

PUBLICATIONS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATISTS
No. 2

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
FOR THE STUDY OF AND THE DEFENCE AGAINST

COIN FORGERY

PARIS, 1965

Analytical Report

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FOREWORD

To the appeal launched by the 'International Association of Professional Numismatists' in its struggle against coin forgeries, many extremely favourable replies were received from all quarters. This is the reason why, in June 1965, an international conference was brought together in Paris, at which all Museums, Associations and Numismatic Societies were invited.

The international attendance was large since it included more than one hundred distinguished persons, delegates or participants; the very instructive reports produced stressed the inadequacy of the existing laws when contending with forgeries and their creators. In the course of spirited debates, several motions were adopted and a Permanent Commission created.

The I.A.P.N., as far as it is concerned, decided to publish in extenso the entire report of this Congress. This publication is thus the exact transcription of the recordings and their translation.

On reading certain passages, it would seem that some corrections might have been made. But the aim of this publication is intended chiefly to serve as evidence that the numismatic world is conscious of, and is clearly determined to destroy, by every possible means, this constant fraud and imposture represented by these forgeries and their only too familiar occurrence.

The Permanent Commission sent out a copy of the motions adopted at the Congress to the whole wide world. From many governments, and especially from U.N.E.S.C.O., warm encouragement was received.

At the meeting in New York, in May 1966, the Permanent Commission decided to increase its activity and to give it the widest possible diffusion. The American Numismatic Association is particularly active in its help.

There is no doubt that this publication, printed thanks to the help of Mr. L. S. Forrer, will also contribute its effective share in inciting Governments to protect Numismatics and to punish severely both forgers and their accomplices.

E. BOURGEY

PROGRAMME
of the First **INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**
for the **STUDY** of and the **DEFENCE** against **Coin Forgery**

MAISON INTERNATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER
14, rue Jean-Rey, Paris (15^e). Tél. 273-01-20

Thursday, June 3rd 1965

- From 9. a.m.: Welcome and Registration.
2. p.m.: Opening Ceremony.
3. p.m.: First Working Party. Legislation against Forgery in different countries represented. Comparative study of Regulations.
6.30 p.m.: Reception by the Professional Numismatists of Paris.
9. p.m.: Official Opening of the Numismatic Exhibition at the Mint of Paris.

Friday, June 4th 1965

2. p.m.: Second Working Party. Continuation of the Legal Study. Terminology.
6. p.m.: Reception by the Chairman of the Town-Council (Président du Conseil Municipal de la Ville de Paris) at the Paris Town-Hall (Hôtel de Ville).
9. p.m.: Nightvisit of the Louvre Museum.

Saturday, June 5th 1965

2. p.m.: Third Working Party. Conclusions. Voting on Motions.
9. p.m.: Banquet organized by the I.A.P.N.

Sunday, June 6th 1965

Optional Excursion.

Each working party will be presided over by a well-known Numismatic personality.

The working parties are to take place in the Grande Salle No. III of the Maison Internationale des Chemins de Fer with simultaneous translation in several languages.

INAUGURATION

Mr. Xavier CALICO

President of the International Association of Professional Numismatists.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I welcome all of you, and particularly Mr. Dehaye, Director of the Mint, who has honoured us by accepting to inaugurate our First International Congress for the Study of and the Defence against Modern Forgeries.

I would also very warmly thank the following for their presence:

Mr. Nepote, General Secretary of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), Mr. Tondu, Principle Cashier of the Bank of France, Mr. Szpakowski, UNESCO representative, Commissioner Benhamou of the Judicial Police, Professor de Navascues, Director of the Antonio Agustin Institute, Mr. J. Mazard, Counsellor of the Court of Appeal, Dr. Bastien, President of the French Numismatic Society, all the Presidents of Societies here present, as well as all the other delegates.

You have been good enough to respond to our appeal, and your presence here kindles every hope in us. Your presence here is valuable for you are this Congress. Somebody had to be responsible for its organization, and we thought it our duty to assume this responsibility, which has been taken in hand by the General Secretary of the Congress, Mr. Emile Bourgey; he has done so with enthusiasm, tact and an intelligence worthy of all praise. But once the Congress has been inaugurated, once the work sessions have begun, the Congress will be exactly what you want it to be. To the Societies represented here, and to others which will eventually join the responsibility belongs, I am sure, for the discussions and for the agreements reached at this Congress. The International Association of Professional Numismatists will only be one Society amongst others at this Congress. It only desires and has no other purpose than to provoke your discussions, to await your agreements and your decisions.

We have been fortunate to secure as leaders for our work three well-known and eminent persons, whose qualifications match the tasks they have given us the honour of accepting. Mr. Jean Mazard, with his legal training, seemed just the person to preside the sessions concerned with legislation; Professor J. M. de Navascues, Professor of Numismatics at Madrid University, will preside the second

session devoted to terminology, and it seems to me that it would have been difficult to choose any better; Maitre Colin-Martin, Barrister at Lausanne and President of the Swiss Numismatic Society, will direct with his traditional ability the debates in the third session.

Thus we hold all the aces, and I imagine that you have not come so far in vain, and that you are anxious to prove it. That is why I do not intend to take up any more of your time, and I close by asking the Congress General Secretary, my very dear friend, Mr. Emile Bourgey, to address you.

Mr. E. BOURGEY

General Secretary of the Congress

Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was in 1962, during the General Assembly of our International Association of Professional Numismatists at Innsbruck, that we decided to mount a vast offensive against modern forgeries.

As long ago as 1951 when it was founded, our Association accepted the task of fighting against ancient forgeries, and more especially against false Greek and Roman coins; to that end a basic card system has already been formed in which the essential characteristics of a certain number of false antique coins are recorded. But during the last ten years, the rapid increase of modern false coins has taken a truly disturbing jump, both as regards rare and common coins.

We therefore wrote to all the Numismatic Societies we were able to discover, as well as to official and public bodies. We thus warned about 1500 groups, asking them for their advice on the prime problem of these forgeries and on the means they judged adequate to hinder their circulation.

Many replies were received, and all of them showed their interest in this new problem.

The means suggested for waging a successful war were obviously varied. Some suggested intensive propaganda against forgers; others recommended detailed publications. Some thought false coins should automatically receive a stamp, or a countermark.

But the majority wished for the organization, in a large city, of an international colloquy so as to define as exactly as possible the action to be taken, and at the same time the provision of an Exhibition, so that the public might see the difference between genuine and false.

This idea was approved by our Assembly in 1963 at Monte Carlo, and the project definitely adopted in London in May 1964.

The magnitude of the delay between the idea born in 1962 and its realization today demonstrates the difficulties we have met with in front of a problem approached from a wholly new angle, even if it is already an old one, in order to arrive at a concrete solution.

We soon noticed that one of the essential points was the difference in the laws governing forgers and forgeries in different countries. That is why we entered this question as No. 1 on our programme.

We also realized that the meaning of terms used were not always equal and the same, according to those who used them, and it seemed to be a necessity to delimit as clearly as possible the terminology of the various words referring to the family of coin and numismatic forgeries.

Finally our deliberations would be incomplete unless everyone was allowed to express his point of view, thus allowing full scope to a general discussion on all the different subjects that this problem poses without laying down a precise timetable.

It is our pleasure to welcome here 34 Numismatic Societies or Issuing Banks, or Coin Cabinets, whom I am happy to introduce to you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| – The American Numismatic Association | represented by Mr. M. Rothert |
| – The International Association of Professional Numismatists | represented by Mr. X. Calico |
| – The Spanish Numismatic Association | represented by Mr. Ruiz de Larra-mendi |
| – The Association of German Professional Numismatists | represented by Mr. R. Wolf |
| – The Association of Numismatic Societies in Great Britain | represented by Dr. J. P. C. Kent |
| – The Numismatic Association of New Jersey | represented by Mr. Selfridge |
| – The Central Bank of Venezuela | represented by Mrs. de Pardo |
| – The Bank of Israel | represented by Mr. Milo |
| – The Athens Coin Cabinet | represented by Mrs. Oeconomides |
| – The Paris Coin Cabinet | represented by Mr. Le Rider |
| – The Royal Netherlands Coin Cabinet | represented by Dr. van Gelder |
| – The Numismatic Club of Alsace | represented by Dr. P. Simon |
| – The Basle Numismatic Club | represented by Dr. H. Cahn |
| – The Chicago Coin Club | represented by Mr. Starck |
| – The Bogota Numismatic Club | represented by Mr. X. Calico |

- The International Numismatic Commission represented by Dr. G. H. V. Sutherland
- The Antonio Agustin Institute (Spain) represented by Prof. Dr. J. M. de Navascues
- The Royal Dutch Mint represented by Dr. Van Hengel
- The Paris Mint represented by Mr. Dehaye
- The Numismatic Commission of the German Provinces represented by Dr. Jaeckel
- The Professional Numismatists Guild represented by Mr. R. Picker
- The Society for Numismatic and Archaeological Studies (Paris) represented by Mr. Lafolie
- The French Numismatic Society represented by Dr. Bastien
- The Argentine Numismatic Society represented by Mr. X. Calico
- The Bavarian Numismatic Society represented by Dr. Giebisch
- The Bulgarian Numismatic Society represented by Dr. Nedeltchev
- The Italian Numismatic Society represented by Mr. Cremaschi
- The Ligurian Numismatic Society represented by Dr. Pesce
- The Moroccan Numismatic Society represented by Mr. D. Eustache
- The Mexican Numismatic Society represented by Mr. M. Muñoz
- The Royal Netherlands Numismatic Society represented by Dr. Schlemper
- The Portuguese Numismatic Society represented by Mr. X. Calico
- The Puebla Numismatic Society represented by Mr. Baron Arce
- The Sarre Numismatic Society represented by Dr. Bruhne
- The Swedish Numismatic Society represented by Mr. Nathorst-Böös and Mr. P. O. Nordin

Lastly, thanks to the kindness of the Director of the Administration des Monnaies et Médailles we have been able to organize an Exhibition – albeit very modest – especially for the specialists you all are – but we hope it will catch the attention of the general public on the numerous specimens of forgeries, and on the difficulties we meet to detect them.

I have the honour to ask Mr. Pierre Dehaye, Director of the Administration des Monnaies et Médailles to be so good as to inaugurate this Congress.

*Speech by Mr. DEHAYE,
Director of the Administration de la Monnaie de Paris, who inaugurated the Congress.*

Mr. President, Gentlemen,

I value very highly the honour you have done me in asking me to speak at this solemn session of inauguration of the First International Congress for the study of and the defence against Coin Forgeries.

In thanking you, Gentlemen, I applaud your intention of uniting to your action, across time and space, in the person of the present Director of the Paris Mint, all those who have had the responsibility of striking coins, whose work seems to you to-day to be in need of protection.

The care you take, in fact, to ensure the morality of your profession has incited you to place in the forefront of your actions the detection and the suppression of forgeries.

This is indeed a very important question, but a very delicate one; in order to appreciate this one has only to consider the differences in customs and in legislation which exist amongst the various nations represented here.

When it comes to coins no longer legal tender, it would seem at first sight out of the question to think of making forgers subject to the same legal penalties to which forgers of current coin are liable.

Since the credit of the State is not involved in the same way, must we then conclude that judicial action must be limited, as if the case only consisted in some slight fraud?

That is the nub of the question. Are we to look on the forger as a simple crook, trying to abuse the confidence of a possible buyer; is that the whole problem? Is that even the basis of the problem?

A simple consideration will show how the prejudice engendered by forgery – in the framework of the facts in question – cannot remain an individual and isolated occurrence.

Forgeries always do harm not only to one person, but to all those who possess coins of the same sort, even when genuine, either because, as long as the forgery has not been detected, the quantity of these on the market reduces the value appertaining to a rarity, or because, when the forgery is well-known, it renders all of them, genuine or false, suspect in the eyes of collectors.

But this sum of particular interests must be transcended, and without hesitation the problem must be seen in another perspective, that of the general good. The following question then arises: over and above the immediate fraud, does not the forger attack the history of civilization?

It is not even necessary to recall here how certain notorious forgers succeeded in hoodwinking during many years even the most competent numismatists and archaeologists.

The coin was certainly one of the earliest methods of bringing the men of one city in relation with each other, and eventually across frontiers, peoples with one another. Due to its weight, and the nature of its composition, the coin made it possible in despite of language, to express the value of exchanges between men. Apart from this utilitarian aspect – actually of the highest importance – coins themselves, owing to their types, owing to the legends and symbols on them, perpetuate certain fundamental elements of the cities which gave them birth, and because of their circulation in even complex situations, can play their part in an analysis of the past, from one tradition to the other, thus fulfilling their role as a hinge, as a mirror, as a model or as a ferment.

If one adds, as is well-known, that the small size and the metallic nature of these documents provide incomparable chances of survival, it is easy to understand that for the historian anxious to retrace the economic links between nations in the course of centuries, or to examine some other historical aspect, the study of numismatics enables him to explore amazingly precious sources, some of them being quite irreplaceable.

This then underlines the responsibility of those who muddy these sources when reproducing, more or less well, these instruments whose public origin – denoted ages ago in many areas by official stamps – should place them in safety against private imitations. Every forger, however clever, makes involuntary mistakes, be it only in some very small detail, and such errors are such that they can derail numismatic studies, even orient them in false directions.

Such considerations underline the true measure of the ambition which you have placed on your agenda, that of finding effective means of combating the forging of coins no longer in current use.

In a period when technical developments evolve with speed, one is obliged to recognize that the technique of forgers does not lag behind. Your vigilance is therefore all the more opportune.

The implications of the programme you have selected are complex, and will entail arduous tasks, for you will have to concert technical and juridical questions, and determine such solutions as may be inserted in the legislative contexts of various natures.

But you have gathered together learned numismatists and eminent lawyers, so that I feel confident that the outcome of this First Congress will mark an important stage in the study of the problems envisaged.

All my good wishes, Gentlemen, be sure, will accompany you in the course of your sessions, not only as a mark of respect for a certain conception of professional morality, but also due to the conviction that the motives which animate you go much further than the interests of any group or nation, and coincide with a universal need, that of defending wherever it may be, the inviolable rights of Research.

MESSAGES FROM THE DELEGATES

Mr. ROTHERT

Representing the American Numismatic Association.

Mr. President, Gentlemen,

I represent the American Numismatic Association, and I must tell you that I feel very honoured to be amongst you; I believe it to be a very great privilege to be present at this meeting. The A.N.A. is most interested in the discussions which will take place here.

I am here to examine and to discover with you the different methods of combating all sorts of forgeries, and I hope it will be possible to establish the best means of fighting this wave of forgeries which tries to engulf us.

Thank you once again for having given me the opportunity to be present at this Congress.

Mr. RUIZ DE LARRAMENDI

Representing the Spanish Numismatic Association.

Mr. President, Gentlemen,

I speak in the name of the Spanish Numismatic Association to insist on the interest presented to us by the possibility of studying and solving the problems posed by the forgeries, the imitations, the reproductions and the restrikes which harm the interests of collectors.

This morning when I spoke in the name of the Spanish Numismatic Association, when we were lauding the French Numismatic Society, and expressing our homage on the occasion of its Centenary, I did not speak of the Spanish Numismatic Association. I think however that the time has now come to tell you that this Association was born ten years ago, and was constituted by a group of 80 to 100 persons. It now has more than 1500 members. Its voice therefore is worthy to be heard. We are studying the problem of forgeries at a moment when it is obvious that the interest in Numismatics is growing, and this in the whole world. And that is just where the danger lies: the more collectors there are, the more numismatists there

are, given the universal law of supply and demand, the more coins increase in value, the more will the desire to forge increase, for there will always be people without any moral conscience who will be prepared to devote themselves to this reprehensible traffic. Thus now is the time to reinforce the union between collectors and professionals. It will be due to this union that we shall be able to nurse, and even cure, the cancer which forgeries are for numismatics.

Dr. SUTHERLAND

Representing the International Numismatic Commission.

The International Numismatic Commission will follow with the greatest interest the discussions of the Congress which opens to-day.

We are certain that the problem you are considering is of moment to Professional Numismatists as well as to collectors, and also to research students. Let me assure you that we are quite ready to help your endeavours to clarify the truly compromising situation existing at this moment.

Mr. NATHORST-BÖÖS

Representing the Swedish Numismatic Society.

The interest shown here in coin forgeries seems to me to be very important for the Scandinavian countries. We hope that the Official Mints, which restrike coins with old dies will be condemned, for in Sweden we can find no excuse for such actions.

Mr. X. CALICO

I feel it my duty to recall to Mr. Nathorst-Böös, representing the Swedish Society, that this Congress is directed against forgeries. Now any State which has issued coins which are legal tender enjoys sovereign privileges and its coins can never be false.

Mr. M. MUNOZ

Representing the Mexican Numismatic Society.

The Mexican Numismatic Society, represented by my modest person and my voice, offers you its help, and expresses the wish that it may participate in all the activities of this Congress.

Dr. NEDELTCHEV

Representing the Bulgarian Numismatic Society.

Mr. President,

In the name of the Bulgarian Numismatic Society and of Bulgarian collectors allow me to greet you and to bring you the good wishes of Bulgaria in your struggle against the forgery of coins. Our country is small, but rich in coin hoards, which formerly have been dispersed in a hopeless manner.

As to forgers, we have had some, and there are some still. Our legislature does concern itself with forgeries of current coins, but not with coins for collectors.

I would like to mention another problem which I do not see on the agenda: forgeries must be fought, but the first step is to discover them. In this domain science has made some progress, and this must be diffused.

Lastly I would like to thank the Organizing Committee who took on the task of preparing for these meetings, and I express the wish that this Congress should be followed by periodical meetings in different countries: personal contact is the surest guarantee of results.

Professor Dr. J. M. DE NAVASCUES

Representing the Antonio Agustin Institute.

As representative of the Antonio Agustin Institute of Numismatics and of the Committee for Scientific Research of Spain, I have the honour to transmit to this Congress greetings and the most sincere wishes for the success of its work, beginning this afternoon, on a whole series of subjects which are of the highest interest to all numismatists, both collectors and scientists; for if Numismatics has now become a science it is the result of a collection which has been brought together.

From the very first, when I heard about this Congress, I placed my services at the disposal of the Secretariat, so as to participate in the fullest measure, according to my means, in its work. I do not intend to speak at any length, so as to allow the work session to begin, since I am sure it will be of the highest interest to Numismatics taken as a whole. I would also like to thank President Calico for the kind words he addressed to my modest person, which I would repeat I place at the disposal of the Congress. I am also prepared to place myself at the disposal of the International Association of Professional Numismatists, to whom I wish to express our gratitude and our good wishes for the full success of this First International Congress for the Study of and the Defence against Modern Forgeries. I trust it

may be the first of a series of steps which will have to be taken to arrive at a happy solution of the problems facing the science of Numismatics.

Mr. NATHORST-BÖÖS

I would like to ask the President if he has decided, here and now, that the Congress will not be allowed to discuss, nor condemn, even if only morally, official restrikes of coins.

Mr. X. CALICO

I would reply that at this moment we are at that point in the agenda where we receive the 'Messages from the delegates'. It does not seem to me therefore the moment to pronounce condemnations against Monetary Institutions. In the agenda which you all have had, you have been able to read lower down: numismatics, forgeries, falsifications, restrikes, etc. . . , and at that moment everyone will be able to share his thoughts.

Mr. COLIN MARTIN

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is no welcome, and yet I might allow myself to do so, since I am the one who bore at the font the Statutes of your honourable Association, ten or 15 years ago. I am so glad that your Association has come together to-day to examine a complex problem. I would ask you to examine it with serenity and objectivity. The difficulty is great, for contradictory interests are involved. In your deliberations no trace should appear that you forget either those who sell, or those who buy. Do show some understanding of those who strike; they are not all of them illegitimate nor illegal. Your ethical standards are perhaps different. But keep the debate on a high plane, and try to find in the opposite opinion the overriding reason of each one.

Mr. X. CALICO

Thanks Mr. Colin Martin for his wise counsel which so exactly conforms with what the Organizing Committee envisaged, and closed the Inaugural Session.

(The sitting was suspended for a few moments, and at 3 p.m. the first work session began, devoted to Legislation).

THE FOUR MOTIONS ADOPTED

MOTION I

Considering that the right to strike coins is an unalterable and irrevocable privilege of the Crown or State and that coins form part of official documents of historical value it is desired that:

The law against the forging and copying of coins that are legal tender should be extended to include all coins, even those which are demonetized, irrespective of the period when they were struck.

MOTION II

Considering the mutual dependence of one modern state upon another it is desired that:

Each state should forbid on its own territory, under sanction of penal servitude, the reproduction and counterfeiting of foreign coins, even those that have been demonetized, as well as antique coins.

MOTION III

Considering that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish a forged piece from a restrike it is desired that:

If governments authorize their national mints to restrike coins and medals, they should see to it that these pieces bear a distinctive mark, indelible and visible to the naked eye, in order to avoid confusion with the original pieces.

MOTION IV

Considering that the work of the Congress has brought to light the complete lack – the insufficiency – or the ineffectiveness of every ruling regarding the reproduction of any collector's coins and medals

it is desired that:

**The legal services of U.N.E.S.C.O. should devote themselves to an exhaustive study of comparative legislation regarding the striking of coins and medals;
The said services should establish – after consulting scientific groups as well as amateur and professional associations – a project that could be adopted by the member states of that organisation.**