

BELGIUM



Belgium Coat of Arms

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

½ FRANC 18MM .900 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1833	58,350
1834	1,578,047
1835	805,042
1838	550,367
1840	347,370
1843	346,000
1844	1,584,000

▲OV: Laureate head of LEOPOLD, facing left, LEOPOLD PREMIER (Leopold First) left, RIO DES BELGES (King of the Belgians) right / BRAEMT F. under bust.

▼RV: ½ / FRANC / DATE / ★ (star) within wreath of oak around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

ENGRAVER: BRAEMT F. = Joseph Pierre Braemt, F. (Fecit = He made it).

REFERENCE: C-10

INSCRIPTION: French

FOOTNOTE: All the Belgian issues of 50 centimes were struck at the Brussels mint. This series is listed in chronological order. There is a rare pattern dated 1841 of this issue.

FOOTNOTE: Currency of Belgium - 100 centimes = 1 franc

FOOTNOTE: Joseph Pierre Braemt, Medallist and engraver was born at Ghent, Belgium in 1796. His early work included portraits of William I King of the Belgians, William I King of the Netherlands and in 1832 the Election of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. The Belgium mint has a complete collection of his work. He died at Brussels December 2, 1864.

FOOTNOTE: By treaty signed April 19, 1839 Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands were separated. The treaty declared Belgium an independent and perpetually neutral state.

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

½ FRANC 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1849	209,571
1850	i/a

▲OV: Bear-head of LEOPOLD, facing left, LEOPOLD PREMIER (Leopold First) left, RIO DES BELGES (King of the Belgians) right / L.WIENER under bust.

▼RV: L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE (Unity Creates Strength) above, Crowned shield of Arms (A lion rampant) dividing denomination, ½ and F. (franc) within wreath of laurel tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: L.WEINER = Leopold Weiner

REFERENCE: C-16

FOOTNOTE: This issue was the first Belgium series to be struck to the standards which later became known as the Latin Monetary Union for subsidiary coinage. There is a rare pattern dated 1849 of this issue.



Leopold I King of the Belgians

FOOTNOTE: Leopold I King of the Belgians, was the fourth son of Francis, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, and thus the uncle of Queen Victoria of Great Britain. His youth was chiefly spent in the Russian military service; he commanded a battalion at Lutzen, Bautzen, and Leipsic, entering Paris with the allied sovereigns, and accompanied them to England. In May 1816 he married the Princess Charlotte, only child of the Prince Regent (who died in the following year), having previously been created Duke of Kendal in the English peerage. In 1830 he declined the crown of Greece, but was elected to the Throne of Belgium in June 1831. *Encyclopedia Britannica, 9th Ed., 1888.*



1886 - 50 CENTIMES - FRENCH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1866	6,806,000	CD-1049
1867	1,014,000	CD-1087
1868	1,075,864	CD-1099
1881	200,000	CD-1227
1886	1,250,000	CD-1244
1898	499,000	CD-1287
1899	500,000	CD-1309

▲OV: Head of LEOPOLD II, facing left, LEOPOLD II RIO DES BELGES (Leopold II King of the Belgians) around / L WIENER under bust.

▼RV: Crowned Arms, L'UNION FAIT LA FORCH (Unity Creates Strength) above, denomination divided 50 and C_g / DATE divided by cross from arms, below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: L WEINER = Leopold Weiner

INSCRIPTIONS: French

REFERENCE: Y-5, Dem-98, KM-5.1

POPULATION: Belgium - 1890 - 5,585,846

FOOTNOTE: Carlotta, wife of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico was the sister of King Leopold II, King of the Belgians.



1886 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1886	3,750,000	CD-1245
1898	501,000	CD-1289
1899	500,000	CD-1311

▲OV: Head of LEOPOLD II, facing left, LEOPOLD II KONING DER BELGEN (Leopold II King of the Belgians) around / L WIENER under bust.

▼RV: Crowned Arms EENDRACHT MAAKT MACHT (Unity Creates Strength) above, denomination divided 50 and C_n / DATE divided by cross from arms, below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: L.WIENER = Leopold Weiner

INSCRIPTIONS: Flemish

REFERENCE: Y-5, Dem-99, KM-5.2

POPULATION: Belgium - 1899 - 6,744,000

FOOTNOTE: Starting in 1886 the 50 centimes was issued in two types, similar except for the inscriptions; the 1886 the mintage was 1,250,000 in French and 3,750,000 strikes with Flemish inscriptions while later dates were issued about equal, half in French and half in Flemish.

FOOTNOTE: The principle language of northern Belgium is Flemish, similar to Dutch. In 1880, about 45 per cent of the population of Belgium spoke Flemish and 40 per cent of the people spoke Walloon a French dialect, while 8 per cent spoke both languages.



1886 - 50 CENTIMES - FRENCH - REV



1901 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1901 3,000,000 CD-1338

^OV: Head of LEOPOLD II, facing left, LEOPOLD II RIO (Leopold II King) left, DES BELGES (of the Belgians) right.

∇RV: Lion with head to left, L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE (Unity Creates Strength) above / 1901 left / 50 cs below / VINCOTTE incised below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: VINCOTTE = Th. Vincotte

INSCRIPTIONS: French

REFERENCE: Y-15, Dem-102, KM-15.1

FOOTNOTE: Louis Philippe Marie Victor Leopold II, King of the Belgians was born April 9, 1835, the eldest son of King Leopold I. He married, in 1853, Marie Henriette, a daughter of the Archduke Joseph of Austria and ascended the throne on the death of his father, December 10, 1865. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*



1886 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - REV

FOOTNOTE: The little state of Belgium has taken a place among the great manufacturing countries of the world, and has developed a dense population of over 6,000,000 people. The mintage of the 50 centimes pieces for 1901 was 3,000,000 with Flemish inscriptions and 3,000,000 bearing French inscriptions, both struck in Brussels.





1901 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - REV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1901 3,000,000 CD-1340

▲OV: Head of LEOPOLD II, facing left, LEOPOLD II KONING (Leopold II King) left, DER BELGEN (of the Belgians) right.

▼RV: Lion with head to left, EENDRACHT MAAKT MACHT (Unity Creates Strength) above / 1901 left / denomination 50 C en below / VINCOTTE incised below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: VINCOTTE = Thomas Jules Vincotte

INSCRIPTION: Flemish

REFERENCE: Y-15, Dem-103, KM-15.2

POPULATION: Belgium - 1900 - 6,693,548

FOOTNOTE: Varieties exist with designer: Th Vincotte (which omits the stop after Th). There is a rare essai dated 1906 of French issue, CD-1588.

FOOTNOTE: Thomas Jules Vincotte, Belgian Sculptor and Medallist was born January 8th, 1850 at Borgerhout. He attended the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Brussels and the Ecole des Beaux-arts of Paris. He was a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium and professor at the Institut superieur des Beaux-Arts of the Royal Academy of Antwerp. Known for the sculptor like character of the portrait Leopold II on this series of coinage, which were struck with both French and Flemish legends.



1909 - 50 CENTIMES - FRENCH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1907 545,000 CD-1625
1909 2,510,000 CD-1685

▲OV: Head of LEOPOLD II, facing left, LEOPOLD II RIO, (Leopold II King) left, DES BELGES, (of the Belgians) right / TH. VINCOTTE under bust.

▼RV: 50 / CENTS. / DATE within wreath of oak and maple leaves ties with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: VINCOTTE = Thomas Jules Vincotte

INSCRIPTIONS: French

REFERENCE: Y-16, Dem-108, KM-16.1





1909 - 50 CENTIMES - FRENCH - REV



1909 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1907	545,000	CD-1626
1909	2,510,000	CD-1686

▲OV: Head of LEOPOLD II, facing left, LEOPOLD II KONING (Leopold II King) left, DES BELGES (of the Belgians) right / TH. VINCOTTE under bust.

▼RV: 50 / CENTn. / DATE within wreath of oak and maple leaves ties with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: VINCOTTE = Thomas Jules Vincotte

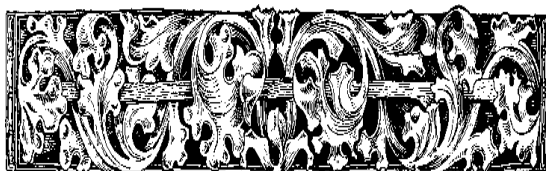
INSCRIPTIONS: Flemish

REFERENCE: Y-16, Dem-109, KM-16.2

FOOTNOTE: There is a rare essai dated 1906 of this issue, CD-1602.



1909 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - REV



Arms of Belgium



1912 - 50 CENTIMES - FRENCH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1910	1,900,000	CD-1764
1911	2,063,000	CD-1897
1912	1,000,000	CD-1950
1914	240,000	CD-1988

▲OV: Head of ALBERT, facing left, ALBERT • RIO • (Albert King) left DES • BELGES • (of the Belgians) right / G.DEVREESE under bust.

▼RV: 50 / CENTS. / DATE within wreath of oak and maple leaves ties with ribbon at top, .L'UNION • FAIT • LA • FORCE • (Unity Creates Strength) around below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: G.Devreese = Godefroid Devreese, Belgian medallist

INSCRIPTIONS: French

REFERENCE: Y-33, Dem-130, KM-33.1

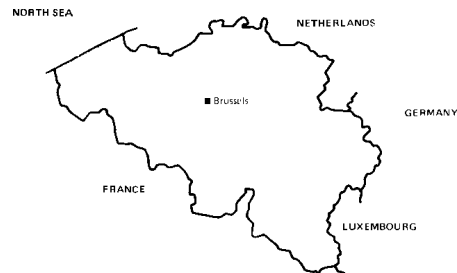
POPULATION: Belgium - 1912 - 7,423,784 with capital Brussels with 177,078 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: Godefroid Devreese was born at Courtrai, Flanders in 1861. His first studies were at the Academy of Fine Arts of his native town, and later under his father a well known sculptor. He produced numerous medals and the portrait of King Albert for his coinage.



1911 - 50 CENTIMES - FRENCH - REV

FOOTNOTE: ALBERT I, King of the Belgians - Born at Brussels April 8, 1875, King Albert was the younger son of Prince Philippe of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (the Count of Flanders) and Princess Marie of Holenzollen-Sigmaringen. His father was a brother of King Leopold II. In 1900 he married Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria and on December 17, 1909 succeeded his uncle Leopold II, as King of the Belgians. During World War I, he was the only King in Europe to take personal command of his troops and fight in the trenches with them through the war. After the war, King Albert devoted all his energies toward restoring his war worn lands and bettering the conditions of the people. Long a devotee of mountain climbing, King Albert set out on the afternoon of February 17, 1934 accompanied by a personal servant for Rocher deMarches des Dames, a peak near Namur, which was a National Park. At the foot of the cliffs he equipped himself with a rope, a canvas knapsack and a climbing ax and started the ascent alone. That was the last that was seen of him alive. The next morning a searching party found his body at the foot of a cliff with a deep wound in his head. Apparently the rope on which he was climbing had given away and he fell to his death. He was succeeded by his son, King Leopold III. The silver 50 centimes with the portrait of Albert, King of the Belgians was struck during only four years, 1910, 1911, and 1912 in equal amounts with French and Flemish inscriptions and the last issue dated 1914 struck at the Brussels mint in French only had a mintage of 240,000 due to the onset of World War.



Belgium today



1911 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - OBV

BELGIUM, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1910	1,900,000	CD-1766	
1911	2,063,000	CD-1899	
1912	1,000,000	CD-1951	
1914	u/m		rare

^OV: Head of ALBERT, facing left, ALBERT.KONING. (Albert King) left .DER.BELGEN. (of the Belgians) right / G.DEVREESE under bust.

▽RV: 50 / CENTn. / DATE within wreath of oak and maple leaves ties with ribbon at top, EENDRACHT • MAAKT • MACHT • (Unity Creates Strength) around below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

DESIGNER: G.Devreese = Godefroid Devreese, Belgian Medalist

INSCRIPTIONS: Flemish

REFERENCE: Y-33, Dem-131, KM-33.2

CD = *Monnaies et Essais Monetares Du Royaume De Belgique Et Du Congo Belge* by Charles Dupritz, Vol I & II, Brussels. 1949.

Dem = *Les Monnaies Du Benelux* by J. DeMey and G.Pauwel, Brussels, 1967,

Catalogus Belische Munten 1832-1970 by Frans Morin, Brussels, 1971.



1911 - 50 CENTIMES - FLEMISH - REV



Albert I, King of the Belgians