

Volume 51 Number 2

May 2019

Perth Numismatic Journal



*Official publication of the
Perth Numismatic Society Inc*

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First Floor, Commercial Building, Guild Village (Hackett Drive entrance 2),
The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, Western Australia 6009



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PERTH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY Inc
PO BOX 259, FREMANTLE WA 6959

www.pns.org.au

Registered Australia Post, Publ. PP 634775/0045, Cat B

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NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS

Recently, the world was shocked by the fire that ravaged the iconic medieval cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris on 15-16th April. Fortunately, the main structure of the building was saved and the French president has vowed to restore it. But this will not be the first time it has needed major restoration.



Construction of Notre-Dame started in 1163 but wasn't completed until 1345.

By the 19th century time had taken its toll on the fabric of the building and it had suffered significant damage during the French Revolution.

A major restoration programme was ordered in 1844, which was undertaken by the celebrated architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc and lasted more than 20 years. This gave it the form we are familiar with today, including the addition of an elaborate, timber spire which had never previously existed and is sadly now lost.

This silver medal was issued in 1842, before the major restoration programme began. The reverse shows the interior layout of the building with a summary of its history.



Photograph: www.poinsignon-numismatique.com

Another medal, in bronze, from 1863, shows the newly renovated structure, complete with the new spire, just visible behind the bell towers. This example is an official 20th century restrike.



Photograph: CoinsToMedals (coinstomedals@bellsouth.net)

The building escaped major damage during World War II, but by the 1980's much of the exterior stonework was in poor condition so a 10-year restoration programme commenced in 1991.

In recent years the Paris mint (*Monnaie de Paris*) has struck a number of special coins featuring Notre-Dame. In 2013, they commemorated the 850th anniversary of the start of construction with a range of coins, including this attractive 10 Euro (37 mm, 21 gm) silver proof.

Blue enamel was added to some areas of the coin to create the impression of stained glass.



Photograph: Monnaie de Paris (monnaiedeparis.fr)

It was accompanied by some other denominations, all essentially using the same design. These were: 200 Euro (37mm, 1 oz gold), 50 Euro (22 mm, 0.25 oz gold) and 5 Euro (11 mm, 0.5 gm gold).

Earlier this year Monnaie de Paris revived the 2013 design to issue 10 Euro silver proofs, along with 200 Euro and 50 Euro gold proofs, all dated 2019, with proceeds going towards the restoration programme that had only just got underway before the recent fire.

Acting remarkably quickly, within a week of the fire, they issued this spectacular, limited-edition medal (999 copies, 100 mm, 650 gm, florentine bronze) to raise money towards the reconstruction. The obverse features a view of the southern side of the cathedral, combined with a gargoyle and the arch of the main entrance. The reverse consists of an accurate representation of the northern rose window, dating from the 13th century. It is inscribed on the edge with '*Reconstruction de Notre-Dame de Paris, 15 avril 2019*'.



Photograph: Monnaie de Paris (monnaiedeparis.fr)

The same medal was also struck in normal monetary bronze, limited to 2,019 copies. There has also been an unlimited issue of a smaller version (34 mm, 17.7 gm) in 'silver coloured metal' with the inscription on the reverse, around the rose window design, instead of on the rim.

We all hope that the famous Paris landmark can be restored to its former state, assisted by the funds raised by these recent, fine examples of numismatic art.

AN ODD PIECE

Jonathon de Hadleigh

In 2015, while drinking my morning coffee during a break from coin purchasing at the Charing Cross collectors' market, across the table came an interesting coin with a price tag of £2.

I could not resist. The first thing I noticed was that it was hammered, then that it was Elizabeth I. The grade of the obverse was only Good, with the crown and rose behind the portrait clear. The reverse was worse, cleaned until almost polished, and there was a hole at its centre with an indentation caused by the head of the nail that must have attached it to a merchant's counter.

Closer examination showed that it was lightly clipped and dated in the 1590's. The 9 was faint but discernible. Dropping it onto the table produced a dull sound, but with a slight ring. Finally, there was a second small hole adjacent to the nail hole.



So, this coin told a story, but to follow it the reader needs some background information.

The Julian calendar was used in England until September 1752, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted. The main difference was the date of the first day of the new year; which was 25 March under the Julian calendar and 1 January according to the Gregorian. So, a document dated before 25 March and prior to 1752, will show a year one less than we would expect.

Between 1600 and 1696 the main bulk of circulating coin was at first Elizabethan, supplemented by issues of James I.

Following the peace with Spain in 1604, Spanish merchants were obliged to coin their silver into English coin in London and transfer their money to Antwerp by bills of exchange.

England then suffered a civil war (1642-1649) which resulted in new hammered coins being struck from silver plate donated to the King's or the Parliament's cause. Clipping was rife and consequently the coins often had irregular shapes or a partial side missing.

From 1649 to 1660 the Commonwealth was in power under Oliver Cromwell and the coinage had a new look. There were no royal portraits, a recoinage was attempted and many older coins had the portraits removed or just defaced with one or two deep scratches. Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the Commonwealth coins were called in, including portrait coins of Cromwell, which King Charles II wanted removed from sight within the year.

The Commonwealth coinage was demonetised by 1661, although 'rump pieces' of one and two pence continued to circulate into the 1670's or slightly beyond due to the persistent shortage of small change.

At first the coinage of Charles II was hammered, but new milled coins were introduced in 1662. Hammered and milled coins then circulated side by side. The new milled coins were smaller in diameter, so clipping of the old hammered silver coins continued until many were more or less round and similar in size to the milled pieces.

Thirty years passed with new milled coins, old full-round hammered and heavily clipped hammered all passing together at face value, even though many heavily clipped coins were only about half the correct weight.

This was the state of affairs in 1695, when Great Britain commenced a 'Great Recoinage'. The plan was to remove from circulation all the old hammered coins. Emphasis was on the silver as most of this was badly clipped, the gold not so much.

Some of the hammered coin was in better condition and provision was made in an Act of Parliament for this to temporarily remain in use (Act of January 17 1696, '*An Act for Remedying the Ill State of the Coin of the Kingdom*') part of which stated:

'And in regard such of the Coins of this Realme made with the Hammer and not by the Mill and Presse and which doe att this time remain Whole and Unclipt will still bee most liable and subject to that pernicious Crime of Clipping or Rounding by wicked Persons who regard their owne unjust Lucre more then the Preservation of their native Countrey. For the better Prevention thereof bee it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person having such unclipt hammered Moneys in his, her or their Hands, Custody, or Possession doe before the Tenth Day of February One thousand six hundred ninety five (1696 Gregorian) or before they dispose of the same cause such unclipt Moneys to bee struck through about the Middle of every Piece with a solid Punch that shall make a Hole without diminishing the Silver; And that after the said Tenth Day of February noe unclipt hammered Moneys (that is to say) such Pieces as have both Rings or the greatest part of the Letters appearing thereon shall bee Current unlesse it be soe struck through'.

Remarkably, the Great Recoinage succeeded in replacing the old hammered silver with milled coins within 2 years by establishing temporary regional mints at Chester, Exeter, Norwich and York in addition to London. Mints were identified by a letter under the King's bust.

During this period, in accordance with the Act, old, full-round hammered coins were to be pierced through '*without diminishing the silver*' in order to remain current until 1697 when they were demonetised, thereafter to pass only as bullion, by weight. Many brass weights made for this purpose have survived.

However, it seems that in their eagerness to comply with the Act of Parliament the public pierced not just hammered coins but any small change silver. I have examples of knife or awl piercings of various milled pieces up to 3 pence.

Heavily clipped coins were called in at face value to be replaced by new milled coins, the mint thereby making a significant loss on the transaction.

The Government response to compensate for this was to introduce a window tax in 1696. But some of those clipped coins survive today, although they are generally disregarded by collectors, being both heavily worn and ‘clipped to the ring’ (ie no legends remaining).

Pierced coins in general tend to be seen as relatively worthless, but they are part of a great historical story. The old hammered coins are often worn, but higher denominations sometimes appear in auctions or in dealers’ trays described as ‘officially pierced’.

My small piece that started all this has a small piercing (possibly made by the tip of a knife or an awl) near its centre. The coin is clipped and heavily worn, so despite being pierced as required by the 1696 Act it would not have easily passed in circulation and eventually a merchant, disgusted, nailed it to his counter, not as a counterfeit, but as a piece not worth full face value, or *‘a coin that will and shall not pass’*.

So, if you see a centrally pierced English coin with a date prior to 1698 do not disregard it, but honour its survival as a piece of numismatic history. However, if it is dated later than 1698 it has a different story to tell.

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TARRAGONA 1809 SIEGE COIN OF SPAIN

Graeme Stephens

Tarragona is a walled port city on the north eastern coast of Spain on the Mediterranean Sea. During the Peninsula War in 1809 the city of Tarragona was held for Spain against Napoleon by the Spanish Royalist General Reding with 30, 000 men.



General Reding

The French under General St Cyr had sallied south from Barcelona with 25,000 men and on 20th February 1809, Reding moved out of Tarragona to meet St Cyr. At the ensuing battle of Vals, Reding was killed but the Spanish routed the French forces and were able to fall back on their fortified city. However, Tarragona finally fell to the French after a prolonged siege in May and June of 1811.

The so-called “Siege Coinage” of Tarragona comprised five peseta pieces all dated 1809 in the name of Ferdinand VII, who in fact Napoleon had replaced by his own brother Joseph on March 19th, 1808. The Royalist Spanish forces who minted these siege coins inside the walls of Tarragona obviously did not recognise this Napoleonic appointment.

After the French were finally ejected from Spain Ferdinand VII was restored to the Monarchy on December 11th, 1813.



Obverse: 5.PS FER VII 1809 within a large wreath around the rim.

Reverse: Coat of arms of Aragon within a large wreath around the rim.

It is interesting to note that in early 1813, Tarragona was held by a small French-Italian Garrison led by Brigadier-General Bertoletti. In June of 1813, a strong Anglo-Allied force under Lieutenant-General John Murray was ordered by the Allied Commander, the Duke of Wellington, to attack and take Tarragona. Murray had 16,000 British soldiers complimented by 7,000 Spanish Soldiers, while Bertoletti's garrison numbered 1,600.

After breaching the walls with his cannon Murray inexplicably delayed storming the city and when he heard that French relief forces were marching to Bertoletti's aid he abandoned the assault and ordered the re-embarkation of the 16,000 British soldiers onto Rear-Admiral Ben Hallowell's squadron of ships waiting offshore, leaving 18 siege guns spiked and a large quantity of stores on shore.

Hallowell was disgusted.

Murray then landed all of his troops at Balaguer for another attempt but re-embarked them all again when he heard that a large French force had already relieved Tarragona.

HADRIAN'S TRAVELS

John McDonald

In the early second century AD, when it was at its greatest size, the Roman empire stretched about 5,000 kilometres from northern Britain to the shores of the Red Sea. Even with modern, high speed transport, travelling its full length would be no trivial matter. On foot, by horse and on small sailing vessels it would be a daunting prospect indeed, but this didn't stop many Romans from being remarkable travellers, although of course they took a great deal more time about it than we would today.

One of the most extraordinary Roman travellers was the emperor Hadrian who ruled from August AD 117 until his death in July 138. During this period of almost 21 years when he was ruler of the empire he became probably the most widely travelled of all the Roman emperors. He spent most of the period from AD 121 to 132, almost half his time in power, away from Rome touring the provinces, literally from one end of the empire to the other.

According to the Lives of the Later Caesars, otherwise known as the *Historia Augusta*:

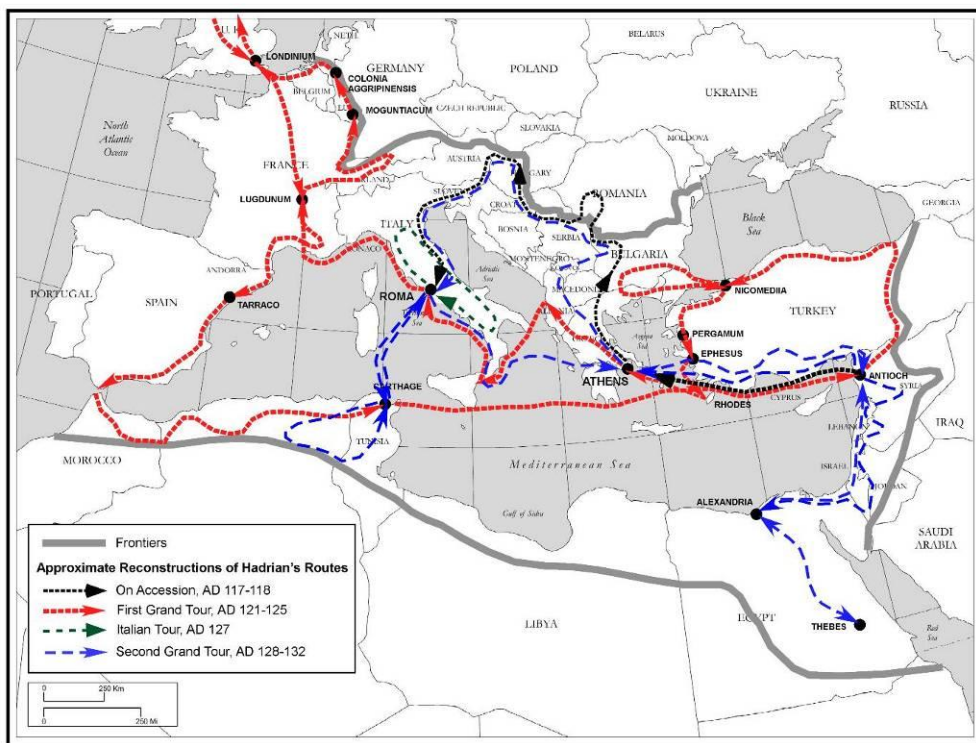
'...so fond was he of travelling that he wanted to learn further, at first hand, about everything that he had read concerning the different parts of the world.'

Apart from satisfying his personal curiosity, a major reason for his travels was to inspect the armed forces and military installations along the frontiers to ensure that they were well defended.

Before becoming emperor, Hadrian was already well accustomed to travel, first as an important member of the emperor Trajan's personal entourage, then as a senior army commander and eventually as a provincial Governor. He was stationed in distant Antioch, as Governor of Syria, when news of Trajan's death and his appointment as successor reached him. So, his first major journey as emperor was to return to Rome, arriving there almost a year later in July 118. En-route he visited the Balkans and the Danube frontier, probably to reassure himself that he would have the support of the large armies based in those areas.

He remained in Rome for most of the time until the Spring of AD 121 when he left on his first grand tour. This took him through Gaul to Germany where he inspected the army along the Rhine frontier. In the spring of 122 he crossed the channel to Britain, where among other things he ordered construction of the well-known defensive frontier wall that still bears his name.

Returning to the continent, he made his way through Gaul to Spain and then crossed to North Africa. His next destination was Syria, after which he travelled along the eastern frontier to the Black Sea before looping through Cappadocia, Thrace and the coastal provinces of Asia, finishing on the island of Rhodes, from where he sailed through the Greek islands to Achaia in southern Greece. After a stay there he sailed to Sicily, visiting and climbing Mt Etna, before arriving back in Rome in AD 125.



Simplified Reconstructions of Hadrian's Journeys

He made a short tour of Italy in AD 127, before his serious wanderlust took hold again in 128, when he left Rome for North Africa. He returned only briefly to the capital before setting sail for Athens on another grand tour that was to keep him away until AD 132.

From Athens he travelled through the Asian provinces to Judea where he re-founded Jerusalem under the new name of Aelia Capitolina. This was one of the factors that contributed to the great Bar Kokhba revolt that erupted in Judea in AD 132.

From Judea he continued on to Egypt where he sailed up the Nile as far as Thebes before largely retracing his steps through the Eastern and Asian provinces to Athens, where he remained from AD 132 until the spring of 134 when he returned to Rome, probably via the Danube frontier.

In the course of all these journeys Hadrian would have covered far more than 30,000 kilometres. He commemorated these extraordinary travels by issuing an extensive series of coins recording the many provinces that he had visited. The provinces identified on his coins are:

Achaea, Africa, Arabia, Asia, Britain, Bythinia, Cappadocia, Cilicia, Dacia, Egypt, Gaul, Germany, Hispania, Italy, Judea, Lybia, Macedonia, Mauretania, Moesia, Noricum, Phrygia, Raetica, Sicily, Syria and Thrace.

In addition, the cities of **Alexandria** and **Nicomedia** received specific recognition, as did the river **Nile** in which his young homosexual lover, Antinous, had been drowned.

The travel coins of Hadrian were all minted in Rome at around the same time, well after both his grand tours had been completed, in AD 136.

The reverse types of the travel coins of Hadrian fall into 4 groups:

Group 1. The Provinces

These coins have a reverse legend consisting simply of the name of the Province (or city) that Hadrian had visited, around the figure of its personification.

These personifications were predominantly female and they wore or carried items characterising the place they represented. In the following example, Asia stands with her foot on the prow of a galley, holding a rudder and an *acrostolium* (a metal ornament on the prow of a Roman galley). These items reflect the fact that the province of Asia was separated from Europe by water and the only practical way to get there was by boat, even if it was just a short trip across the Bosphorus.



Hadrian. Denarius, Rome mint, AD 136, 17 mm, 3.2 gm

Obverse: HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP

Reverse: ASIA

These 'Province' coins are the best known and most readily available of all Hadrian's travel coins. They are most affordable in the form of silver denarii. Many of the reverse designs also appear on bronze and copper coins, but these are much scarcer than the silver coins. A small number also occur as a gold Aureus.

Group 2. The Emperor's Arrival in the Provinces

Legends on these coins refer to the arrival (*adventus*) of the emperor in a province. On the next example, ADVENTVI AVG ITALIAE refers to 'The arrival of the emperor in Italy' (perhaps on his way home from his second grand tour). These legends are accompanied by a design showing the standing, facing figures of Hadrian and the personification of the province sacrificing together at an altar. These coins are scarce to rare and occur predominantly in bronze, with only a few types known in silver or gold.



Hadrian, Sestertius, Rome mint AD 136, 32 mm, 25.6 gm

Obverse: HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP

Reverse: ADVENTVI AVG ITALIAE S C

Group 3. The Emperor as ‘Restorer’ of the Provinces

The reverse legends on these coins characterise Hadrian as the restorer (*restitutori*) of the Province, implying that his mere presence had been enough to revive the fortunes of the region. The reverse imagery on these consists of the figure of Hadrian raising the kneeling personification of the province to her feet. On the example illustrated below the legend RESTITVTORI GALLIAE means ‘The restorer of Gaul’.

These types exist in silver and bronze, with rare gold for a very small number of provinces.



Hadrian, Denarius, Rome mint AD 136, 19 mm, 3.3 gm

Obverse: HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP

Reverse: RESTITVTORI GALLIAE

Group 4. The Armies of the Provinces

These coins honour the legions that Hadrian personally inspected in the various regions that he visited. The reverse design shows the emperor on horseback, or standing on a low dais, saluting a group of soldiers.

On the next example, the reverse legend EXERC SYRIAC (an abbreviation of EXERCITVS SYRIACVS) refers to 'The army of Syria'.

These coins exist exclusively as large bronze Sestertii and are generally the most difficult of the 'travel' coins to obtain.



Hadrian, Sestertius, Rome mint AD 136, 30 mm, 23.0 gm

Obverse: HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP

Reverse: EXERC SYRIAC S C

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THE LAST GOLD AND SILVER COINS WITH THE IAN RANK-BROADLEY BUST OF THE QUEEN

The Royal Australian Mint has announced that it will begin phasing out the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2019. This will be the end of an era for Australian currency. The Ian Rank-Broadley design has been used on the obverse of our coins since 1998.

It was the fifth effigy of the Queen to be adopted. Previous designs were produced by Mary Gillick, Arnold Machin OBE RA, Raphael Maklouf, and Vladmir Gottwald.

The sixth effigy to appear on Australian coins was unveiled in September 2018 and illustrated in that month's issue of our journal. This new Commonwealth design by Jody Clark will begin its gradual transition onto Australian coinage in 2019 and continue into 2020.

To commemorate the conclusion of the fifth effigy by Ian Rank-Broadley, the Mint has produced a limited mintage of 2019 Six Coin Proof Sets in gold and fine silver.

The Last of the Ian Rank-Broadley Effigy 2019 Gold Proof Six Coin Set is limited to a mintage of only 50 sets and the Fine Silver Set is limited to a mintage of 1000.



2019 Silver Proof 50 Cents, Obverse
Photograph: Royal Australian Mint

CALENDAR OF PNS MEETINGS FOR 2019

PNS meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except December, at The Collins Street Centre, corner of Collins Street and Shaftsbury Street, South Perth.

Meeting dates for 2019 are as follows:

January 30	Short talks. No-reserve tender sale.
February 27	Invited speaker, Tender sale.
March 27	Invited speaker (Claire Rowson, <i>From fabrication to conservation: Unlocking cultural and industrial heritage collections at the Perth Mint</i>). No-reserve Tender Sale.
April 24	Meeting. Tender Sale.
May 29	Short talks. No-reserve tender sale.
June 26	Quiz. Tender Sale.
July 31	Annual General Meeting. No-reserve tender sale.
August 28	Invited speaker (Professor John Melville-Jones, <i>Modern Australian banks were not the first to charge excessive fees</i>). Tender Sale.
September 25	Invited speaker (John Wheatley, <i>Australian Superscribed Banknotes 1910-1914 including the One Pound Emergency Issues of 1914-1915</i>). No-reserve tender sale.
October 30	Meeting. Tender Sale.
November 27	Meeting. No-reserve tender sale.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Adult	\$15
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Junior	\$7
Nomination Fee	\$5
Fully Paid Life Membership	\$250

Subscriptions at the above rates are due and payable in advance on 1st March each year and shall be paid within three months after which time the membership will lapse.

CALENDAR OF FAIRS

Perth Numismatic Society Coin, Medal and Banknote Fairs:

Saturday 18th May 2019

Saturday 10th August 2019

Saturday 12th October 2019

Saturday 28th December 2019

Bunbury 2019 One Frame National Stamp, Coin, Banknote & Postcard

Show: Saturday 20th – Sunday 21st July 2019

Perth Stamp & Coin Show:

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd November 2019

Phoenix Auctions:

Sunday 23rd June 2019

Sunday 22nd September 2019

Sunday 1st December 2019

Cannington Antique and Collectors Fair:

Sunday 30th June 2019

Sunday 8th September 2019

Antique and Collectors Fair (Midland):

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th May 2019

Militaria Swapmeet (Cannington):

Sunday 16th June 2019

Sunday 17th November 2019

Annual Militaria Fair (Cannington):

Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th September 2019

JB Military Antiques Specialist Militaria Auction

Sunday 6th October 2019

For more details see: <http://www.pns.org.au/events/>



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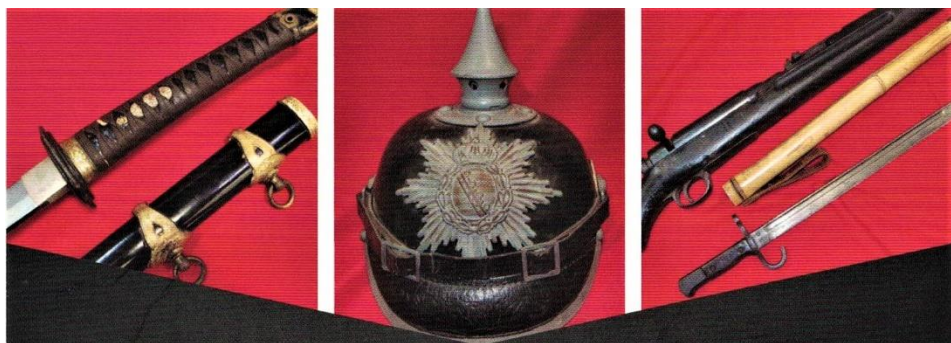
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