

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SMALL SILVER COINS**

**“Brother Can You Spare A Dime?”**

***MODERN DIME SIZE SILVER  
COINS OF THE WORLD  
WITH  
FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY***

**Roger deWardt Lane**

**This Revised Third Edition is presented in  
One Volume  
Covering all Countries of the World  
Within the Dime Size Silver Series  
From Afghanistan to Yemen**

**Roger deWardt Lane**, third generation hotel executive became interested in coins shortly after his young children started collecting foreign coins. Their interest soon waned and he continued the hobby. Selecting his daughter's specialty he has assembled an extensive type and date collection of this series, which formed the basis of his studies of the subject. Starting before the current catalogers had listed all dates, he had to research this information using his other numismatic interest - numismatic literature.

This Encyclopedia of Small Silver Coins was in preparation for thirty years. For the first ten years it was hand printed in manuscript form. Then using his first PC and Applewriter as a word processor, the first 300 pages were typed. Then it was converted to an IBM PC. It took several more years to finish the recording and continued editing of the work. The format was converted to Wordstar, then to MSword and finally about dozen years later, to PageMaker before the final text was finished. The files were finally converted to Adobe Acrobat 7.0.

Dr. Alan K. Craig, who kindly assisted with the initial editing, upon seeing the finished draft, remarked it was too long (now over 900 pages). So, reformatting was tackled, converting to the double column and current tight listing of the FOOTNOTES. A new scanner was used to produce the enlarged coin illustrations, in most cases from the author's collection. The First Edition was laser printed in two copies, one residing at the American Numismatic Society library in New York, the other - the author's copy. Two years later the First Edition was self-produced, as a CD-rom. Minor corrections and current prices were added for the Second Edition CD-rom. This version won the *Best of Software* award of the Numismatic Literary Guild. The new Third Edition, a revised title, updated with NCLT issues, with a listing of mints and mint cities, and a new Index was posted on the internet, followed by the printing of this hard bound *Print-on-Demand* Edition.

Roger Lane is a member of the American Numismatic Society, Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, and has had articles published by Numismatic International. He is currently the Treasurer and bourse chair of the Gold Coast Coin Club of Hollywood, Florida and Treasurer of the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club.

Dr. Alan K. Craig, Ph.D. was a Professor of Geography at Florida Atlantic University since 1966, recently retired. He has published extensively on Spanish Colonial numismatics and maintains active research interests in Latin American archaeology, anthropology, geography, and geology.

Steve Schor, numismatist has kindly proof read this revised edition with comments and suggestions, however, the author must respectively takes full responsibilities for any errors and omissions.

Hollywood, Florida

March 28, 2008

***To Andria Elizabeth deWardt Lane, my daughter whose keen interest in the new family hobby, restrained by her modest means, conceived the idea of assembling a "Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of the World" type set, which sparked the beginning of the many year study of these wonderful little pieces of art, history and numismatics which were the foundation of this work.***

***Roger deWardt Lane***

# ENCYCLOPEDIA of Small Silver Coins

DIME (French, dixieme, Latin, decimus, tenth), the term for the tenth part of a dollar or ten-cent piece in the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, April 2, 1792. The first dime was coined in 1796.

**"Brother, can you spare a dime?"** We have all heard this expression of the depression years. The story of *Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of the World and Footnotes to History* is the story of the money of the people.

Better than 2500 years ago the first coinage is attributed to the Kingdom of Lydia, what is now western Turkey. These coins of Electrum, a natural mixture of gold and silver, were small as were others of the early coinage, as their purchasing power was great. But as commerce increased larger coins of both gold and silver were struck. Some of the most artistic engraving and beautiful coins come from this period.

"The age of silver begins with *Pepin the Short* (752-768 AD) who demonetized gold and made the silver **denarius** or **penny** the standard coin throughout the whole of his dominions", so wrote George MacDonald in his *"The Evolution of Coinage"* published at Cambridge in 1916.

These small thin silver pennies have many of the characteristics of the silver series of this study. The governing authority standardized these as to size and generally their weight as they represented a convenient economic size (or value) for the people. Larger coins were to be minted later with the **Joachimstaler** or taler of 1519 named for the location of the source of the silver mines in the valley of St. Joachim in Bohemia. Our dollar takes its name from this source and when subdivided by the decimal system of French origin, was equal to 10 dimes.

The denomination **One Dime** has a French root from dixieme to disme (used on the U.S. pattern of 1792) to the tenth part of a dollar.

As milling coin presses became more popular and installed in most of the central mints of the world, national standards were established for the coinage of each country. As a result of trading patterns and the growth of colonial empires of the major European nations, a grouping of these standards appeared. From the study of this series it is possible to see the areas of influence and how they set the coin's standards.

The oldest and certainly the forefather of all the modern monetary standards goes to the French, who under Napoleon I, set about establishing new sets of rules from the Law to Numismatics. The French 5 franc (crown size silver coin) setting the early standards for Europe, was soon followed by the Spanish (mostly New World) 8 reales, which gave the popular literature the colorful **pieces of eight** of the pirate trade.

From these two very similar intrinsic coins the majority of the dime size coins of the world represent a tenth division. The United States of America adopted the dollar in 1792 AD, with a dime a tenth part and at the same time the Spanish or Mexican dollar was recognized as legal tender.

So many countries trace the roots of their coinage for both the dollar and the dime size coinage to these beginnings; London shipped 10

cent coins to Canada in 1858, followed shortly thereafter by shipments to New Brunswick in 1862 and to Newfoundland in 1865. The Mexican 8 reales led to the issuing of 10 centavos in 1864.



Mexico - 10 centavos - 1869

The Kingdom of Hawaii ordered from San Francisco coins dated 1883 with the **ONE DIME** - 10 cents denomination, after they were unsuccessful in trying to have a 12 ½ cent coin struck. American influence is responsible for the 10 cents coins of Liberia first dated 1896, even though the country was on the English gold standard, which accounts for why the Birmingham mint struck these coins in sterling .925 fine.



Curacao - 1 real - 1821

In the Caribbean, the earliest listing is from Curacao, 1821 Y-1, 1 real. Spain issued for the Isle of Puerto Rico 10 centavos as subsidiary coins to their peso in 1896 and the Danish West Indies (eventually to become the American Virgin Islands during World War I), ordered from Copenhagen a 10 cents - 50 bit coin, subdivision of their daler denomination.

Even later, Cuba in 1915 ordered from Philadelphia, coins of 10 centavos which were equal to the American standards as was their peso. The Dominican Republic followed with the same denominations, ordering coins from several different mints. British Honduras used the dollar and 10 cent denominations even though the coins came from England.

There is an interesting story for the Panama issues produced by the Philadelphia mint. The country was on the gold standard based on the Balboa equal to the American dollar and during the construction of the Canal, the American workers were paid in gold. The coins in size were equal to the American, but the size of a silver balboa was equal to the American half dollar, therefore the dime size coinage was issued with the denomination of 5 centesimos in 1904 and 1916. The local workers on the Canal were paid in silver, which if it had been at par with the American coinage would have required twice the funds. During the later years, the U.S. servicemen assigned to the Canal Zone found out that their dime vending machines would take the Panamanian 5 centesimos (dime size), which of course disturbed the local businessmen.

Local stories have been told, that the shop owners would accumulate the 5 centesimos pieces and toss them in the lake to keep them from circulating. This may account for the general scarcity of these dates.

Almost all of the Latin American Republics issued a dime size coinage, even if only for a brief period. These were 1/10 of a peso with the denomination of decimo from Chile in 1852, Colombia - 1853 and Peru in 1863. Uruguay used the 10 centesimos denomination while Bolivia named its coinage after the country with the crown called a boliviano and the dime size coinage with the 1/10 boliviano denomination.

The Argentine peso was subdivided into 10 centavos 1881, while Venezuela, the home of the Liberator called the dollar size coin a Venezolano subdivided into 10 centavos dime size coins first ordered from Paris in 1874. Ecuador named its crown after the great statesman Sucre, with the dime size denomination one decimo, first ordered from the Heaton Mint, Ltd. in 1884.

Costa Rica in 1865, Honduras in 1871, Nicaragua in 1880, El Salvador in 1892; all subdivided their peso into 10 centavos, and later El Salvador issued in 1953 a 25 centavos, dime size subdivision of the colon named for Columbus.

Now go back to the roots of the American dollar and the Mexican dollar, as we go to the Far East. Remember these were the days of the China trade, the clipper ships and American influence first developed with the opening of Japan by Perry. The Spanish or Mexican dollar was the basis of all trade, until the European and American trade dollars tried unsuccessfully to replace it. All subsidiary coins of the Mexican dollar were less than intrinsic parts, of which the most popular were, the 20 cents pieces of China and less popular the 10 cents coins first issued in 1889. In later years these coins were to be debased more and more, so that at one time 11 ten cents Chinese coins were equal to the Chinese dollar.

Dime size coins were issued with 10 cents denomination for Hong Kong in 1863, Straits Settlements 1871, Sarawak 1900 and Malaya as late as 1939, all subdivisions of their dollars, but with varying fineness.

Native names include the Philippines peso with a 10 centimos dime size coins while under Spanish rule. The Japanese denominations were yen for their crown and 10 sen for their dime size first issued in 1870 and under Japanese administration, Korea issued a 10 chon in 1906, subdivision of the won crown denomination.

With the French colonization of French Cochinchina the piastre denomination was subdivided into 10 centimes first issued in 1879 and for French Indo China in 1885 with the coins being shipped from the Paris mint.

Several of the above countries or colonies issued silver dime size coins for only a few brief years, while others had many years of coinage. When the value of silver was low they ordered from their home mints very large quantities of these small coins of the people, as there was a profit to be made from the seignorage. The reverse was also true, as when silver became dear, during the period around 1889-93 and again during the Great War, most all small coinage in silver was stopped, while paper money or base metal coins were used.

In Europe another standard was established with its early beginnings in France which minted a 5 franc crown and subdivisions including a 50 centimes dime size coin dated 1845. The franc became the basis of the **Latin Monetary Union**, which established in 1865 a bimetal monetary system. To prevent the melting and over production of subsidiary coinage, the Union agreed to provide that each country could issue subsidiary coinage equal to 2 francs per person each year and that the dime size coin would be issued with a fineness of 835/1000 parts silver, 2.5 grams in weight, 18 millimeters size.

The crown size piece or 5 franc coin would continue to be .900 fine, 25 grams, in unlimited mintage. Therefore if any one were to melt coins, the crown pieces had more value than the small change pieces. The second part of the Latin Monetary Union was the interchangeability of money within the countries who were signatories to the convention. The original members were France, Switzerland which first issued a ½ franc in 1850, and Belgium which minted a 50 centimes denomination in 1866 to the same standard, although they had minted .900 fine dime size coins since 1833.

The Italian crown denomination was the 5 lira, with the 50 centesimi first minted in 1861. Spain and Greece later joined the Union with the

Spanish crowns known as 5 pesetas and the dime size coins of 2 reales and later 50 centavos first issued from Madrid in 1869, while Greece used the denominations of 5 drachma and 50 lepta dated 1874 minted at the Paris mint.



## Spain - 2 real -1852

Although they were never signatories to the Convention, many countries issued coinage equal to the standards of the Latin Monetary Union. The denominations of their crown coins and first dime size pieces include: Rumania - 5 leu and 50 bani of 1873; Finland - 5 markka and 50 pennia of 1864; Serbia - 5 dinar and 50 para of 1875; and Bulgaria - 5 lev and 50 stotinki dated 1883.

The Belgian Congo under Leopold II, used the Latin Standard for their 5 franc and 50 centimes dated 1887. The Italian Colony of Eritrea had shipped from Milan coins with denominations the same as Italy dated 1890 and the small independent country of San Marino issued a one year coinage from the Rome mint with the same standards and denominations as Italy in 1898. Liechtenstein much later had minted at the Berne mint coins in 5 franken and ½ frank to the Latin Monetary Union standards.

When Tunisia came under the administration of France the Paris mint struck their coinage using the French denominations of 5 franc and 50 centimes starting in 1891. Even earlier Cambodia had coinage issued to the new standards dated 1860 (the Accession Year of King Norodom I), but struck by the Brussels mint in 1875 with the 5 franc and 50 centimes denominations.

After the Great War, France was given the former Turkish Provinces of Syria and Lebanon as a Mandate. Dated 1929 the Paris mint struck for both of these new countries, coinage using the denomination 10 piastres for the dime size coinage, but, with a 17 millimeter size and .680 fineness.

Another country Haiti, has a most colorful monetary name and history, (see Footnotes for Haiti) the gourde, the denomination of these large coins, subdivided into 10 centimes, was first ordered from Paris in 1881. On the other side of the island of Hispanola, the Dominican Republic had the Paris mint also strike coinage to the new standards dated 1891 using the Spanish language version of the French as 5 franco and 50 centesimos.

There was also a one year issue for Guatemala dated 1881 with a 50 centimos dime size coin locally minted, but to the new standards.

While the major European countries were part of the Latin Monetary Union, several other principal countries each had their own standards.

Great Britain and her Colonies were on the gold standard based on a pound or sovereign. Although slightly larger at 20 millimeters England used the 6 pence denomination for these coins, which are not included in this series.

England also each year issued their **Maudy** 4 pence which is dime size. British colonies and dominions much later had their own 6 pence coins of 19 millimeters including: Australia in 1910; British West Africa 1913; Union of South Africa 1923; Southern Rhodesia 1932; New Zealand in 1933; and Fiji in 1934. The early issues were minted in sterling and later when the value of silver increased, they debased these issues to .500 fine.

Earlier in 1892 the denomination of pond and 6 pence were used by the South African Republic and Egypt under British administration had an Egyptian pound and 6 pence size coin with the denomination of 2 guersch first dated 1886. Turkey minted coins name lira and 2 piastres.

Two small countries were also on the British standard, using small 6 pence size coins; Danzig - ½ gulden dated 1923 and Lithuania a litas of 1925. Much earlier Persia under British influence issued large size toman coins and 500 dinar small coins first in 1879 dated in Arabic with A. H. dates.

The **Maria Theresa thaler** or ryal was the standard trade coin of Arabia. Two towns of the Hadramaut ordered coins from The Mint, Birmingham: Tarim with a frozen date AH 1315 (1897 AD) with 12 chomsihs denomination, and Ghurfah AH 1344 (1925 AD), with the 15 chomsihs denomination. Saudi Arabia issued a 1/4 ryal in 1935 while Yemen struck a 1/10 imadi starting in AH 1337 (1918 AD). Morocco used a crown with the 10 dirhem denomination and a subsidiary 1 dirhem starting in 1882.

While America was on the dollar standard, Europe with its Latin Monetary Union and the British Empire with its sterling, other major Empires each had a different rate of exchange and names for their large and small coins; Austria-Hungary - forint and 10 krajczar first in 1868, the German Empire - 5 mark crowns and 50 pfennig 19 millimeter coins first dated 1875 when the Empire was established. Some individual German States earlier issued billion debased small size coinage.



### Germany - 50 Pfennig - 1876

The Empire of All the Russias coined roubles and 10 kopeks from 1802. Much later when Outer Mongolia was under Russian influence, the Leningrad mint struck 10 mongo dime size coins dated 1925. Their crown was called a tugrik.



### Denmark - 1874 - 25 öre

The **Scandinavian Monetary Union** was established to set common weights and denominations for Sweden, Norway and Denmark in 1873 based on a 5 krone crown with 25 öre the small silver denomination. The Netherlands used as the basis of their monetary system a gulden with the 25 cents starting in 1848, a slightly larger piece but of reduced fineness of .640. The 1/4 gulden denomination was used by their colonies of Netherlands East Indies starting in 1854, Curacao by 1900 and more recently Netherlands Antilles beginning in 1954. Portugal and its former colony of Brazil named their crown a milreis and the small silver coins 100 reis.



### Portugal - 100 Reis - 1865

The Island of Mauritius using the rupee denomination ordered from the Birmingham mint a 20 cents coinage dated 1877 but with a design much like the Straits Settlement 10 cents coinage, both .800 fine, 18 millimeters and dime size.

One other large trading area existed based on the British Indian rupee which was subdivided into a ¼ rupee coin about 19 millimeters and .916 fine first issued by the East India Company dated 1835. Portuguese India issued similar size coinage starting in 1881, Tibet used coins struck in China made to imitate the Indian Queen Victoria coinage starting in 1903.

Several East African colonies had similar denominations produced by the mother country using the rupee standards including; Mombasa 1890, German East Africa 1891 and Italian Somaliland in 1910. East Africa & Uganda Protectorate in 1906 based their monetary unit on the Indian rupee with a 25 Cents denomination. Two other countries were on the rupee standard, but issued 25 cents coins; Ceylon starting in 1892 and British North Borneo one year dated 1929. Still in the rupee trading area, Nepal issued a 4 mohar equal to the rupee and a small coin with the ½ Mohar denomination in 1912.

So we have been **Around The World**, starting with the Spanish or Mexican dollar and its 1/10 dime size coins for the Americas and its trading area including the Far East. Off to Europe which had the largest and longest real standard system - the Latin Monetary Union. But not all Europe agreed to this standard as each Empire set its own standards including; British Empire, German Empire, Austria-Hungary Empire, Russian Empire, and Dutch, Portuguese along with the smaller but equally strong Scandinavian standard. And then to India where we see the rupee standard used by East African countries and islands on the trade routes to India.

Having completed this catalogue and compiled most of the anthology, it is now quite clear that these little silver pieces have a very interesting history, if only they could talk. Read the FOOTNOTES as each has a little story to tell.

The Kings, Queens and National Heroes which are portrayed or listed on the coins, were each colorful in themselves. Their brief biographies and photos may interest you in reading more about their lives.

Conventions, notations and abbreviations for each type of dime size silver coin are now explained. Yeoman type number from one of the earlier type catalogs - *A Catalogue of Modern World Coins*, by R. S. Yeoman, 1st Edition 1957, through 11th Edition, 1974, were the initial basis for determining separate listings, beginning about 1850 through 1970. After determining the mint of origin, they were later subdivided and presented alphabetically by mint. Sub-types as identified by a change in mint (or mintmark), Assayer or Engravers initials or marks, and debasing of the silver content are each listed separately.



The KM numbers from the *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, by Chester L. Kause & Clifford Mishler, have been included as a reference number and special reference numbers are cross referenced. Mintages from mint reports or specialized works have been compiled not to show the current rarity, but to compare the number of coins issued annually with the population of a country from time to time. When the mintage is not listed, it is noted as "u/m" for "unreported mintage", when two years or two types of issues are combined into one reported mintage, the quantity is listed by the first date and the other listing refers to "i/a" for "included above" or "included with \_ \_ \_ \_".

At the top of each listing is the country and government at the time, i.e. Kingdom or Republic, etc. and below the mint city. Most large countries with coinage from several national or foreign mints have been arranged in mint city order, alphabetically, then date order within mint. Single mint countries and a few countries in which most coinage was struck by only one mint except for a few intervening years, have been kept in chronological order for simplicity. In most cases the first footnote lists the mint cities and arrangement for each country, colony or issuing state.

Denomination, the millimeter size, the silver fineness expressed in a 1000 decimal, and the weight in grams are listed in the heading. Following the heading data, the AD date is listed for each year this type was minted unless frozen dates pertain. If the date is presented in brackets, this date represents a conversion to AD date from the coin date which is identified by designation; AH = Hegira or Arabic dates, SE = Samvat Era. Chinese or Japanese numbers or other dating systems, are explained in the Footnotes. Next to the dates are full mintages and some rarity notations where the date listed should be identified as such. To the right specialized numbering systems have been noted in order to compare specific coin listings with national catalogues. Few listings of overdates or varieties have been included except in some of the footnotes.

The illustrations of dime size silver coins are shown in a few cases as 1 to 1. All the coins with black backgrounds were scanned with a 20 MM background and enlargements a little over 4X to fit the page. Some illustrations with white backgrounds were copied from a photo.

The description of each coin follows with the  $\blacktriangle$ OV: to denote the obverse or front. The arrow is shown to identify the die direction. All non English legends and inscription have first been detailed as shown on the coin, then initials and abbreviations translated into full words, followed in brackets by a translation into English. The slash is used to denote a separate line of the inscription, one under the other starting at the top or center. The capitalized word 'DATE' denotes the AD date or native date as shown in Arabic or characters for the year as shown on the coinage. For one year types the actual date is listed in the description.

The notation RV: preceded with the  $\blacktriangledown$  or  $\blacktriangle$  die direction arrow starts a similar description of the reverse or back of the coin. EDGE: Reeded or Plain (a few older coins have diagonal reeding noted as // // //, and safety edges or edge lettering) are noted under this heading. MINT: (no mintmark) = PHILADELPHIA means this type of listings was minted as noted without any mintmark. If a mintmark such as H is listed and noted as = THE MINT, BIRMINGHAM, LTD. by looking at the obverse or reverse description the location of the mintmark will be shown in bold type in the sequence of the description with the "(mintmark)" next to it. This helps differentiate between mintmark, assayer or designers initials which appear on the coinage.

DESIGNER:, ENGRAVER:, and or ASSAYER: listed with the initials are shown as they appear on the coinage, i.e. Costa Rica Y-14 of 1887, CB = Charles Barber, the designer and GW = Guillermo Witting, the assayer of the San Jose mint. POPULATION: denotes the population of the country at the year as indicated and many times the inhabitants of the capital or mint city are noted.

Following all of the above are FOOTNOTE: remarks, usually short paragraphs of some historical facts. Others are of biographical summary of the portrait shown on the obverse, and intermixed are numismatic footnotes about the particular issue or coinage standards of the country. Most footnotes are excerpts from contemporary publications printed only a few years after the dates of the coins. The editing has been limited to eliminating much duplication of facts, certain religious descriptions, and war or military details. Where possible the footnotes have been included to describe the time and history of the people who might have used the coinage in everyday life.

The world was much smaller and travel extremely slow only a hundred or so years ago. A dime quite often represented all or a great part of a days work. It would buy a meal, an evenings entertainment and a few would buy an old coin for anyone who started collecting *Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of the World*, a century ago, as shown by the illustrations from *The Scott's Catalogue of 1893*. (Catalog price 50 cents, post free).



## United States of America ONE DIME - 1796

An effort like this requires the encouragement and assistance of many people. My thanks are extended to the outstanding numismatists who first gave me direction and encouragement, when the manuscript was beginning to be written; The late Dr. John Davenport, the late Maurice Gould, the late John J. Pittman, Mrs. Margo Russell and the late A.M. Kagan, Chet Krause and Cliff Mishler.

Special thanks are also extended to the people who added their numismatic knowledge, along the way; with the special help of Alex Radichevich who proof read the first computer draft and lent coins for scanning, Jacinto Diaz, who also provided coins from his collection. Thanks to Francis D. Campbell, *American Numismatic Society* Librarian, for research and Marvin L. Fraley, *Numismatics International* Editor who first published this introduction in their journal.

I am indebted to Yasser M. Kattan, who provided the arabic translations, while a graduate student at Florida Atlantic University, before returning to Saudi Arabia. The final statement of gratitude goes to Dr. Alan K. Craig, Ph.D. who without his expert knowledge of numismatics and keen interest in seeing this publication finished, assisted with the early editing. And also a special thanks to Stan Klein, numismatist for assisting with the CD-rom and Steve Schor, numismatist for editing this Edition.

Starting on October 15th 2007, the files of the Second Edition were posted as a Free E-book, with printer restrictions, on the Internet. Each chapter is downloadable to a hard drive or bookmarked. The Internet publication met with great success. Interest came from numismatists from around the world.

Roger deWardt Lane  
Hollywood, Florida  
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