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Welcome to the July / August edition of your bulletin magazine. With the arrival of summer we put the spring auction season behind us; there were many excellent auctions and for those of you in the acquisition phase I hope you were successful with your bids. For me personally I bid in a few auctions but didn't win anything for my collection. I take it to mean that prices are strong. For this edition I selected a few of the interesting ancient coins that came to market and I thank Jean Elsen, CNG and NAC for their support. Our lead article comes from first time contributor Paul Oostervink who submitted a meticulously written story about the KHM housed wedding medal of Emperor Leopold and his wife Eleonore Magdalene of Pfalz-Neuburg. The story is interesting and the medal is a true work of art. Professor Dargent is back in these pages with an historical account of *Moneda Feble* which is the reduced intrinsic value coinage used in Bolivia. It is quite interesting. Brian Stickney writes about production figures from the Colombian mints which is information otherwise not readily available. We have a few more short articles including an extract from Wikipedia to accompany a selection of coins related to Thessalonike, Queen of Macedon. I found the Wikipedia account very interesting but as I did not verify the data you may wish to do your own research.

I hope you enjoy your NI bulletin and visit the NI website to read it in color.
<http://numis.org>

Herman

**The Wedding Medal of Emperor Leopold I and Eleonore
Paul Oostervink**

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Translated from the Dutch by Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

Leopold I was Holy Roman Emperor from 1658 to 1705. He married three times. His first wife was Margarita Teresa of Austria (1651-1673), daughter of King Philip IV of Spain, who was both his niece and his first cousin (the kind of intermarriage that led to the famous prolonged Habsburg jaw and the peculiar personalities of many members of the family). Married at 15, she bore him four children before dying at the age of 21. His second wife was Archduchess Claudia Felicitas of Austria, the heiress of Tyrol. She died in 1676 at the age of 22. His third wife was Eleonore Magdalene of Pfalz-Neuburg, who would bear him 10 children.



Emperor Leopold I and Eleonore

Silver, 78.46 g, 12 h, diameter 67.5 mm

KHM-Museumverband (KHM Museum Association)

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien Münzkabinett: Inv.-Nr. MK_1015bb



This medal was struck to celebrate their wedding in 1676; today it resides in the coin cabinet of the KHM in Vienna. The medallist was Johann Permann.

Obverse inscription: ✪ LEOPOLDVS I ET ELEONORA AVGVSTI NEOSPONSI
(Leopold I and Eleonore, the illustrious newly-married emperors)

Reverse inscription: VIRTUTE ATQVE MAIESTATE CONSILIO ET INDVSTRIA
(Resolute and yet majestic, thoughtful and dedicated)

The Obverse:

Augusti

Augustus (in Latin) was attached to the name of Octavian, the first emperor of the Roman Empire, in 27 BC and after him was used by all the Roman emperors. It was in effect a title, something like "His Serene Highness" or "His Serene Highness the Emperor", as it was only used by emperors. Leopoldus Augustus thus means: His Serene Highness Emperor Leopold.

Leopold had been Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire since 1658. This Empire was not a state in the modern sense, but a political union (formed in the 9th-10th century) of Central European states, which considered itself the successor of the Roman Empire, and whose many German states formed the core. The emperor was not hereditary. He

was chosen by a group of the most influential Heads of State in Europe, the Electors—including at one time Count William II of Holland—although the Habsburgs gained control of the elections in the 15th century and only one non-Habsburg emperor was ever elected after that. The Emperor was considered the heir and guardian of the values of the Roman Empire. This explains why Leopold was called Augustus, the title of the Roman emperors.

The Romans used the feminine form of Augustus, Augusta, as a title for the Emperor's wife, the Empress, and also for his mother, sister or daughter. Augusti on the medal is the plural form for Leopold and Eleanor together. The "...i" ending indicates a masculine plural, but the rule is that if it is about more than one person, including a man, the masculine plural is used. For example, good parents are "parentes boni".

Neosponsi

This can mean newly married (adjective) or (as a noun) the newly married. The word is remarkable. Sponsus in Latin means married (adjective) or (noun) the groom. Neo means new, not in Latin but in Greek! In the spoken Latin language at the time of the Roman Empire, the realm to which the Holy Roman Empire claims to be the heir, the word "neosponsus" probably never existed! We will have no further comment on it, the intended meaning is clear.

The legend Leopoldus I et Eleonora Augusti Neosponsi can therefore be translated as:

Leopold I and Eleonore, the illustrious newlyweds or

Leopold I and Eleonore, the illustrious newly married emperors

The latter sounds a bit odd, naming an emperor and empress together as "emperors". However, we have the example of *Los Reyes Catolicos*, the Catholic Kings, the name generally used for the rulers of Spain around 1500, the couple Ferdinand II of Aragon (1452-1516) and Isabella I of Castile (1451-1504).

Following this definition, we would therefore like to propose the translation:

The newlywed Emperor Leopold I and Empress Eleonore or

The newlywed imperial couple Leopold I and Eleonore

The Reverse:

The reverse lists some commendable features that the imperial couple is deemed to possess. These words are in the ablative case in Latin, meaning generally "with" or "by". The imperial couple is therefore described as being endowed with these wonderful qualities and virtues; or that by such fine virtues the emperor is worthy. Anyway, the medal pays tribute to the imperial couple by naming these virtues, thanks to which it is expected (remember that one had already experienced Leopold as emperor for 18 years) that with this couple on the imperial throne the country and people will prosper.

Note: in Latin inscriptions, going back to Roman times, the letter V is used for both the V sound and the U sound. For example virtute is written as VIRTUTE. This is important in the number coding discussed below because V is also the Roman numeral for 5.

Here is a detailed translation of the reverse legend:

Virtute (ablative case of *virtus*): with courage, resolution, (and more generally virtue).
Atque: and (and yet). **Maiestate** (absolute case of *Maiestas*: the final "e" is very small perhaps due to insufficient space) with magnificence, majesty, dignity. **Consilio** (ablative case of *consilium*): with deliberation, prudence; one could say well thought out. **Et**: and. **Industria** (ablative case [same as nominative] of *industria*): with diligence, industry; one could say with dedication.

All in all, you could translate it as: **resolute and yet majestic, thoughtful and dedicated.** (In Latin it sounds even more impressive than in Dutch or English!)

Roman numerals:

In our numbering system we use *positional or place-value* notation; for example in 137 and 317 the significance of each digit depends on its position in the notation. Roman numbers consist of a number of letters (numbers), which add together to produce the intended value. For example, 137 = CXXXVII, and 317 = CCCXVII. One starts with the larger valued letter-number, here C, and descends to the lowest (in this case I). And there is a rule of compact notation: one writes C, not LL.

One can also go in reverse order, i.e., the lower letter (number) coming before the larger number. This indicates that the lower letter-number should be deducted from the higher letter-number. For example: CD. Here the C (= 100) is before D (= 500). It means that 100 is subtracted from 500, so CD means 400. This again has the advantage of compactness; otherwise you would have to write CCCC.

Detecting the hidden date (chronogram) in the reverse legend:

In the legend on the reverse there is a hidden number, composed of letters that can represent a value in Roman numerals. They are easily found as they appear in larger type size. The reverse order rule discussed above (deducting small numbers which appear before large numbers) does not apply. All letter-numbers are added together. If V comes before L, it is not 45 (L-V) but 55 (V+L).

Text	Roman numerals	Arabic numerals	Running Total
VIRTUTE	V	5	5
	I	1	6
	V	5	11
ATQVE	V	5	16
MAIESTATE	M	1000	1016
	I	1	1017
CONSILIO	C	100	1117
	I	1	1118
	L	50	1168
	I	1	1169
ET	-	-	
INDVSTRIA	I	1	1170
	D	500	1670
	V	5	1675
	I	1	1676
1676 Grand Total, the hidden date of the medal			

About the author:

Paul Oostervink has been a numismatist since 1975 with a special interest in the coins of the Kingdom of the Netherlands from William I until William-Alexander (1815-present). He is also interested in historical medals and forgeries. He is a member of the Numismatic Society of East Netherlands (N.K.O.N.) where he has given a number of lectures (including the original version of this article in April 2014). He is currently working on a lecture about an undated medal of the Diet of Overijssel. He is also a member of the Royal Dutch Numismatic Society, founded in Amsterdam in 1892. His article "*Huessensche contrefejtsels*" about forgery in the 17th century was published in the Society's 2013 yearbook, number 100. In 2014 Paul Oostervink retired after a 40 year career in the Netherlands Customs.

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