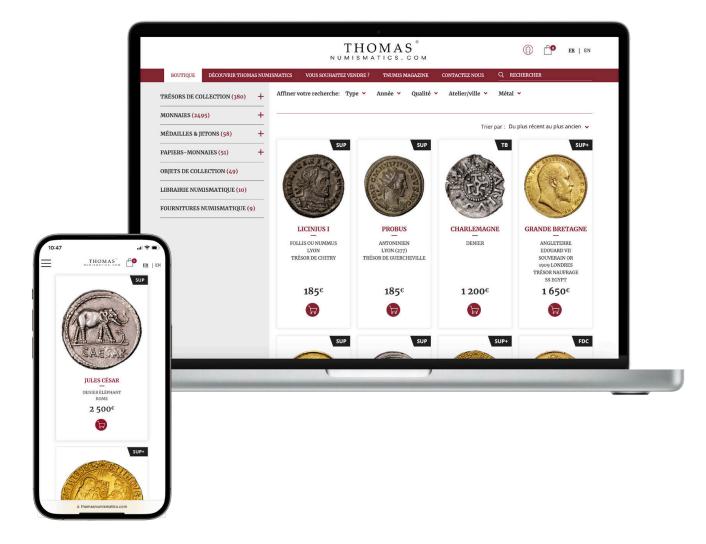




THOMAS NUMISMATICS.COM





## SEE NEW COINS

# Editorial

It is a great pleasure to meet you again for this new Issue 4 of TNUMIS Magazine to share a pleasant moment around Numismatics.

First of all, thank you again for the welcome given to this magazine over the issues and for your precious feedback always constructive which pushes us to improve each magazine.

In this Issue 4, we will present you three exciting treasure stories, which make the collection of ancient coins an art as captivating as it is intriguing.

First in Spain, with a shipwreck that changed the face of the world, then in France, with two incredible hidden treasures.

We will then present you the largest treasure known to date from the famous Hundred Years' War, with exceptional examples for sale in our catalog.

We also wanted to honor our customers, by dedicating a double page to their most prestigious coins, for everyone's pleasure.

We hope that as you read these pages, you will feel the same passion that drives us to write them.

Enjoy your reading





Find our sources on: https://thomasnumismatics.com/en/blog/



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**Thomas Numismatics Catalog** 

## THE TREASURE OF EL CAZADOR

The shipwreck of El Cazador is known as one of the events that "changed the world". Indeed, it had a significant impact on the history of the western world and has led to the current territory of the United States. It also left behind a treasure: more than 450,000 reales were found in 1993, after having been underwater for more than 200 years.

#### THE POLITICAL CONTEXT OF THE SINKING OF EL CAZADOR

The Kingdom of Spain acquired Louisiana in 1762 during the Seven Years' War. Louis XV ceded the territory to his cousin, King Carlos III through the Treaty of Fontainebleau, a way for Louis XV to keep the precious territory of Louisiana out of British hands. The territory was gigantic, covering millions of square kilometers, from New Orleans to the Canadian borders.

The management of the colony by Spain soon proved to be complex and by the 1970s its economic situation was faltering. A wave of counterfeiting and a shortage of hard currency devalued the paper money in circulation. The solution? Replace it with valuable Spanish silver coins to replace the worthless banknote. That's why on October 20, 1783, King Carlos III of Spain decided to send El Cazador to transport funds to save Spanish Louisiana.

El Cazador, which translates to "the hunter" in French, was a small Spanish two-masted warship, consisting of 16 cannons and a crew of about 50 people, commanded by Gabriel de Campos y Piñeda. The ship sailed to Veracruz, Mexico where it was loaded with approximately 450,000 reales minted in the workshop in Mexico City, mainly in coins of eight reales which are known as "coins of eight". They are all in the effigy of the Spanish king, Carlos III.

El Cazador was expected in January 1784 in New Orleans, the capital of the Spanish colony of Louisiana. It never arrived and disappeared on its journey, in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Spanish attempts to locate the ship were unsuccessful and El Cazador was officially declared missing at sea in June 1784.

This accident was dramatic for the Kingdom of Spain and its place in the New World. Unable to save the economy of the region, it had no choice but to give Louisiana back to France a few years later. On October 1, 1800, Spain and France signed the secret treaty of San Ildefonso, in which Napoleon gave the king of Spain's son-in-law the throne of Tuscany in exchange for the territory of Louisiana. Soon, in 1803, the United States bought Louisiana from France for \$15 million.

Some historians believe that if El Cazador had gone to New Orleans and its treasure had been able to support the economy, part of today's United States would still be Spanish. Some historians believe that if El Cazador had gone to New Orleans and its treasure had been able to support the economy, part of today's United States would still be Spanish.

Shipwreck Treasure

Spanish Coins

Spain



THOMAS

#### THE EXCAVATION OF THE TREA-SURE OF EL CAZADOR

More than 200 years later, on August 2, 1993, the Mistake's fisherman, Jerry Murphy, hooked his net into an obstacle. When the crew hoisted the net of the trawler, they discovered small blackish discs: silver coins! The treasure was located about 100 meters underwater, 80 km south of New Orleans.



# TRÉSOR EL CAZADOR

Shipwreck Treasure Spain Spanish coins

The owner of the fishing vessel, Jim Reahard of Grand Bay, contacted an admiralty lawyer in Key West, Florida, named David Paul Horan, who filed a claim on the wreck. An oil rig service company called Oceaneering is initially tasked with recovering it, but is soon replaced by Marex International Incorporated of Memphis.

In September, Marex International used sonar and a small underwater robot to find the wreck. It took about an hour to locate the target, then three days to photograph it properly with underwater video and cameras. In October and November 1993, the company brought in divers and robots to begin recovery operations.

Naval historian Robert Stenuit, a specialist in 17th and 19th century Spanish and French wrecks, finally confirmed the identification of the ship in 1994, thanks to the coins found, the cannons and the bell of the ship. El Cazador had almost reached its destination when it sank 210 years earlier.

The treasure of El Cazador was kept for a long time in a safe in the bank of Grand Bay, Alabama. Until 2004 when the executors of the Reahard estate commissioned Jonathan Lerner of Scarsdale Coin to appraise the coins. This operation was completed in February 2005.



### COINS FROM EL CAZADOR

The silver coins that spend so many years in contact with water, are in a very oxidized state at the time of their discovery. The reales of the treasure of El Cazador are no exception. Out of the ocean, the pieces are welded together and covered with a thick layer of chloride. They must receive an electrolytic treatment, in order not to disintegrate completely in the open air. This is the reason why the areas cleared of chloride plates gain this more or less "eaten" aspect. a characteristic of silver coins from shipwreck treasures.

The coins of El Cazador are all marked with the Spanish Mint of Mexico. They date mainly from 1783,

the year before the voyage. Being of busto type, they are struck with the effigy of the Spanish sovereign, Carlos III, represented in bust and profile.

We regularly offer coins from this shipwreck treasure for sale on the shop. Contact us for their availability.





## THE TREASURE OF VENDÉE

In the world of numismatics, history and the kings of France have a privileged place. Very often, there are also men little known to the general public, but illustrious characters of their time, who have constituted great treasures without wanting it. The earl and serviceman Louis-Charles du Chaffault is one of them. We return to his footsteps in order to understand the legend of the Vendée treasure, one of the most prized collections of French royal coins by collectors.

### THE ADMIRAL DU CHAFFAULT'S TREASURE

#### A life of battles

Louis-Charles du Chaffault de Besné was a naval officer who served the French royalty from an early age. Born in Nantes in 1708, he was passionate about his profession and devoted his life to it. He sailed throughout his whole career, in pursuit of the British ships of the Royal Navy. He went through three wars, carried out 29 campaigns and held 18 commands. Appointed Admiral at the beginning of the American War of Independence, he was one of the great sailors who restored the glory of Louis XVI's Navy.

In 1778, he commanded the vanguard of the French fleet at the Battle of Ushant. 27 French ships routed 30 English ships. Wounded during this battle, he retired to his castle of Meslay, in Montaigu. After 69 years of loyal service to the king, he retired in 1790 with a pension of 9,000 pounds. However, he never stopped fighting.

**Coins buried in the Vendée**Les The lands of Louis-Charles du Chaffault were located in the Vendée, the scene of bloody battles between republicans and royalists during the revolution. The admiral actively participated in the defense of the king against the Republican armies. In 1793, the castle of Meslay was plundered and burned down. The Earl was arrested and imprisoned in the Luzançay prison. He spent the last year of his life there and died in 1794, at the age of 86.

In view of the situation in the Vendée, du Chaffault had decided to hide and bury all his wealth before anything happened to him. Although a small manuscript, hidden in a mass book, attested to this fact, no one really took this document seriously until 1993.

### THE VENDÉE TREASURE

#### The discovery of the gold coins

Rodrigue, a young man of 23 years old, bought a metal detector a few months before February 8, 1993. That morning, with the agreement of his neighbors, the turner-mill operator set about scanning the land of the Guyonnière estate, the former Meslay. The machine starts to sound, he digs and unearths at 60 cm of depth a gold piece, then two, then three...

In total, 1742 gold coins Louis d'or and double gold coins Louis d'or were shared by the discoverer and the landowners. 15 kilos of gold mixed with nails are discovered, which attest the presence of a chest, destroyed by the course of time.

#### A COVETED TREASURE FROM THE VENDÉE

After the sharing, they informed the authorities of the find. The expertise confirmed that the coins belonged to the Earl of Chaffault. They were given the name of the Vendée treasure. The gold coins were minted between 1728 and 1789, during the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI. The set is estimated at 450 000 euros. The majority of the coins are of remarkable quality: the gold coins Louis d'or can be recognized today by their exceptional condition, struck on a so-called "mirror" blank. These bright reflections are typical of the Vendée treasure.

buried treasures

French royal coins

France

The inventor decided to sell a part of his find at auction. Drouot organized the sale of the Vendée treasure on November 30 and December 1, 1993. One of the descendants of du Chaffault was alerted and opposed the sale, in vain. 5 years later, 77 heirs claimed their share of the Vendée treasure and it was the beginning of a 10-year legal war. In 2004, the final verdict was rendered: the treasure did indeed belong to the discoverers.

In fact, in 1824, a first cache had been discovered in the rest of a wall with a cross of Saint-Louis and the admiral's sword. In 1890, an honest man found another cache with gold coins that he gave to the authorities, but the coins evaporated... The Admiral's lands have not said their last word and are undoubtedly waiting for the next lucky person.

Find coins from the Vendée treasure for sale on the store!



## THE RIVE D'OR HOARD

Bank treasures

) France

International modern coins

The Rive d'Or Hoard, also known as the Bank of Gold Hoard, is one of the most famous gold coin treasures discovered in Europe. Gold coins had sat in a Paris bank vault and remained out of circulation for decades. When the coins were rediscovered and released by an American dealer in 2008, they triggered a substantial curiosity and great interest among the numismatists.

### THE RIVE D'OR COLLECTION: A LONG-LOST TREASURE

How did they end up in a French bank? The worldwide coins of the Rive d'Or collection certainly came from the numerous exchanges and commercial transactions that took place between the two continents in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

It is being said that the Rive d'Or Collection was carefully accumulated by a far-sighted collector, seeking security when Europe was ravaged by war and economic instability. In any case, the treasure is mainly composed of gold coins acquired during and after the Second World War.

This is also what is fascinating about this treasure trove. How could such a rich coin collection be forgotten and resurface years later?

#### RIVE D'OR: ONE OF THE LARGEST COLLECTIONS OF AMERICAN COINS

The Rive d'Or Hoard was mainly composed of coins from the United States.

These American gold coins are all the more precious for millions of coins were melted down in the United States from the 5th of April 1933 on. At that time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was conducting a policy to fight the Great Depression and support the poorest population. As part of the New Deal, he introduced a reform on the financial markets to revitalize the economy.

By signing Executive Order 6102, he forced the American people to hand over all of their gold possessions to the Federal Reserve: coins, ingots, certificates and securities. From then on, it became forbidden possessing gold. Citizens were liable to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. This is most certainly the reason why, in the United States, the Rive d'Or Collection is considered as one of the greatest treasures of vintage American gold coins ever discovered.

All of the coins from this "Rive d'Or Collection" pedigree are rare and sought after, such as the \$20 Liberty gold coins minted in the midst of the Civil War between 1861 and 1865.

#### RIVE D'OR HOARD: A WONDERFUL AND STILL MYSTERIOUS TREASURE



The Rive d'Or Hoard was also made up of coins of Australian sovereigns and other worldwide coins from the 19th and 20th centuries, including French gold coins.

One example is the Napoleon I 20 franc gold coin, engraved in Paris in 1812. It dates back to the year when the Emperor invaded Russia, shortly before his fall. When he was exiled two years later, the coins bearing his image were collected and destroyed, hence their great value. This coin is a major witness of this period of history.

Edmund C. Moy was the Director of the United States Mint at the time the Golden Shore treasure was unveiled. According to him, the interest in these coins comes from all the mysteries surrounding this treasure, which came out of nowhere, but also from their very good condition, due to their concealment during all these years.

Find coins from this fabulous numismatic Rive d'Or Hoard on our store! They are the object of covetousness of most of our collectors. All of our coins are accompanied by their certification according to the pedigree (certificate of origin, original protection pouch with corresponding lot number or PCGS certification).



## THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR TREASURE

History and Buried Treasures

France

🕑 Royal Coins

The Hundred Years' War, that long and tumultuous conflict between France and England, has not only left its mark on the annals of history. Even today, its echoes echo beneath our feet, in buried treasures, forgotten artifacts and relics of a tumultuous past. These fascinating discoveries tell a story that's very much alive. Through these rediscovered treasures, a door to the Middle Ages opens, revealing the secrets of a time of conflict, resilience and profound transformation. In this article, we take a look at the greatest treasure of the 100 Years' War, the Lucerne Treasure.

### THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) was a major conflict between the kingdoms of **France and England,** marked by dynastic and territorial conflicts. It began when the English king Edward III claimed the throne of France after the death of the French king Charles IV, for want of a direct heir.

The conflict was divided into several phases, alternating between open warfare and truces. The English won famous victories, such as those at **Crécy (1346), Poitiers (1356) and Azincourt (1415)**, thanks to their military superiority, particularly with archers. However, the French, bolstered by military reforms and the inspiration of figures such as Joan of Arc, gradually regained the upper hand, notably at the siege of **Orleans (1429).** 

The war ended in 1453 with the French **victory at Castillon,** consolidating France's control over almost the entire territory, with the exception of Calais. The war marked the end of English influence in France and the beginning of the assertion of **the French nation-state.** 

## LOOTING AND HIDDEN TREASURES

As in most military conflicts of the time, the armies of the 100 Years' War, particularly the English and French, practiced systematic looting to finance their campaigns. Captured **towns, abbeys and castles** were often stripped of their treasures: jewels, **gold coins**, silver and other precious objects.

To avoid looting, noble families and communities buried or hid their possessions.

Churches and abbeys were repositories of hidden treasures, some of which have never been found and are the stuff of local legends.



## TREASURES OF THE 100 YEARS WAR

There are many treasures that can be attributed to the 100 Years' War, including the following:

**The medieval Trésor des Terreaux,** discovered in 1993 during construction of a parking lot.

The Lussac treasure, discovered by a resident of Lussac-les-Châteaux and donated to his commune, consists of 184 medieval silver coins.

The treasure of Oissel, discovered in 2012 by a private individual on his land, consisting of 941 silver coins and two gold agnel. The treasure was subsequently exhibited in the Musée des antiquités in Rouen.

And the one we're particularly interested in, **the Lucerne Abbey Treasure.** 

NEXT



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**French Coins** 

Thomas Numismatics Catalog

## THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR TREASURE

### LUCERNE ABBEY

The Abbey of La Lucerne, located in Normandy (in the Manche département), is an abbey of the Prémontré order founded in 1143 by Hasculphe de Subligny, a local lord. It was established to house the canons regular of the Prémontré order, a religious community following the rule of Saint Augustine.

La Lucerne Abbey is a fine example of Norman Romanesque and Gothic architecture, and its history reflects the religious, political and social transformations of France.

#### **KEY POINTS IN ITS HISTORY :**

#### Middle Ages:

The abbey enjoyed a period of prosperity, playing a spiritual and economic role in the region. It owned land and seigneurial rights, and supported charitable works.

#### • Hundred Years' War:

Like many religious buildings, the abbey suffered destruction and looting. It was partially ruined.

#### Renaissance:

The abbey is restored and resumes its activities, but gradually declines.

#### • French Revolution:

In 1790, the church was sold as national property, marking the end of its religious role. The buildings fell into ruin.

#### Modern restoration:

From 1959 onwards, the abbey was saved thanks to the Abbé Marcel Lelégard, who initiated a restoration campaign. Today, it is a historic site open to the public.

#### • Lucerne Treasure:

Between 1968 and 1970, 2,665 medieval gold coins were discovered in metal and terracotta pots.

#### THE TREASURE OF LUCERNE ABBEY

The 2,665 gold coins discovered between 1968 and 1970 during restoration work constitute the largest treasure of the 100 Years' War

Composed of French royal gold coins ( écu d'or , franc a pied , agnel d'or, demi-heame d'or ...) Anglo-French (Salut d'or ... ) and British ( Noble d'or ... ), as well as feudal coins from Brittany ( Cavalier d'or ... ) and other provinces covering the period from Philippe VI de Valois to Charles VI, the treasure was partially sold under the name " Trésor de la Guerre de 100 ans " with 3 famous auctions in December 2005, April 2006 and June 2009 by auctioneers Baussant Lefèvre and expert Thierry Parsy.

Sales helped finance the restoration of the abbey, and some of Gold écu were purchased and exhibited at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Saint-Lö.

The coins in this treasure are highly sought-after by collectors, not only for their rarity but also for their history.







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Collection M.T.

ÎLES ÉOLIENNES - LIPARA(V\* siècle avant J.-C.) Hemilitron (6 globules), Lipara, 440-420 ou 425-420 avant J.-C., (Æ 43,96 g, 0 38 mm, 9 h) A/Anépigraphe Tête d'Héphaïstos ou (Aiolos) barbue à droite, coiffée du pileus

The most beautiful known example of the rarest series! Example NGC grade : AU \* Surface 4/5, Strike 5/5



Collection S.S.

Louis XV – Louis d'or aux deux L – 1722 W Lille - PCGS MS 63 Remarkable coin for this very high grade. Top population.

## TNUMIS TOP COINS

TNUMIS TOP COINS
World
Exceptional Coins

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## Private Collection

Extremely rare pair of obverse and reverse dies by Droz for the Calonne shield, non-laurel head Remarkable condition





Collection S.S.

Louis Philippe I – 20 Francs Or – 1831 T Nantes - PCGS AU 58 Only 862 examples. Very rare coin especially in this state of conservation. Top population.



## YOU WANT TO SELL?

Have you decided to sell a part of your collection?

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