the main entrance. Here, the Numismatic Collection received more space, with a total area of 238 square meters. The study rooms and stores of coins and medals were set up in separate rooms. The library of the Numismatic Collection also had more space. It is also a significant event of this year that all the staff of the Numismatic Collection participated in the 13th International Numismatic Congress in Madrid and gave lectures by Edit Farkas, Csaba Tóth and Lajos Pallos.⁸⁰

As the following year began Edit Farkas gave birth to her third child and elected for full time motherhood. She was replaced by ISTVÁN VIDA in the Roman collection, who had been helping the projects of the Numismatic Collection for many years, including the third volume of the collection of the Hungarian National Museum for international series of Greek coins, which published the colonial fittings of Moesia Inferior.⁸¹

The end of the first decade of the millennium saw more, less favourable, changes. In 2008, Erzsébet Horváth Hidvégi, a restorer, retired, with whom the position of the Numismatic Collection's own restorer ceased to exist. The task of restoring items from the collection fell to more general metal restorers and notwithstanding their expertise less time became available to attend to the restoration of coins and medals. Vera G. Héri retired in 2009 without being replaced as curator of the commemorative medal collection. From then on, years, Lajos Pallos and Csaba Tóth jointly oversaw that collection.

In the first years of the new millennium cuts to national expenditure saw a reduction in funds available for acquisitions by the museum. Less of an impact was felt in respect of the acquisition of truly significant artefacts although government approval was required for major purchases. The Collection continued to expand though by a combination of gifts and purchases of outstanding pieces.

The Roman medal collection grew mainly thanks to István Rónaszéki, who donated a considerable amount from his own collection. The gift emphasizes the 3rd century mintages of the Viminacium's mint and their contemporary imitations, the mintages of a Dacian's mint from the middle of the 3rd century. In addition to them, a special group of medals deserves attention, which consists of mis-strikes from the Roman Empire.⁸² Among the gifts, it is worth mentioning, among other things, a beautiful copy of the badge of the Golden Fleece Order of the early 20th century, which was received by Count Gyula Széchenyi as the Royal Hungarian Minister at His Majesty's Court. (Fig. 75) The donation comes from his son, Gyula



Fig. 75 Badge of the Order of the Golden Fleece. It was awarded to Count Gyula Széchenyi, 1902.

80 FARKAS 2003, 106–107. TÓTH 2003, 197–198. PALLOS 2003, 259.

81 VIDA 2000.

82 VIDA 2007, 41.

Széchenyi Jr.⁸³ Two pieces of the medal of the painter Géza Vastagh were donated to the museum by his son, Géza Vastagh Jr. One is the Hungarian State Grand Gold Medal from 1894, the other is the Bronze Reward Medal of the 1900 Paris Universal's Exhibition.

Mrs. Éva Bódy, who donated from France a valuable ensemble of honors: her late husband, László Bódy, was honored in the years 1917–1948. After World War I military service, Bódy joined the police force, where he spent decades and then emigrated after the 1956 revolution. The outstanding piece of the collection is Pope Pius XI Benemerenti's award and certification of donation signed by Cardinal Pacelli.

The commemorative medal collection was enriched by a number of smaller gifts, most of which were 20th-century or 21st-century contemporary medals and plaques. Outstanding among these are 59 pieces of medals from the legacy of the museum's director general of 1993, Alán Kralovánszky, donated to the Numismatic Collection by his widow, Kinga Éry, and 52 copper portrait medals by József Szlávics Jr., depicting famous people. Mrs. Rudolf Strasser, born Daisy Chorin presented the museum with the badge of the Grand Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit, which was worn by István Bárczy, Secretary of State for the Prime Minister's Office, in the 1940s.

During the 1920s it was discovered that the French Franc was being counterfeited in Hungary. Naturally the recovered counterfeit banknotes were destroyed but a few survived. One that did survive, a 1,000 franc note, came into the possession of Iván Rakovszky the Minister of the Interior at the time. This exceptionally rare and very valuable note was presented to the museum by a donor connected to the former Minister's family and is illustrated here for the first time. (Fig. 76)



Fig. 76 A fake 1000 franc. The memory of the Hungarian franc counterfeiting scandal, 1920s.



83 HÉRI 2005, 28–29.



Fig. 80 Emigration Cross of the Hungarian Order of Military Merit, 1860s. It was awarded to Károly Eberhardt.



Fig. 81 Inner part of a bimetallic bronze medallion of Emperor Commodus.



Fig. 82 The tetrassaria of Emperor Macrinus from Marcianopolis, Moesia Inferior.



Fig. 83 Unpublished obulus of King Stephen V (1270–1272).

The most significant purchase of 2010s was the Nobel Prize Medal awarded to György Hevesy went to the Hungarian National Museum at a London auction. Hevesy was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1943, which he received in 1944. In addition to the gold medal, the award document was also placed in the Numismatic Collection.⁸⁸

Smaller but still significant pieces were added to the collection during this period. Among these was a sestertius of Pompeia Plotina, the wife of the Roman Emperor Trajan as well as an exceptionally rare Roman medallion from the time of Emperor Commodus (Fig. 81) and an tetrassaria of Macrinus from Moesia Inferior, (Fig. 82) Further acquisitions included an unpublished obulus of King Stephen V (1270–1272) (Fig. 83), goldgulden of Queen Mary (1382–1387) and a quarter goldgulden of King Matthias II (1608–1619) as well as a Star of the Grand Cross of the Hungarian Holy Crown Order. For a fair price we were able to select some items from a collection of, many rare, military unit badges dating World War I found in an attic. As a result, the Numismatic Collection was able to fill 36 gaps in our collection. (Fig. 84) The collection of political badges dating from the end of the twentieth century also benefitted from a number of purchases.



Fig. 84 The badge of the 24th Assault Battalion, World War I.

88 Morton & Eden Ltd. Auction Catalogue no. 90. War medals, Orders and Decorations. London 23 November 2017.

After 2000 the issue of paper share certificates and securities ceased in Hungary being replaced by electronic records. As a result of this change a drive was undertaken to acquire certificates issued between the late 1980s to 2000. Gifts and purchases have allowed us to accumulate nearly one hundred examples.

We also purchased two rare share certificates the first being an 1840 issue of the Bee Breeding, Fruit Breeding and Tobacco Growing Association (Fig. 85) and the 1867 issue of Buda Commercial and Industrial Bank Company Ltd.

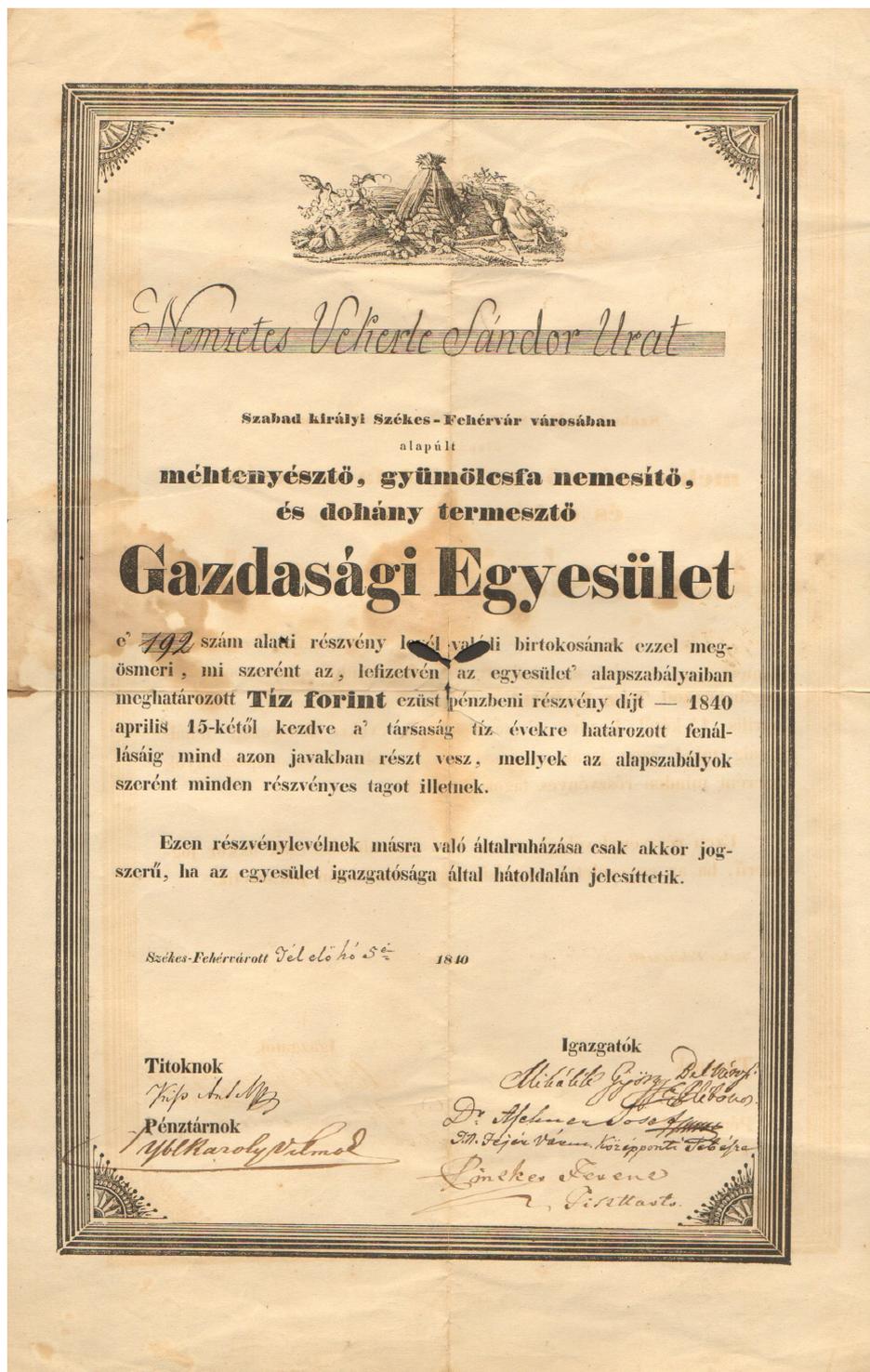


Fig. 85 Share of the Bee Breeding, Fruit Breeding and Tobacco Growing Association, 1840.

Each year the Hungarian National Bank hands over that year's issue of circulation coins, commemorative coins and banknotes. This remains a small but no less significant annual addition to our 21st century collection. On one occasion, we received a larger than usual batch of counterfeit money withdrawn from circulation. We received significant quantities of decorations, badges and medals from a cache seized by the Customs and Excise Department, among them a quantity of commemorative medals the northern campaign of the Russian Tsar Peter the Great. The six gold medals were actually made in the second half of the 18th century when Catherine the Great, out of respect for her great predecessor, ordered a fresh pressing of the original series. (Fig. 86)

In 2009, we received a copy of the limited edition of the "Twenty Years of the Republic of Hungary" Award from the Office of the Prime Minister.



Fig. 86 Commemorative medal of the northern campaign of the Russian Tsar Peter the Great, 2nd half of the 18th century.

Exchanges have long been an important source of growth for the Numismatic Collection. However by the beginning of the 21st century available duplicate material had dwindled sharply. The Roman collection, the commemorative medal collection and the securities collection were still able to make some good exchanges receiving several outstanding pieces in return. Among them were share certificates of Fruit Growing Company of Jólsva in 1845, and Sopron-Pozsony Local Railway Company Ltd. from 1907. (Fig. 87–88)



Fig. 87 Share of the Fruit Growing Company of Jólsva, 1845.



Fig. 88 Share of the Sopron-Pozsony Local Railway Ltd. Company, 1907

In the 2010s, however, this source of the acquisition officially ceased to exist.

Annual exhibitions of recent significant acquisitions was organized by department's staff member, Lajos Pallos. For the most part, only a leaflet with a list of objects was published for these exhibitions, but twice, in 2005 and 2007, a booklet illustrated with pictures was published. At the end of the series, and in 2010, a separate volume was published for the last exhibition presenting the best of the twelve-year series, including the most significant works of the Numismatic Collection.

In 2011 the impressive and famous gold treasure of Košice (Hungarian: Kassa) arrived at the Hungarian National Museum from Košice in Slovakia. Most of the 2,920 gold coins, found in a copper pot in 1935, were Hungarian and Dutch coins but it also contained third and fourth century BC Thracian money as well as a gold chain.

The treasure was presumably hidden during the Kuruc wars. The exhibition was organized jointly by the Slovak museologist Marek Budaj and Numismatic Collection staff member Csaba Tóth.⁸⁹

In 2014, on the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephen, Lajos Pallos and the art historian Mátyás Gödölle, an employee of the Museum's Historical Picture Gallery, created a representative exhibition entitled Knights of St. Stephen. As a result of many years of preparations, in addition to the museum's awards and fine art material, many public and private collections from home and abroad loaned works of art specially for the exhibition. (Fig. 89–91)

Significant pieces were received from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Romania and Russia. Attila Pandula, who was a teacher of faleristics at Eötvös Loránd University and a professional involved in the re-institution of the Hungarian Order of St. Stephen in 2011, played a major role in the realization of the exhibition.

89 BUDAJ – TÓTH 2011.



Fig. 89 Knights of St. Stephen exhibition, 1st room, 2014.



Fig. 90 Knights of St. Stephen exhibition, 3rd room, 2014.



Fig. 91 Knights of St. Stephen exhibition, 4th room, 2014.

In addition, we received help from many Hungarian curators and private collectors. A catalog accompanied by studies by several authors was prepared for the exhibition.⁹⁰

The research into and cataloguing of Hungarian coronation medals is long term enterprise which springs from the very heart of our existence. Beginning with our own collection and broadening out to collections abroad a significant exhibition was developed under the direction of Csaba Tóth. The enterprise was supported from the bosom of the Numismatic Collection, which aimed to research and catalog Hungarian coronation medals. The work started from the material of the Numismatic Collection, but the research also extended to foreign collections. The enterprise was supported by the 'Impetus' Holy Crown Research Group of the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The project resulted in the creation of a representative catalog of the coronation coins of Hungarian rulers, accompanied by studies, entitled *Coronatio Hungarica in Nummis*, which was soon followed by the English edition.⁹¹ (Fig. 92) These collaborations resulted in an exhibition being mounted in Pozsony (now Bratislava, Slovakia), (Fig. 93) the former coronation city of the Kingdom of Hungary, for which an impressive Slovak-Hungarian catalog was prepared.⁹² (Fig. 94) Later an exhibition took place in Kolozsvár (now Cluj-Napoca), for which a richly illustrated Romanian-Hungarian catalogue was produced.⁹³ (Fig. 95)

A third recent project is worthy of mention. This relates to a group of medals deposited with the Numismatic Collection by the Hungarian National Bank. The Hungarian National Bank's Depository Program, which operated between 2015 and 2019 and aimed at acquiring valuable artefact ensembles of significance to the country. It purchased the collection of István Törő which included a special series of Transylvanian Principality thaler. The collection was exhibited at the Hungarian National Museum as well as several other cities. A volume commemorating the exhibition, including studies, was published in both Hungarian and English.⁹⁴

90 GÖDÖLLE – PALLOS 2015.

91 SOLTÉSZ – TÓTH – PÁLFFY 2016. and SOLTÉSZ – TÓTH – PÁLFFY 2019.

92 BUDAJ – SOLTÉSZ – TÓTH 2014.

93 TÓTH 2016.

94 TÓTH 2017.

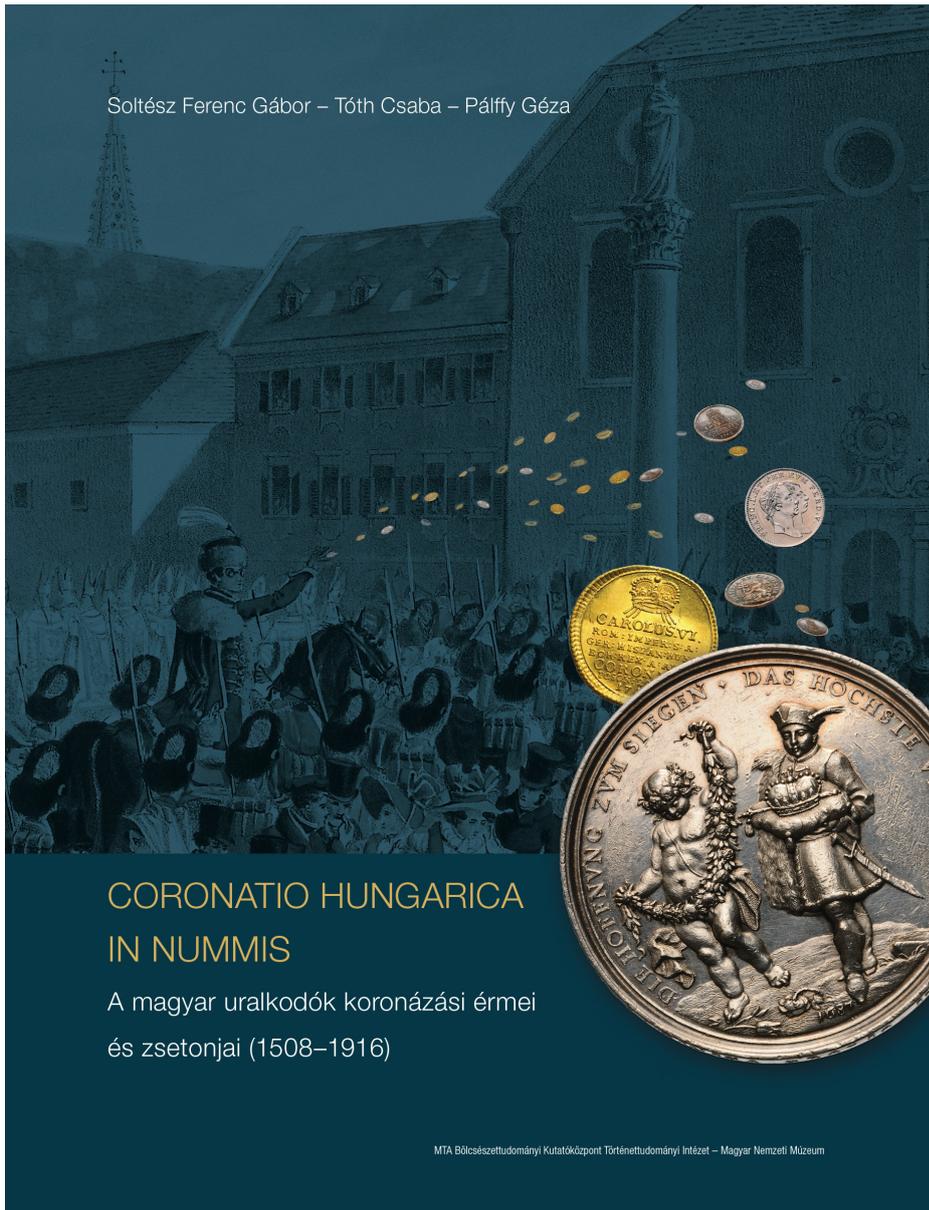


Fig. 92 Cover of the catalogue of Hungarian coronation medals, 2016.



Fig. 93 Photo of the most important medal, the 'Opferpfennig' of the exhibition in Bratislava, 2014.



Fig. 94 Cover of the catalogue of the exhibition in Bratislava, 2014.



Fig. 95 Cover of the catalogue of the exhibition in Cluj-Napoca, 2016.

The staff of the Numismatic Collection regularly presents their own research through lectures, studies and books. On the eve of the retirement of Vera G. Héri, she compiled a catalog of commemorative medals from the wars against the Ottomans. This huge volume presenting hundreds of medals is the collection catalog of the Numismatic Collection.⁹⁵ Our staff participated in the creation of a bilingual, Hungarian-English volume presenting the medal collection of the Institute of Archeology of Eötvös Loránd University. In the book presenting representative pieces of the collection, the antique coins were written about by Melinda Torbágyi and István Vida, the medieval and modern coins by Csaba Tóth, and the commemorative medals by Lajos Pallos.⁹⁶ Several colleagues, Melinda Torbágyi, Csaba Tóth and Lajos Pallos, co-authored a book on the history of Hungarian money. This work was designed for general public and is illustrated with numerous photographs and is now

95 G. HÉRI 2009.

96 TORBÁGYI – VIDA – TÓTH – PALLOS 2010, 31–90.

in its third edition.⁹⁷ Csaba Tóth was the driving force behind the major undertaking which catalogued Hungarian money of the Árpáadian period in more detail than ever before. The result is a three-volume work in Hungarian-English, which is a significant improvement over the works of its predecessors.⁹⁸ Most recently, a monograph summarizing the monetary history of Anjou-era Hungary was published.⁹⁹

István Vida actively participated in international scientific projects related to Roman numismatics with his subjects being 'IMAGMA: Imagines Maiestatis. Barbarian Coins, Elite Identities and the Birth of Europe' and 'Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project'.¹⁰⁰ In addition to his studies, he gave several lectures abroad.¹⁰¹ He also manages the Roman numismatic workshop within the Hungarian Numismatic Society. In recent years, István Vida has been pioneering work in a novel and extremely important field. With the help of amateur researchers, he is conducting site exploration with a metal detector all across the country. He and his volunteers have already made a number of significant finds, which are processed partly by the staff in the Numismatic Collection and partly in the Archaeological Department of the museum.

The principal area of study of Lajos Pallos over the past two decades has been mainly the collection of badges and awards. His main project was an exhibition presenting the history of the Order of St. Stephen, as a by-product of which several papers were published.¹⁰² ENIKŐ KOVÁCS joined the Numismatic Collection in 2016, where she completed her university internship in the medieval Hungarian money collection. She previously participated in the revision of the medal collection of Eötvös Loránd University, and in 2018 in the revision of the medal collection of the Déri Frigyes Museum in Debrecen. In the Numismatic Collection she first worked as a secretary then as a professional for four hours a day and enrolled in the Doctoral School of History of the Faculty of Arts of Eötvös Loránd University. Her topic is the circulation of 13th century Viennese denars in Hungary. In the autumn of 2018 she delivered a lecture to the Hungarian Numismatic Society on the subject of coins minted during the reign of King László (*Ladislau*s) IV (1272–1290). Since 2018 she was regularly participated in conferences of doctoral students. In October 2020 with the benefit of a Klebelsberg Scholarship she spent a month in Vienna at the Münzkabinett of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, where she researched for her doctoral dissertation. She publishes regularly on the history of medieval money.¹⁰³

The various collections of the Numismatic Collection are also regularly researched by external researchers. In his impressive catalogue of the work of the Viennese craftman Carl Radnitzky Attila Bene illustrated nearly one hundred medals of the collection of the Numismatic Collection.¹⁰⁴ For many years, Pál Török, the president of the Association of Hungarian Medal Collectors, conducted research in the Numismatic Collection into the corpus of the Hungarian commemorative medals and plaques. His great efforts, which relied largely on material held by the Numismatic Collection, resulted in a work which not only supplemented the previous

97 PALLOS – TORBÁGYI – TÓTH 2011. (Later issues 2012. és 2017.)

98 TÓTH – KISS – FEKETE 2018 és TÓTH – KISS 2018.

99 TÓTH 2020.

100 <https://www.imagma.eu/> and <https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/> (date: 13.16.2023.)

101 VIDA 2017, Roman denarii in eastern and northern Hungary. Denarii beyond the Empire: political & cultural perspectives on Roman silver coins in barbaricum. An International Research Network Meeting At National Museums Scotland Supported By The Arts & Humanities Research Council. Edinburgh, 24 March 2019., Imitations of Roman denarii from Hungary. IMAGMA. Frankfurt, 6–7 March 2020.

102 PALLOS – SZVITEK 2007, PALLOS 2008, PALLOS 2008a, PALLOS 2015.

103 KOVÁCS 2019, 257–262. KOVÁCS 2019a, 263–270.

104 BENE 2016.

catalogue of Lajos Huszár and Béla Procopius and but expanded upon the history of the design and production of Hungarian medals between 1832 and 1945.¹⁰⁵ Pál Török sadly passed away a few years after the volume was published. In a book honoring his memory, two of our colleagues also wrote a study.¹⁰⁶ A few years ago, as part of a university dissertation, Krisztina Palásti Simonffy catalogued the badges of the song associations. (Fig. 96) The results of the work will soon appear in the museum's historical yearbook.

The year 2020 brought many changes to Numismatic Collection. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, staff were obliged to work from home and continued to produce studies and respond to enquiries. Csaba Tóth responded to the challenge in a novel way by recording videos in which he discussed interesting numismatic topics and publishing them on the internet for all to see. Enikő Kovács organized an online medieval numismatic workshop on behalf of the Hungarian Numismatic Society while István Vida organized online conferences and gave an online presentation on various topics.¹⁰⁷

The second half of the year brought further changes. In September, after decades of selfless dedication to the cause of the study of coins, Melinda Torbágyi retired from her position as the head of the Numismatic Collection and the senior official of the Hungarian Numismatic Society. With her departure a significant era in the Numismatic Collection came to an end. In her retirement Melinda Torbágyi will continue her research into Celtic coinage a subject on which she has regularly published over the years.¹⁰⁸

Lajos Pallos replaced Melinda Torbágyi both as head of the Numismatic Collection and president of the Hungarian Numismatic Society. The beginning of November saw further changes. Enikő Kovács gave up her secretarial duties to become the full-time curator of the medieval collection. After many, many years, MÁRTA PALLAG, an art historian, finally became an independent curator of the commemorative medal collection.

Márta Pallag who had spent her internship with Héri G. Vera and wrote her dissertation employing as a source the Numismatic Collection's collection of commemorative medals.¹⁰⁹ In 2004–2005 she was a visiting student under a scholarship for two semesters at the Department of Art History of the University of Vienna. In the Zwinger of Dresden, Germany in 2007 she represented the Numismatic Collection and delivered a lecture on medals related to the person of Leopold I, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Hungary.

As an editor, she participated in the work of the volume presenting commemorative medals of the wars against the Ottomans. Towards the end of the 2010 decade, she began a contract revision of the commemorative medal collection. Her current main field of research is the early 16th century decades of medal art in Hungary, Renaissance portraits and 19th century Hungarian collection history.¹¹⁰



Fig. 96 The Szekler Song Association badge, 1st half of 20th century.

105 TÖRÖK 2011.

106 TÓTH 2019, 59–114. and PALLAG 2019, 115–127.

107 Together with Lajos Juhász: The Sarmatian imitations. The reinvention of Roman coins. Eea Virtual Session – The Imitation Game. 29, August 2020.

108 TORBÁGYI 2008, TORBÁGYI 2014, TORBÁGYI 2019, TORBÁGYI 2020.

109 Thesis title: *Ideology of Political Virtue and Ruler Propaganda on Commemorative Coins of Emperor Leopold I.*

110 PALLAG 2013, 145–150. PALLAG 2018, 43–51. PALLAG 2019a, 117–127.

Current composition of the Numismatic Collection

Primitive money

Objects used as primitive forms of money (cowry shells, bronze bracelets, silver nuggets) and oddly shaped, primarily Oriental means of payment (shovel coins, uniquely shaped silver blocks, Asian porcelain coins) amount to nearly 150 items.

Coins of protohistoric societies

The coins of Celtic and other protohistoric societies who once inhabited the Carpathian Basin comprise a unit of nearly 6000 object. This number includes the smaller series of coins of Celtic societies who lived further away from the area of Hungary. Of significant scientific value for this unit is the fact that the location where the majority of the coins were found is known, for which reason the collection is extremely important in the research of the history of the Central European Celts. While the majority of the collection consists of Celtic coins, the coins minted on the model of Byzantine coins are also of significant value.

Greek coins collection

Numbering nearly 10,000 objects. Every significant group is represented by a smaller series. A unique feature of the collection is that the coins, whose places of discovery are known, came to the Carpathian Basin through former trade ties.

Roman coin collection

Contains nearly 70,000 coins, of which approximately 15,000 are stored in closed units according to their respective place of discovery. The coins listed in the collection include roughly 4000 from the republic era, while the majority of the material is imperial-era coins. The imperial-era coins include 5600 silver and 9800 bronze from the 1st to 3rd centuries, 16,800 3rd-century "*antoninianus*,"¹¹¹ and 320 silver and 17,000 bronze coins from the 4th century. The collection preserves more than 800 gold coins of the Roman emperors. The Roman collection is an abundant source for many kinds of historical research. Of particular value are the coins found in the area of Hungary, which provide indications for the study of money circulation in Pannonia.

Byzantine coin collection

Consists of nearly 3000 objects. The vast majority of the collection was unearthed in the area of Hungary. Another interesting feature of the material is that it consists predominantly of gold coins. Containing more than 17,000 gold coins, the collection's most valuable unit is the Szikáncs find.

Medieval and early modern coins collection

This collection boasts 72,000, originating from approximately 30,000 sites. The largest part of the collection is coins from neighboring countries which were present in Hungarian monetary circulation. The Austrian material is particularly substantial, numbering several tens of thousands by itself, but the coins of Germany are also in excess of 10,000. In addition, the majority of Czech and Polish coins came primarily from finds, while the greater percentage of

¹¹¹ Minted in the 3rd century, the *antoninianus* was originally a double denarius cast from silver, but later was cast from just bronze.

the coins of the southern Slavic states and Rumanian princes were acquired by the collection mainly from private collections. The collection preserves not only modern but also medieval and early modern series from most of the nations of Europe. Through donations, smaller series, primarily of modern coins, have been compiled of many of the nations of the world. Special mention should be made of the several hundred objects in the Far Eastern collection group and the collection of Mohammedan coins, mainly Arabian and Turkish, numbering more than 1000. The collection of foreign coins contains 2000 gold coins, nearly half of which are Austrian or German.

Mementos of Hungarian and Transylvanian numismatic history

This collection group constitutes the most important units of the Numismatic Collection. The collection of Hungarian and Transylvanian coins numbers approximately 70,000. More than half of these coins have been classified by era, while somewhat more than 30,000 are kept according to their place of discovery. Of this enormous collection the number of gold coins is somewhat more than 3000, which is of particularly great value to the Collection. This collection presents Hungarian coinings from the beginnings to the present in unrivaled abundance, with mementos of the numismatic history of the Hungarian state and the Transylvanian princes.

Paper money

This collection was begun relatively late, at the turn of the century. Today the collection numbers more than 30,000 objects. The overwhelming majority of the material is Hungarian-related paper money, from banknotes printed in Vienna and circulated in Hungary in the late 18th century to Kossuth banknotes and the new banknotes used today. In addition to official banknotes, the collection also contains Hungarian currencies of necessity and emergency currencies issued in large quantities, as well as Hungarian-related groups such as the notes of the 1848-49 rebellion issued in emigration, or the money of necessity of Russian POW camps in World War One. Of the several thousand foreign banknotes, the Austrian and German currencies of necessity are the most significant groups. Collection was not directed at the paper currencies of the world, but smaller series of banknotes from many nations have been received by the Collection.

Securities

This collection numbers approximately 4500 objects. This young subfield of numismatics is represented almost exclusively by Hungarian and Hungarian-related securities. The majority of the stocks, bonds, pawn tickets, business shares, lottery tickets and letters of exchange are from the interwar period, but smaller series represent the economic processes of the Age of Reform and the Compromise, with larger units from the Dualist era and the present.

Medals

The first pieces in this collection came from Széchenyi's donation, as a result of which this collection has from the beginning been a fundamental and extremely valued part of the Numismatic Collection. At present it numbers 43,000, the majority of which relate to Hungary, while also containing smaller series of the outstanding periods and artists of universal numismatic art, such as the medals of the Italian and German Renaissance, and the French secession. Within the Hungarian material, the medals linked to artists of the

Körmöcbánya mint stand out. The collection boasts a huge number of Hungarian historical medals made at Körmöcbánya from the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th century. In addition to Austrian, Hungarian and Transylvanian historical medals, there are series of interest in terms of cultural history, such as the units of medals of friendship, baptisms, weddings, personal medals, doctor's and school medals, Freemasons, sports, and medals of St. George. Of the church medals the most complete group is comprised by the more than 3500 Papal medals, a substantial amount even by international standards, but the number of Biblical medals and medals linked to churches, shrines or places of pilgrimage totals several thousand. In addition, the collection preserves smaller series from the better-known artists in 19th and 20th-century Hungarian numismatic art. This collection has nearly 700 medals and plaques made of gold.

Awards

This collection is a unit which developed slowly since the late 19th century. At present it consists of more than 2000 objects, thanks to growth in the last twenty-five years. One half of the collection is a nearly complete presentation of Habsburg-era and 20th-century Hungarian honors and awards, including those of numerous outstanding historical figures. The other half consists of foreign awards grouped in units according to country, many of which were donated to the museum by Hungarians – prime ministers, ministers, diplomats, soldiers and artists. Valuable even by international standards, the collection contains several rarities.

Badges

A younger unit of the Collection, established only at the turn of the century. The unit currently numbers more than 20,000. The most important units in this predominantly Hungarian-related group are 19th and 20th-century political badges, World War One, Red Cross, song group, and school badges, and, from the socialist era, outstanding workers' and cadre badges. The badges of the various social movements and societies are interesting mementos of everyday life and the civil sphere in late modern Hungarian history.

Tokens and scrip

This collection is one of the most mixed units in the Numismatic Collection. Material from the medieval period to the present can be found here. The unit consists of mine notes, scrip and work tokens, play money, and tokens used in businesses and restaurants. At the same time it preserves a number of interesting mementos from 19th-century Hungarian history, such as horse-racing tickets and Chain Bridge tokens, as well as more valuable series. Although the majority of the collection is comprised of Hungarian objects, foreign material also appears in significant but smaller numbers, especially Austrian, German, French and Italian play money and tokens. The collection contains nearly 6500 objects.

Mint casts

This collection numbers only a few hundred objects, and has grown rather sporadically. Predominantly from the modern era, the most important series in the collection are minting casts of the coins of Franz Joseph I and the private coins of the Batthyány family, as well as those of the early 17th century for the city of Brassó. Another large unit consists of mint casts for Hungarian artistic commemorative medals made at the turn of the century. Also, a few

objects feature the mint casts of Hungarian medieval coins and modern foreign coins, as well as galley proofs of Hungarian banknotes.

This presentation of the Numismatic Collection should not fail to mention the Collection's library, which consists of 8000 books and separate printings, as well as more than a hundred periodicals and a more-or-less complete series of auction catalogues from numerous coin dealerships. In addition to literature on Hungarian numismatics, the library also contains corpuses linked mainly to ancient and European numismatic art, as well as monographs and other works which are currently indispensable in numismatic research in Hungary.

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