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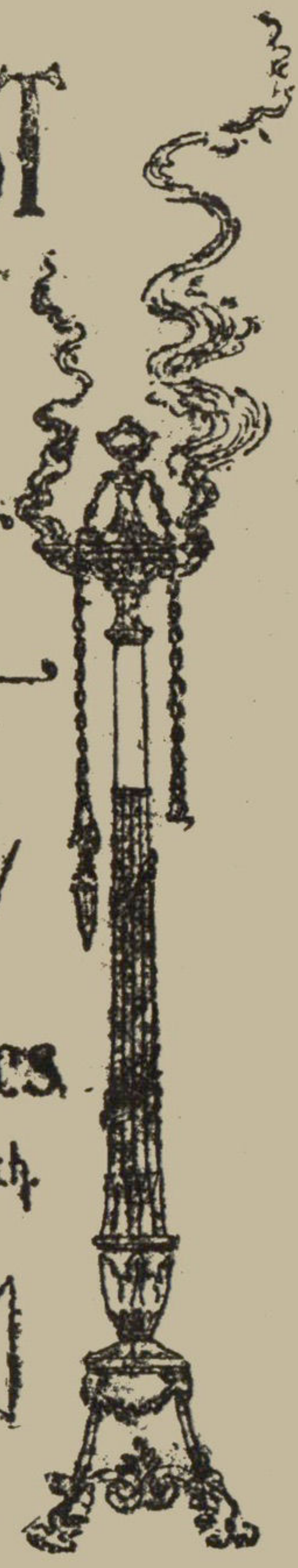
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No. 1



The 1812 Bust and Commerce Series.

EUGENE COURTEAU, M. D.

BRETONS: 960, 961, 959, 975 AND 958.

The large half pence and the pence of this series were imported from England by a Montreal firm named Tiffin, it is said. Mr. Tiffin kept for many years a wholesale grocery on Commissioneers Street. He was well known for his great courtesy and made an extensive trade with country dealers.

The same firm is also supposed to have ordered the eagle half penny dated 1813; struck on thick flan.

Not long after their emission, it appeared a lot of counterfeits in copper and in brass of light weight. They are the product of unskillful die-sinkers and are in most instances very rudely done.

Although up to these last years these tokens circulated in bulk, especially the counterfeit ones, yet some specimens are rare and hard to obtain.

1. Bust to right within an endless wreath of oak leaves; laurel wreath with 4 top-leaves (leaves exceeding head); 4 dots in rosette fastening drapery; letter H on truncation.

Rev. Commerce seated l. "HALFPENNY TOKEN" 1812. Female head with small coronet; 2 apples in cornucopia; letter H on exergual line, to right engrailed edge. Copper.

4 top-leaves.

The tokens of this series have all borders of dots.



BRETON'S 957, 958, 959, 960 AND 961.

2. Large bust with point nearly touching oak wreath; laurel wreath with 3 top-leaves, left, one opposite acorn; WITHOUT letter H on truncation. Rev. The hair is so arranged around head that female appears to have a small cap, the top of which touches base of letter Y, to right; WITHOUT daisies in cornucopia. Small letters, close date. BRASS.

3 top-leaves.

3. Same as 2. Rev. Female head with chignon under left part of Y; female with long thighs and short legs, her left hand over right cord; 9 cannon balls on ground. BRASS.

The reverse of this combination, on the specimens I have seen, is found with a break in die from bale to N in "TOKEN."

3 top-leaves.

4. Laurel wreath with 2 top-leaves; 6 dots in rosette fastening drapery; letter H on truncation. Rev. Female head WITHOUT coronet or chignon; 2 apples and 2 cherries in cornucopia; WITHOUT letter H on exergual line. Engrailed edge. Copper.

2 top-leaves.

This and No. 1 are the only half pence with letter H on truncation and engraved edge; others have plain edge and are known as counterfeits.

5. Double, angular bow of unequal length, upper end being the shorter; star-shaped button fastening drapery; light oak wreath.

Of the counterfeit half pence, this is the only variety with locks of hair on neck.

Rev. Braid of hair around female head resembling a fillet; 2 large daisies in cornucopia. The only reverse like this in the whole series. Copper.

2 top-leaves.

6. Same as 5. Rev. The top of female head is under and very close to Y, chignon is to the right of same letter; 3 small daisies in cornucopia; large scales near letters. Thick and thin flans. Copper.

2 top-leaves.

7. Same as 6. BRASS.

8. Face with large protruding nose; the bows and ribbons are of equal length; small, circular rosette fastening drapery; large acorns in wreath. Rev. Same as 6. Copper.

2 top-leaves.

9. Except for the laurel leaves, which are high in relief, the design of the bust is weak, showing no line of demarkation around the back of the head. Plain button fastening drapery, on all half penny varieties hereafter; the oak leaves are large and open, the acorns WITHOUT stems, there are 4 grouped in 2 pairs below man's chest.

Rev. Same as 3, but also found from perfect die. BRASS.

2 top-leaves.

10. Same as 9. Rev. Chignon touches letter Y, to left; female with short thighs and long legs, her left hand fingers lay on left cord; 8 cannon balls on ground; in date, 2 is distant from 1 and too high. This reverse is found with a diagonal crack extending from border through letter L, ground and date, to border. BRASS.

2 top-leaves.

11. The right laurel leaf at top points to acorn; WITHOUT locks of hair under laurel leaves; small bows of equal length with right ribbon the longer and curved inward; acorn, under man's chest, emerges from OUTER leaf. Rev. Chignon under right part of letter Y which is recut to right; the letters are small, the date large and compact with tops of figures recut. BRASS.

2 top-leaves.

12. Laurel wreath with one top leaf pointing to oak leaf; 6 well apparent locks of hair under laurel leaves, from ear to forehead; single bow; acorn, under man's chest, emerges from INNER leaf. Rev. Chignon touches letter Y; the ground to right is close to dots on border; small letters and large date. BRASS.

1 top-leaf.

13. Same as 12. Rev. Same as 11. BRASS.

1 top-leaf.

14. Top leaf points to oak leaf; undefined locks under laurel leaves; double bow, small button fastening drapery; acorn, under man's chest, emerges from MIDDLE leaf. Rev. Chignon under centre of Y and close to it; letters and date are of medium size and well proportionate. BRASS.

1 top-leaf.

15. Very ugly face; the oak leaves run to right, on preceding varieties, they all run to left. Rev. Same as 14. BRASS.

16. Same as 9. (Wreath of 47 oak leaves.) Rev. Similar. No legend. Female with long thighs and short legs; fruits in cornucopia are distant from head; large scales with right plate near knee; 4 cannon balls on ground, 3 of which are between female's dress and bale of goods. BRASS.

47 leaves.

17. Same as 3. (Wreath of 45 leaves) Rev. Female with short thighs and long legs; small scales with right plate distant from knee; cannon balls are small, grouped in 3 pairs and are under female's dress. BRASS.

45 leaves.

18. Short bust; wreath of 41 leaves running to right with 2 acorns, inside, above head. Rev. Same as 17. BRASS.

41 leaves.

19. Silly head; wreath of 36 leaves WITHOUT acorns, inside, above top of head. Rev. Same as 16. BRASS.

36 leaves.

20. Same as 19. Rev. Same as 17. BRASS.

36 leaves.

21. Head laureated with 8 leaves, others have 9; oak wreath of 32 leaves with 3 acorns above top of head, inside. Rev. Female with short waist; fruits in cornucopia are near head; cannon balls are grouped in 4 pairs and are under bale of goods; the right mast of ship is the shortest. BRASS.

32 leaves.

22. Same as 21. Rev. Same as 17. BRASS.

32 leaves.

23. Similar. Head laureated with 12 leaves; large, OVAL rosette fastening drapery; double ribbon bow with upper loop partly over lower one. All the penny varieties have letter H on truncation, No. 26 excepted. Rev. "ONE PENNY-TOKEN" 1812. In cornucopia, 2 cherries between 2 apples, one cherry on upper leaf; of the three leaves, middle one is the longest; letter H on ground, to right. Dated on Rev. Engrailed edge. Copper.

12 leaves.

24. Head laureated with 11 leaves; lower bow partly over upper one; large, OVAL rosette fastening drapery; the oak leaves are small and compact. Rev. In cornucopia, a large apple under 2 cherries, a third one on middle leaf; the three leaves are of equal length. Dated on Rev.

11 leaves.

25. Head laureated with 9 leaves; point of bust touches wreath; CIRCULAR

rosette fastening drapery. Rev. 2 apples between 2 cherries, one on lower leaf; of the three leaves, middle one is the shortest. Dated on Rev. 9 leaves.

26. Head laureated with 6 leaves; WITHOUT letter H on truncation. The impressions of this obverse are usually met with from a rusted die. Rev. Female with smaller head; left plate of scales is below N, the only instance; in cornucopia, a small cherry between 2 apples, a second cherry on middle leaf; WITHOUT letter H on ground, to right. Dated on Rev. This variety is found with engrailed and oblique milling edge. 6 leaves.

27. Similar. Bust within a divided wreath. 1812. Small, OVAL rosette fastening drapery; oak leaves touching at top; acorns under truncation. In date, tops of 1's are double cut, first 1 is under band of drapery. Rev. Same as 23. Dated on both sides.

28. Large OVAL rosette fastening drapery; oak leaves are distant at top; WITHOUT acorns under truncation. In date, first 1 is under H. Rev. Same as 23. Dated on both sides.

29. Same as 27. Rev. Similar. WITHOUT date. In cornucopia, an apple under 3 cherries; 4 leaves in same with second from bottom weakly struck, only point showing. Dated on Obv.

30. Same as 27. Rev. Close copy of 29. 2 leaves instead of 4 in cornucopia; fold of female's dress, under left arm, is wider and shorter; sections of bale to right are smaller; battle ship in place of a small vessel, to left. Dated on Obv.

This reverse is probably from a retouched die of preceeding.

31. Similar. Dated 1813. Large, OVAL rosette fastening drapery; oak branches begin with leaves, at bottom. Rev. In cornucopia, 2 apples under 2 cherries, a third one on lower leaf.

32. Large, CIRCULAR rosette fastening drapery; oak branches begin with acorns, at bottom. Rev. 5 cherries around an apple in cornucopia, forming a semi circle.

The writer will be pleased to receive rubbings of varieties not mentioned in this article.

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Method of classifying varieties under separate envelopes:

1. 4 top-leaves. Female with coronet.
2. 3 top-leaves. Female with cap.
3. 3 top-leaves. Chignon under left part of letter Y.
4. 2 top-leaves. Female head WITHOUT chignon.
5. 2 top-leaves. The fillet var.
6. 2 top-leaves. Top of head under letter Y.
7. Same. BRASS.
8. 2 top-leaves. Protruding nose var.
9. 2 top-leaves. Chignon under left part of Y.

10. 2 top-leaves. Short thighs and long legs var.
 11. 2 top-leaves. Chignon under right part of Y.
 12. 1 top-leaf. Chignon touches letter Y.
 13. 1 top-leaf. Chignon under right part of Y.
 14. 1 top-leaf. Chignon under centre of Y.
 15. The ugly face var.
 16. 47 leaves. Cannon balls between dress and bale of goods.
 17. 45 leaves. Balls under dress.
 18. 41 leaves. Balls under dress.
 19. 36 leaves. Balls between dress and bale.
 20. 36 leaves. Balls under dress.
 21. 32 leaves. Balls under bale.
 22. 32 leaves. Balls under dress.
 23. 12 leaves. Dated on Rev.
 24. 11 leaves. Dated on Rev.
 25. 9 leaves. Dated on Rev.
 26. 6 leaves. Dated on Rev.
 27. Close wreath. Dated on both sides.
 28. Open wreath. Dated on both sides.
 29. Small vessel var. Dated on Obv.
 30. Battle ship var. Dated on Obv.
 31. 1813. Oval rosette var.
 32. 1813. Circular rosette var.
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