

BULGARIA



1883 - 50 STOTINKI - OVERSE

BULGARIA, PRINCIPALITY OF
ST.PETERSBURG MINT

50 STOTINKI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1883 3,000,000

▲OV: Battenburg coat of Arms within circle of pearls
Cyrillic inscription ★ БЪЛГАРИЯ ★ (Bulgaria) above, Cyrillic
inscription СЪЕЦИНИЕ - ТО ПРАВИ СИЛА - ТА (The right
ones are strong by unity) around below.

▼RV: 50 / Cyrillic denomination СТОТИНКИ (stotinki)
/ 1883 within wreath of roses, laurel and wheat tied with ribbon
below, within outer ring of pearls.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = ST.PETERSBURG

REFERENCE: Y-4

FOOTNOTE: The Bulgarian National Bank was established in 1879. Their accounts were kept in French francs, with payments in Russian rubles. Small coins used were Turkish copper coins. The Law of June 1880 provided for a national currency based on the French standards with the Bulgarian lev equal to 100 stotinki. The first silver coins minted at St.Petersburg were minted, included the 50 stotinki of 1883, by melting Russian rubbles. The denomination leva is plural of lev, meaning 'lion'.



1883 - 50 STOTINKI - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Bulgarians are a race of Finnish origin whose original seat was the banks of the Volga, and who subdued the old Moesian population and established a Kingdom in the present Bulgaria in the 7th century. They soon became blended with the conquered Slavs, whose language they adopted. In the 14th century the country was conquered by the Turks. The Bulgarian language is divided into two dialects, the old and the new; the former is the richest and best of the slavonic tongues, and although extinct as a living tongue is still used as the sacred language of the Greek Church. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1895.*



FOOTNOTE: The Battenburg coat of Arms consists of crowned lion passant, facing left, supported by two facing lions under a canopy.

FOOTNOTE: Alexander I, Prince of Bulgaria was the second son of Prince Alexander of Hesse by a morganatic marriage with Countess Julia of Hauck. He served in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 on the staff of General Gurko and in the personal suite of the Czar. After the erection of Bulgaria into an Autonomous Principality, he was elected Hereditary Prince April 29, 1879, by the Bulgarian Sobranje, at the insistence of Russia, and the choice was confirmed by those powers which had participated in 1878 in the Congress of Berlin. The Principality was organized under Russian influence, but at once developed political parties. Alexander began his administration with a conservative ministry, seeking to maintain a good understanding with Russia and to establish an orderly government. He then tried a Nationalist ministry, but in 1881 dismissed it, convoked the Sobranje, and secured special powers, under which he appointed a Conservative ministry, headed by two Russian Generals, Kaulbars and Soboleff. The Conservative party was but a small faction, and Alexander now allied himself with the Nationalists, who were able to assert themselves more and more against the Russian influence. In 1885 Eastern Rumelia revolted against its Governor-General, sought aid from Alexander, who assumed the title of Prince of the Two Bulgarias, and accomplished the union in spite of Russian opposition, securing recognition as Governor from the Porte. This brought on a war with Serbia, in which Bulgaria triumphed, Prince Alexander conducting his army with courage and skill. In the night of August 20-21, 1886, a conspiracy headed by Zankoff, and inspired by Russian machinations, forced him to sign his abdication, and he was kidnapped and taken into Russian territory. Popular indignation in Bulgaria procured his release, but on September 7, 1886 he formally abdicated, believing that it was for the good of the country in view of Russian opposition. He had shown a courage, ability, and loyalty to Bulgaria such as had hardly been expected. He died on his estate at Gratz, in Styria in 1893. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*



1891 - 50 STOTINKI - OBVERSE

BULGARIA, PRINCIPALITY OF
KREMNI TZ MINT

50 STOTINKI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1891 2,000,046

▲OV: Head of Ferdinand I, facing left, Cyrillic inscription ФЕРДИНАНДЪ I. КНЯЗЪ НА БЪЛГАРСКИИ (Ferdinand I, Prince of Bulgaria) around / **К.Б.** (mintmark) **А.С.** under bust.

▼RV: 50 / Cyrillic denomination СТОТИНКИ (stotinki) / 1891, within wreath of roses, laurel and wheat tied with ribbon below, within outer ring of pearls.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **К.Б.** = KREMNI TZ (Kormocz Banya)

DESIGNER: **А.С.** = A. Schraff

REFERENCE: Y-12

POPULATION: Bulgaria - 1890 - 2,179,375 with capital Sofia with 30,420 inhabitants.



Prince Ferdinand I

FOOTNOTE: Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg was offered the vacant throne of Bulgaria on July 7, 1887. Born on February 26, 1861 in Vienna, the youngest son of Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg and Princess Clementine of Bourbon-Orleans, he was only 26 years of age and an officer in the Austrian army. He married on April 20, 1893 Princess Marie Louise of Parma; who died in 1899. He married again on February 28, 1908, Princess Eleonore of Reuss-Kostritz. He ruled as Prince from 1887 to 1908 when he was crowned Czar (King) of the Bulgarians. He abdicated and was succeeded in 1918 by his son who became King Boris III. King Ferdinand died in 1948.



1891 - 50 STOTINKI - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: The monetary unit of value is the lev (100 stotinki equal to 1 lev), worth at the time 19.3 U.S. cents, the same as the Latin Monetary Union.

BULGARIA, KINGDOM OF
KREMNI TZMINT

50 STOTINKI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1910 400,016

▲OV: Head of Ferdinand I, facing right, Cyrillic inscription ФЕРДИНАНДЪ I ЦАРЪ НА БЪЛГАРИЯ (Ferdinand I, Czar of Bulgaria) around / ST.SCHWARTZ under bust.

▼RV: 50 / Cyrillic denomination СТОТИНКИ (stotinki) / 1910, within wreath of roses, laurel and wheat tied with ribbon below, within outer ring of pearls.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = KREMNI TZ

DESIGNER: ST.SCHWARTZ = Prof. Stephen Schwartz

REFERENCE: Y-24

POPULATION: Bulgaria - 1908 - 4,158,000

FOOTNOTE: The Slavic title CZAR, meaning 'emperor' comes from the Latin 'Caesar'. It was first used by the Grand-Duke of Russia early in the 12th century and adopted as a title of the reigning sovereign by Ivan the Terrible in AD 1547.

FOOTNOTE: The issue of 1910 was struck to show the title of Czar (King) for Ferdinand I.



1910 - 50 STOTINKI - OBVERSE



1910 - 50 STOTINKI - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Ferdinand I, Czar of Bulgaria was born in 1861 in Vienna, the youngest son of Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg and Princess Clementine of Bourbon-Orleans. He married (1) Princess Maria Louisa, daughter of the Duke of Parma, who died in 1899; and (2) Princess Eleanore of Reuss. On the deposition of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria, Ferdinand accepted the offer of the Crown. He was elected by the Bulgarian Parliament on July 7, 1887, but sovereignty was not recognised by the Great Powers until 1896. Prince Ferdinand, it will be remembered, had proclaimed the independence of Bulgaria on October 5, 1908, and assumed the title of Czar (King). Then followed the negotiations concerning an indemnity which finally resulted in an agreement, April 19, 1909, where in all differences were settled and Turkey acknowledged Bulgarian independence. Though at first thwarted at every turn by Russia, Ferdinand set himself very successfully to the task of building up and consolidating his kingdom, and the results were seen on the outbreak of the Balkan War of 1912.

FOOTNOTE: The Cyrillic alphabet - over a hundred million Eastern Europeans, the Slavic nations of Russia, Serbians and Bulgarians trace their alphabet to the linguistic work of two missionaries, the Brothers Cyril and Methodius of Salonika. Cyril who was born in 827 AD was sent as an apostle to Monavia in 862 to convert the Slavic Mohammedans to Christianity. The Brothers failed to win Monavia and Bohemia away from the Roman Catholic church and German influence, but their great work consisted of devising a new alphabet for writing the various Slavic tongues. This Cyrillic alphabet was based on Greek, but differs from both the ancient Greek and Latin alphabet that today Westerners have serious difficulty when first trying to learn the Slavic language. The Cyrillic letters were first used in translating the Bible for use in Bulgaria. Later the alphabet was adopted by the Russians for all writing, both religious and secular.



1916 - 50 STOTINKI - REVERSE

BULGARIA, KINGDOM OF
KREMNI TZMINT

50 STOTINKI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1912	5,000,088	
1913	2,282,061	
1916	4,526,051	rare

△OV: HEAD OF FERDINAND I, FACING LEFT Cyrillic inscription ФЕРДИНАНДЪ I (Ferdinand I) left, Cyrillic inscription ЦАРЪ НА БЪЛГАРИТЬ (Czar of Bulgaria) right / R.MARSCHALL under bust.

▽RV: 50 СТОТИНКИ (stotinki) / DATE, within wreath of roses, laurel and wheat tied with ribbon below, within outer ring of pearls.

EDGE: Reeded

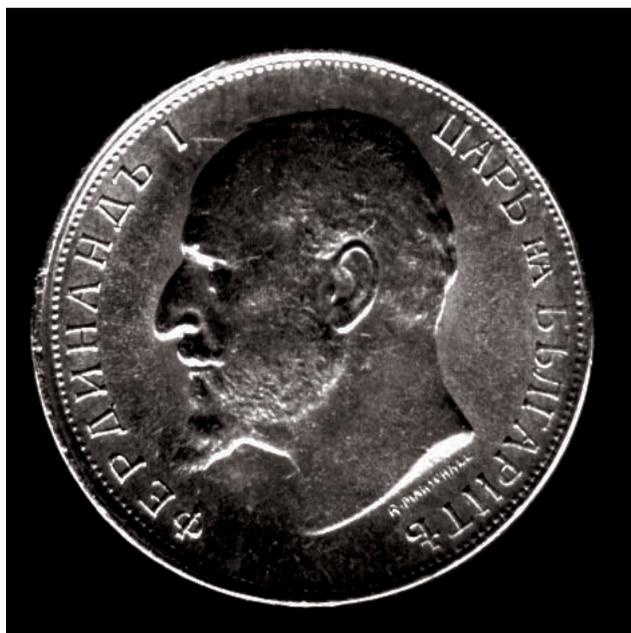
MINT: (no mintmark) = KREMNI TZ

DESIGNER: R.MARSCHALL = Rudolf Marschall

REFERENCE: Y-27

POPULATION: Bulgaria - 1912 - 4,958,400 with capital Sofia with 102,769 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: Most of the issue of 1916 were melted during the Great War, when the price of silver increased, which accounts for its rarity status.



CZAR FERDINAND I OF BULGARIA 1916 - 50 STOTINKI - OBVERSE



FOOTNOTE: The Kingdom of Bulgaria was proclaimed October 1908. On September 30, 1912 Bulgaria, allied with Serbia, Greece and Montenegro commenced the 'Balkan War' on Turkey, which ended by the Treaty of London, May 30, 1913 when Turkey ceded to the Allies all its European territory west of a line drawn from Midia on the Black Sea to Enos on the Aegean and also Crete. The second Balkan War commences on June 29, 1913 with Rumania intervening on July 10, 1913. Peace finally came on August 10, 1913 by the Treaty of Bucharest, between Bulgaria on the one hand, and Rumania, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro on the other. As a result, Ferdinand I abdicated and was succeeded by his son Boris III on October 3, 1918.



Bulgarian peddler - 1902

FOOTNOTE: Agriculture is the chief occupation of the people of Bulgaria. Land is held in absolute freehold by the owners and there is a land tax. The communes hold pasture-land and woodland in perpetuity and pay no rent, and over such lands the members of the communes have grazing and wood-cutting rights. About five sevenths of the population are engaged in agriculture, most of them being small proprietors hold from one to six acres. In 1910 there were in Bulgaria 8,669,260 sheep, 1,464,719 goats, 1,606,363 head of cattle, 527,311 pigs, 478,222 horses, 118,488 asses, and 12,238 mules. Education is free and nominally obligated for a period of four years (8-12). The richer parents are, however, required to pay 20 leva a year for each of their children attending the higher schools. *The Statemen's Year-book, London, 1916.*



Map of Bulgaria - 1902



Czar Ferdinand I of Bulgaria

