

Monte Carlo

CASINO TOKENS OF

THOMAS C. DAY ANA 128895

Since ancient times, man has played games of chance in hopes of acquiring something of greater value than that he originally risked. Tokens of various kinds have served as stores of value and mediums of exchange during these games. Long overlooked by collectors, these pieces of currency represent a fascinating aspect of numismatics.

Of all the gaming establishments in the world, the most famous—and the one that has issued the most varied and beautiful chips—is the Casino of Monte Carlo. Located on the Mediterranean coast in the Principality of Monaco, the casino once saved Monaco from poverty and possible bankruptcy. Today, however, casino revenues represent only about 3 percent of Monaco's gross national product.

The circumstances that led to the creation of the Casino of Monte Carlo are rooted in European history. With the downfall of Napoleon in 1814-15, Europe's dynastic order, which had been upheaved by the French Revolution and the First Empire, was reestablished. After a lapse of almost two decades, the Grimaldis, rulers of Monaco since the 14th century, were able to return to their homeland.

However, the state to which they returned was in ruin. The ancestral palace had been ransacked during the Revolution and subsequently transformed into a hospital and poorhouse under Napoleon. Several disastrous winters had devastated the groves of olive, lemon and orange trees, from which many in-



Prince Charles III of Monaco (1856-89), after whom Monte Carlo was named.

PALACE ARCHIVES OF MONACO

habitants earned their livelihood. Tolls levied on vessels passing in Monacan waters, once an important source of revenue in pre-Revolutionary times, were no longer enforceable, for the country was now bordered on three sides by the larger, more powerful Kingdom of Sardinia.

Monaco urgently needed a new source of revenue. Prince Honoré V (1819-41) sought to build a textile industry that would include rope, sail, lace and hat works, but the venture failed when no market for the products

was found. An attempt to raise funds in 1837-38 through the issuance of coinage, which was intended to alleviate the shortage of small change in the area, also failed on the pretense that the coins were too debased to allow circulation in neighboring France and Sardinia. The final blow came when Monaco's two easternmost towns, Roquebrune and Menton, seceded in 1849 to later become part of France. Never a large country, Monaco was reduced to one-sixteenth its former size!

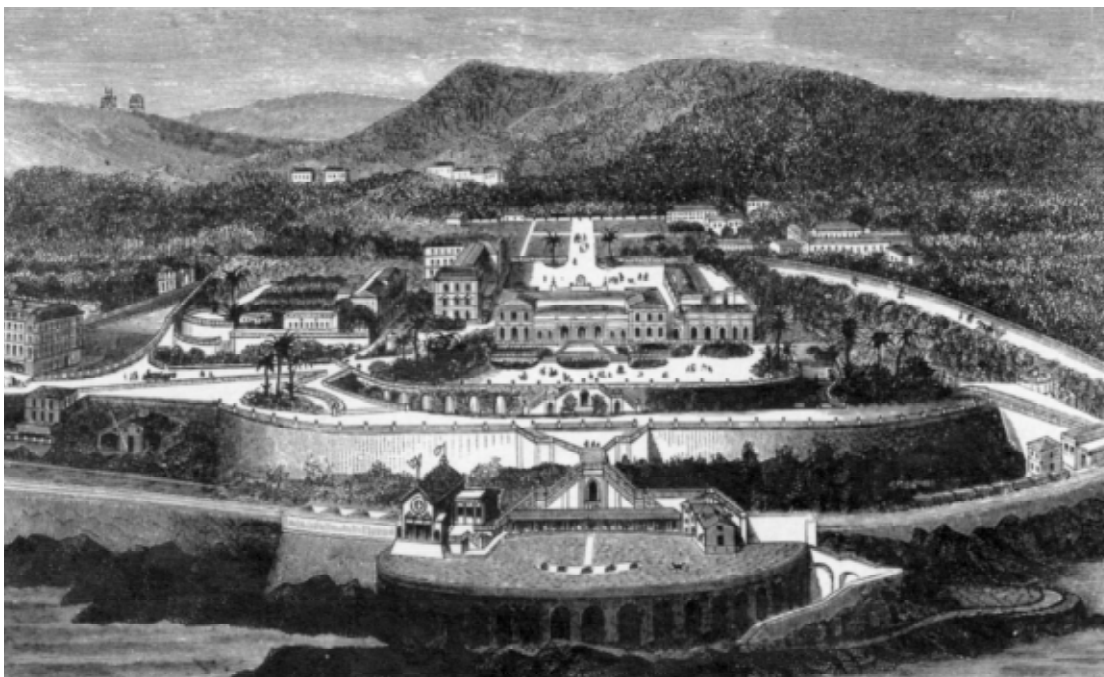
To alleviate the poverty and general discontent, Prince Florestan I (1841-56) and his enterprising, energetic wife, Princess Caroline, considered chartering a gaming establishment. Not too far north, a casino had transformed the German Langraviate of Hesse-Homburg from a small, uninteresting watering place to a prominent resort and health spa. Neither France nor the Italian states offered gambling casinos, and thus Monaco would have a monopoly in the immediate area.

In April 1856 a gaming concession was granted on a trial basis to a French

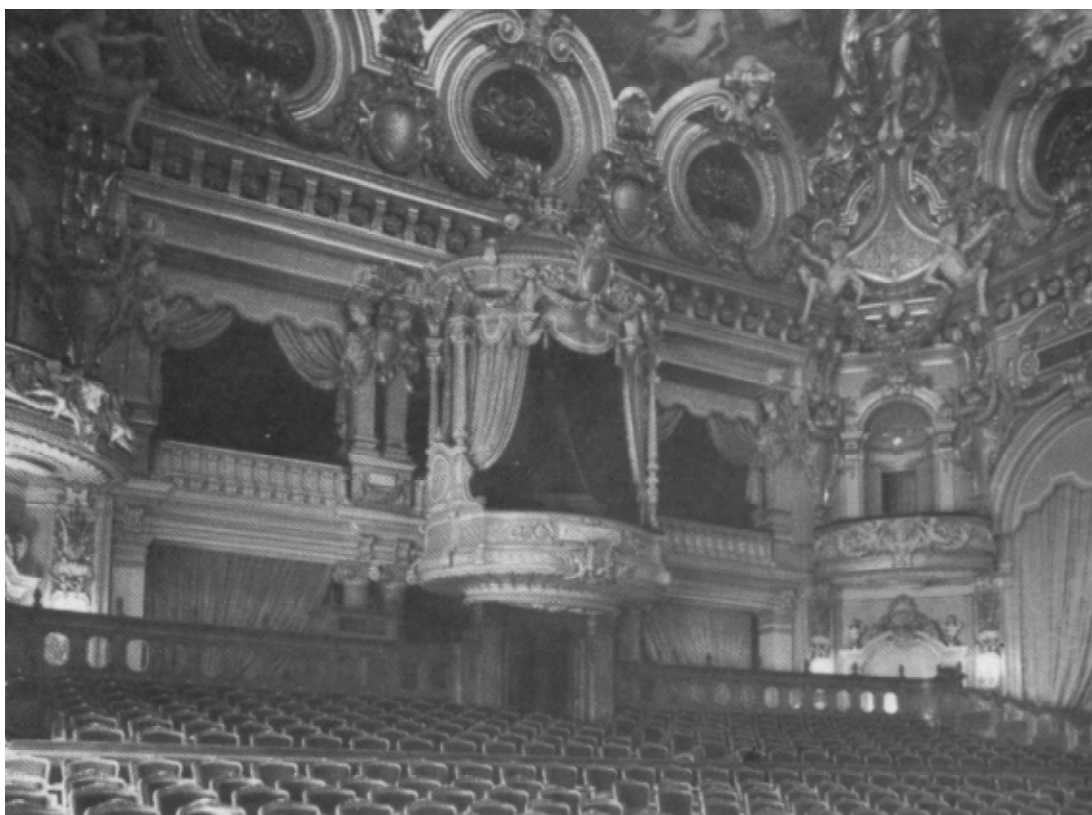
entrepreneur, who set up a casino in a converted villa on the Palace Square shortly thereafter. Two months later, Prince Florestan died. Nevertheless, Princess Caroline urged her son, Prince Charles III (1856-89), to persevere with the venture.

Following three attempts to develop the new resort, Prince Charles signed an agreement with François Blanc, the man responsible for the successful enterprise in Hesse-Homburg, giving him exclusive rights to operate a casino. A financial genius, Blanc foresaw the growing public opposition to gambling and the inevitable closing of gaming houses in Germany, and made his strategic move to Monaco in 1863.

By 1866 the hilly, barren rise beyond the City of Monaco, where the casino was established, was named Monte Carlo, or Mount Charles, in honor of the Prince. One of Blanc's first priorities was to improve transportation to the new casino. For several years, those wishing to visit Monaco departed from Nice and rode in an uncomfortable, 11-passenger omnibus or aboard an unreliable steamer, which proved exhaustive "on account of the constant repairs it required."¹ A railroad was the logical,



A view of the casino in the 1870s, with the pigeon shooting grounds in front and the train station at the extreme right.



The royal box inside the Opera House of Monte Carlo. With the approval of Prince Albert I, Princess Alice commissioned many of the impressive works of art that adorn the walls and ceiling.

PRESS CENTER OF MONACO

though audacious, solution.

Building the railway was no small feat of engineering, for it had to be cut along the face of the mountain as well as tunneled out from the rocky precipices along the uneven shoreline. Nevertheless, the railroad was completed by 1868 with funds provided by France to compensate for Monaco's earlier territorial loss.

The journey to Monte Carlo by rail, as recounted by a Victorian passenger, was not for the faint-hearted: "At one moment in darkness, the next in a blaze of light, with probably an exquisite peep landward or seaward, to be as suddenly plunged into darkness again, then careening along a shift on the mountain side with the sea underneath and hundreds of feet of precipitous picturesque wall of rock above, make this a singularly exciting railway journey."²

The increased facility of travel brought an influx of visitors to Monaco. So prosperous were affairs, that in 1869 all direct forms of taxation were abolished.

During the years before the First World War, 23 kings, 3 emperors and a multitude of the socially prominent visited the resort, and Monte Carlo became the capital of splendor, elegance and opulence *par excellence*. On the throne sat Prince Albert I (1889-1922), a famed oceanographer, and his American-born wife, Alice Heine, Duchess of Richelieu. While the prince was away on scientific expeditions, Princess Alice busied herself with transforming the Opera House of Monte Carlo, located on the sea-facing side of the casino, into one of the foremost in Europe. Under her guidance, many masterpieces were created expressly for the opera house, including Berlioz's *Damnation de Faust* and Massenet's *Jongleur de Notre Dame*.

The outbreak of the war brought an end to the frivolity and lightheartedness of the period, and the casino closed its doors for the first time in its

history. When it reopened six months later, its clientele had changed visibly. Gone were the Russian grand dukes who won and lost fortunes in the wink of an eye. Instead, Monte Carlo was frequented by the likes of Sir Basil Zaharoff, financier and munitions king, and the infamous Mata Hari, the alleged German spy who later was unmasked by a Russian counterespionage agent outside the casino.

In 1904 a new casino, the International Sporting Club, was inaugurated to cater to the increasing number of visitors. It was soon discovered that what was lost in gambling revenues during the winter months, when some wealthy individuals sojourned at Monte Carlo, could easily be made up from the great number of middle-class tourists who vacationed there in the summertime. Several new games were introduced in the casino, including baccarat, a dice game and "mechanical" horse racing; however, roulette and trente et quarante³ remained the all-time favorites.



The Opera House of Monte Carlo. Sarah Bernhardt's sculpture personifying "Song" is displayed in the niche visible to the left of the lamppost. PRESS CENTER OF MONACO

It was during the casino's early days that the first casino token appeared—a 28mm silver 2-franc piece, with CERCLE DE MONACO on the obverse and JETON DE 2 FRANCS on the reverse. The edge bore the counterstamp ARGENT, denoting silver. The piece was used to stake minimum wagers at the roulette and trente et quarante tables, the only two games available to casino patrons for many years.

The 2-franc token was later modified to include a beaded border on both obverse and reverse, and the denomination was spelled out as DEUX. A variation of this piece carries an image of a bee, a symbol used by Paris Mint Director Renouard de Bussière from 1860 to 1879, and edge counterstamps. Because the edges were handpunched at the Paris Mint, many tokens bear "knocks" on the edges opposite the counterstamps; however, such mint-made marks do not affect the desirability or collectability of the pieces.

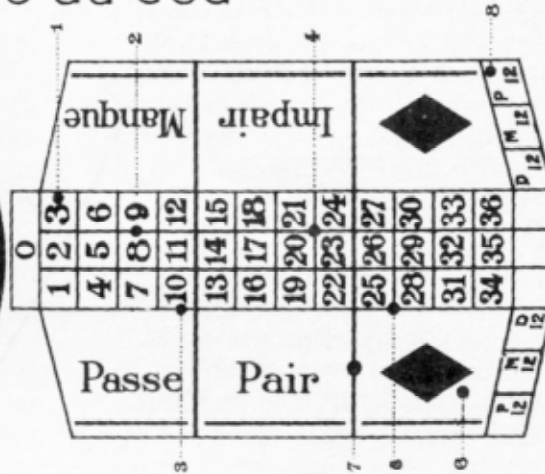
The tokens sustained considerably more damage from their heavy use on the gaming tables, where they were "marshalled, counted and shoved about . . . by means of a little wooden stake."⁴ Flawless specimens are very rare. The March 1926 issue of *The Numismatist* recounts an interesting story about the 2-franc chip, reprinted from "The Iron-ic Monte Carlo," an article published in 1906 in *Appleton's Booklovers' Magazine*:

When the present Casino was organized, the players were compelled to purchase counters priced at two francs apiece from the administration, and to stake with these as tal-lies alone. At the close of the day's play, the counters could be redeemed at the "Guichet" at their face value. But, in practice, they were not always redeemed, and by degrees filtered into circulation in Monaco. M. Blank's [sic] counters were accepted everywhere by shopkeepers and "hoteliers" in lieu of cash. Two hundred thousand of them in all were issued.

This satisfactory state of affairs continued well into the seventies, until one fine day M. Blank decided to recall his counters and issued a mandate

LA ROULETTE DE MONTE-CARLO

Règle du Jeu



En plein sur le N°... 35 fois la mise	Une colonne de 12, 2 fois la mise	Passe chance simple... 1 fois la mise
A cheval sur 2 N°... 17 » »	Sur deux colonnes 1/2 » »	Manque » » 1 » »
Transversale de 3 N°... 11 » »	Sur une douzaine 2 » »	Rouge » » 1 » »
Un carré de 4 N°... 8 » »	Sur 2 douzaines... 1/2 » »	Noir » » 1 » »
Transversale de 4 N°... 8 » »	Pair, chance simple 1 » »	Entre 2 chances simples 1/2 » »
Transversale de 6 N°... 5 » »	Impair » » 1 » »	

Le zéro sortant fait perdre toutes les chances, excepté les chances simples qui sont mises en prison et ne sont pas payées au coup suivant, mais rentrent en jeu, moins celles que la Banque vient de gagner de nouveau.

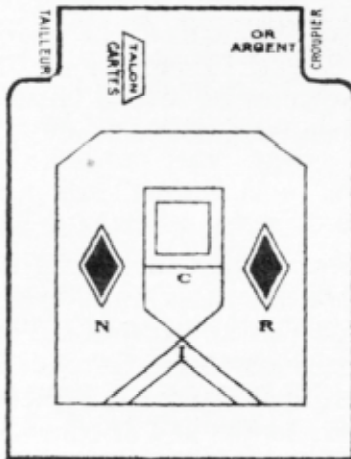
Manière de poser la Mise

N° 1 sur un numéro (3)
N° 2 sur deux numéros à cheval (8 et 9)
N° 3 sur une transversale de 3 n° (10, 11, 12)
N° 4 sur un carré de 4 n° (20, 21, 22, 23)
N° 5 sur une transversale de 6 n° (25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30)
N° 6 sur une chance simple (Noir)
N° 7 sur deux chances simples (Noir et Pair)
N° 8 sur une douzaine ou une colonne (1^{re} douzaine)

A 1910 postcard explains the rules for playing roulette.

TABLEAU DU TRENTE & QUARANTE A MONTE-CARLO

MISES / MINIMUM 20 FRANCS
MAXIMUM 12 000 FR



Le Jeu du Trente et Quarante comporte 4 chances qui sont: Rouge, Noir, Couleur et Inverse, il se joue en comptant les cartes sur deux rangs ou séries.
Valeur des Cartes: les fig. comptent dix, et les autres cartes leur valeur respective.
Les deux rangées de cartes ou séries doivent comprendre chacune de 31 à 40 points; la première série appartient toujours à Noir, la seconde à Rouge, la série qui fournit le total de points le plus rapproché de 30 gagne.

1^{re} Ex: [Cards] 32 points
[Cards] 34 points

Les points additionnés de la 1^{re} série se rapprochant le plus de 30 et la 1^{re} carte de cette série étant Noir, Rouge et Inverse perdent, Couleur et Noir gagnent

2^{me} Ex: [Cards] 32 points
[Cards] 34 points

Les points additionnés de la 1^{re} série se rapprochant le plus de 30 et la 1^{re} carte de cette série étant Rouge, Rouge et Couleur perdent, Noir et Inverse gagnent

5^{me} Exemple: Lorsque les points additionnés de chacune des séries forment deux totaux de 31 points, les enjeux perdent moitié de leur valeur sur les 4 chances. (On peut s'assurer contre ce coup, l'assurance est de 5 fr. pour 500 fr. ou fractions de 500 fr.)

Le coup est nul lorsque les totaux égaux des deux séries sont de 32 à 40.

3^{me} Ex: [Cards] 36 points
[Cards] 33 points

Les points additionnés de la 2^{me} série se rapprochant le plus de 30 et la 1^{re} carte de la 1^{re} série étant Rouge, Rouge et Couleur gagnent, Noir et Inverse perdent

4^{me} Ex: [Cards] 36 points
[Cards] 33 points

Les points additionnés de la 2^{me} série se rapprochant le plus de 30 et la 1^{re} carte de la 1^{re} série étant Noir, Rouge et Inverse gagnent, Noir et Couleur perdent

Another postcard offers rules for playing trente et quarante.

announcing that they must be immediately redeemed, on pain of repudiation. His 200,000 counters had mysteriously grown and multiplied to 400,000. The shock would have irritated a smaller mind than M. Blank's. He shrugged his shoulders and paid out the two francs for each of the counters.

At the same date as the abolishing of the tally system, the minimum stake was raised from two francs at roulette to five francs, where it now stands [1906], and twenty francs was fixed as the minimum for the game of trente et quarante. M. Blank [had] no use for the small speculator who played often and lost little—especially when the small speculator was not even playing with genuine counters.

The existence of counterfeit 2-franc tokens may explain the appearance of a fourth variety in silvered brass. Probably redeemed in its totality, this base-metal variety (or counterfeit) is prized more than its silver counterparts!

Prior to World War I casino patrons most often employed the 21mm "louis," a standard French coin struck between 1802 and 1914 that contained .1867 troy ounce of gold. Also acceptable were any gold coins of the Latin Monetary Union that conformed to the same specifications, such as the Swiss or Belgian 20 francs, Italian or Papal 20 lire, Spanish 20 pesetas, or Greek 20 drachmai. Casino tellers exchanged American, British and Russian coins for their Latin Monetary equivalents; crown-sized silver French 5-franc pieces were used to place minimum wagers when stakes were raised from 2 to 5 francs. Bank notes also were used.

In 1878 and 1879, the casino's management requested the Paris Mint to strike for circulation 75,000 20-franc gold coins, which they felt would publicize the establishment as well as prove useful on the gaming tables. The obverse featured a right-facing bust of Prince Charles III, while Monaco's coat-of-arms graced the reverse. In 1882, 1884 and 1886, the casino ordered similar 100-franc gold pieces, with 5,000 coins minted the first year and 15,000 pieces struck in each of the remaining

two years. The tradition continued under Prince Albert I (1889-1922), who authorized the striking of 20,000 100-franc pieces in 1891, 1895 and 1896, 15,000 in 1901 and 10,000 in 1904. Instead of a portrait of Charles, the obverse showed a bust of Prince Albert facing left.⁵

The 100-franc coin, as well as any of the standard, larger gold pieces of the Latin Monetary Union, became known as a "monaco," just as the 20-franc gold coin was called a "louis" or "napoleon," even though it did not always bear the likeness of either King Louis or Emperor Napoleon.

It seems unlikely, though, that all wagers were made with coins or bank notes. Casino "plaques" surely were used in the *salons privés*, or private gaming rooms, where guests such as the Empress Eugenie, Andrew Carnegie and Alphonse de Rothschild plied the roulette or trente et quarante tables. The maximum wager stood at 12,000 gold francs, and playing with thousands of coins would have been unwieldy and distracting, not to mention uncouth. (Carnegie reportedly refused to play because the management would not allow him to stake more than 12,000 francs.) Supporting the author's theory is the existence of a 12,000-franc chip, believed to date from the turn of the century.

Following the French monetary reform in 1960, whereby 100 "old francs" were worth one "new franc," a number of chips were revalued. Instead of withdrawing all the chips from the gaming tables, however, the casino opted to cross out two zeros on several types. The chips then were put back into play.

Any successful undertaking is bound to have its critics, and Monte Carlo's casino was no exception. For example, a curious 45mm German 5-franc token in white metal depicts Mercury, who, as the god of commerce, also was considered the giver of wealth and good luck and thought to preside over the game of dice. A German legend translates as GAMBLING HELL MONACO.

Bearing the date 1910, the piece may have been issued following Kaiser Wilhelm's disastrous visit to Monte Carlo. The Kaiser arrived incognito at the casino with a supposedly infallible system for winning at roulette, and inflated expectations of breaking the bank. His system, like others before, failed, and he returned to Germany with a severely bruised ego. Another variety of this token is known, with SPIELHÖLLE (gambling hell) misspelled CPIELHÖLLE.

Of course, the casino has had its imitators, too. In 1968 the Monte Carlo Casino on Grand Bahama Island issued dollar and half-dollar tokens. However, these pieces have nothing whatsoever in common with Monaco's Monte Carlo or its casino.



At the request of the casino, in 1977 the Franklin Mint struck a sterling silver 100-franc chip featuring a personification of Fortune on the obverse, surrounded by CASINO DE MONTE CARLO. The reverse shows the façade of the casino and the same legend. Two years later, the Franklin Mint created a .500 gold 1,000-franc token to celebrate the centennial of the Opera House. The reverse is identical to the silver issue, while the obverse pictures a statue created especially for the opera's opening night by famed actress Sarah Bernhardt. Now displayed in a niche outside the southeastern wing of the casino, the statue personifies "Song" standing with a winged cherub at her feet.

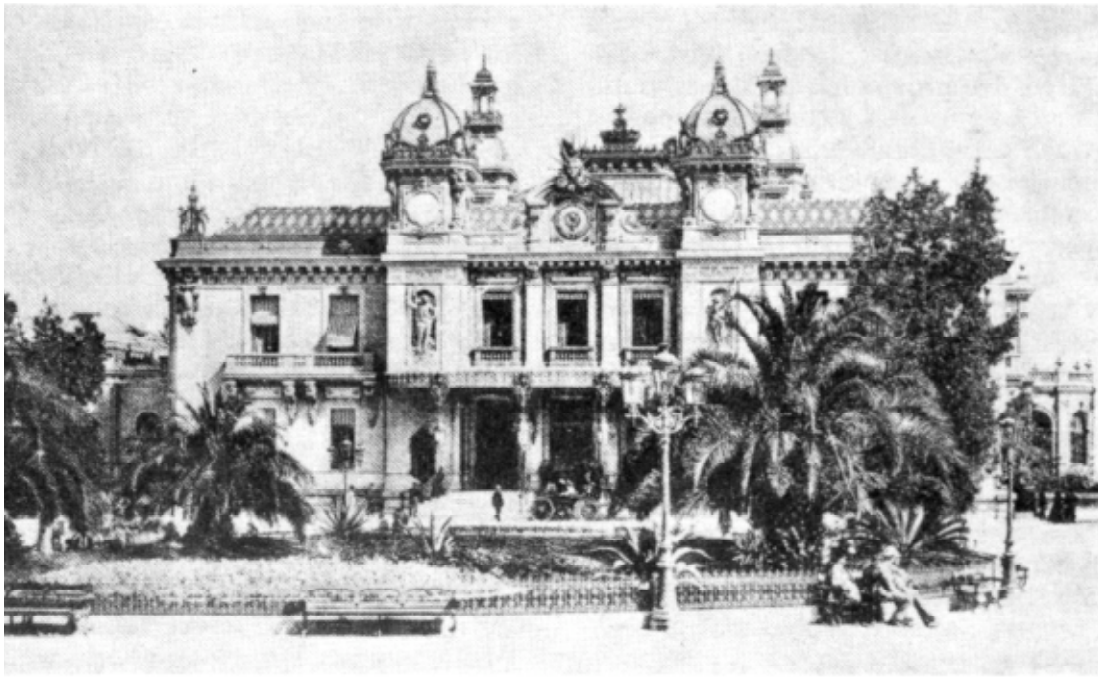
In 1975 a third casino opened just below the Casino of Monte Carlo on a

plateau that once sported pigeon-shooting grounds. The new casino, owned by the Loews Corporation, offers games such as American roulette (which, unlike Monte Carlo roulette, has both single and double zeros and is divided into 38 compartments, rather than 37), blackjack, Nevada craps and slot machines, and uses its own gaming counters. The composition of all denominations appears to be similar—plastic with a metallic center—and resembles those pieces made in Las Vegas for use in Atlantic City.

For the 5th anniversary of the casino, the Franklin Mint struck a 12-sided, sterling silver token, the obverse of which features the hotel's logo encircled by SBM/LOEWS MONTE-CARLO and 100 FRANCS. The reverse features a hand of cards consisting of a king of hearts, queen of spades, jack of diamonds, jack of clubs and queen of diamonds. In 1985 the Franklin Mint produced another dodecahedral token for the casino's 10th anniversary.

The collection of early Monte Carlo chips poses special challenges. Dating the pieces is nearly impossible, and mintage figures are unavailable, as are records indicating the number of pieces retired from circulation and subsequently destroyed. In addition, entire series were sold to jewelers for use in key chains, bracelets and paperweights—the specimens that survive are either holed or imbedded in polyurethane. Many pieces were made of celluloid or formaldehyde, the unstable forerunners of plastic, and are quickly decomposing, soon to be lost to collectors forever.

The use of security stamps also seems to have taken its toll. Each night a colored stamp was pasted on the chips to ensure that all pieces in use were accounted for and had passed security inspection. The next evening, the stamps were scrubbed off and replaced with different ones. Because of this rather abusive practice, many of the pieces that exist today flake and crack easily. Nonetheless, these collectible chips and plaques that once were used



The Casino of Monte Carlo in the 1890s.

on the green baize gaming tables of Monte Carlo witnessed the phenomenal development of one of the most beautiful and intriguing places in the world.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are due the following people, without whose aid this article would not have been possible: Joseph Segal, founder of the Franklin Mint, for his advice on Franklin Mint issues; Russell Rulau for sending me his landmark catalog of American game counters; Dr.

Alan M. Stahl, George Cuhaj and Frank Campbell of the American Numismatic Society for supplying information and photographs of pieces in the museum's collections; Paul Bosco, of the *Bosco Numismatic Quarterly*, and Archie Black for bringing to my attention several unknown chips; Marcel Barriero for sharing pieces in his collection; Victor Gadoury; and John Martinez and Mary Schroeder for their time and photographic expertise.

NOTES

1. John Polson, *Monaco and its Gaming Tables*, 4th edition (London: Elliot Stock, 1881).
2. *Ibid.*
3. A gambling game (translated as "thirty and forty") in which cards are dealt and added up for each of the two colors, red and black, on which bets have been laid. The winners are those who have bet on that color for which the total number of points is closest to thirty but not more than forty.
4. Polson.
5. In 1934 Prince Louis II (1922-49) planned to strike large-sized gold coins for the casino (as his grandfather and father had) and authorized a 33mm gold 500-franc issue. The project never materialized. However, an estimated 12 gold and 12 gilt aluminum-bronze essays were made, bearing a bust of the Prince on the obverse and the Monacan coat-of-arms on the reverse.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- Corti, Count Egon Caesar. *The Wizard of Monte Carlo*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1935.
- Galanti, Guiseppe Maria. *Descrizione Storica, e Geografica delle Repubbliche di Genova, e di Lucca, dell'Isola di Corsica, e del Principato di Monaco*. Torino: Presso Francesco Prato, 1795.

"The Gaming Counter of Monte Carlo." *The Numismatist*, 39 (March 1926), p. 128.
 Labande, Léon Honoré. *Histoire de la Principauté de Monaco*. Monaco: Imprimerie Nationale de Monaco, 1934.
 Pemberton, H. *The History of Monaco: Past and Present*. London: John Childs & Sons, 1867.
 Stoddard, J.L. *John L. Stoddard's Lectures*, volume 5. Boston: Balch Brothers Co., 1902.

A collector of world coins, **THOMAS C. DAY** specializes in the coins and paper money of the Principality of Monaco. His articles have appeared in *World Coin News*, *Coins* magazine and *The Numismatist*, and he has contributed to *The Standard Catalog of World Coins*. Day also has lectured and exhibited at the New York International Numismatic Convention.

A LISTING OF MONTE CARLO CASINO TOKENS

The following is by no means an exhaustive listing of the tokens used in Monte Carlo. The majority of the pieces bear the denomination, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO, the parent corporation that runs the Casino of Monte Carlo. The tokens have been grouped in ascending order according to their denominations and by what is believed to be chronological order within these denominations. In cases where a chip is made of a synthetically produced substance, it is described by color and appearance.

1. 1 franc

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "1" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
 32mm, shimmering pale green.

Rev.: Numeral "5" on silver filigreed overlay.

33mm, lightly grained bone or possibly ivory.

Exists with and without a fish counterstamp on one side; known with two distinct floral borders.

2. 2 francs

- a. *Obv.*: JETON DE 2 FRANCS in three lines.

Rev.: CERCLE DE MONACO in three lines.
 28mm, silver.

- b. *Obv.*: Interlaced "SC" with SPORTING CLUB above and MONTE CARLO below.

Rev.: Large numeral "5" with SPORTING CLUB above and MONTE CARLO below.

36mm, copper-nickel.

- b. *Obv.*: JETONS DE DEUX FRANCS in three lines.

Rev.: CERCLE DE MONACO in three lines.
 28mm, silver.

This piece is known with an edge counterstamp in the form of a bee.

- c. *Obv.*: Large art-deco style numeral "5" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.

Rev.: Smaller art-deco style numeral "10" (or "29") surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.

32mm, yellow ochre.

- c. As above.

28mm, silvered brass.
 No bee counterstamp.

- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "2" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
 35mm, shimmering lemon yellow.

- d. *Obv.*: Incuse numeral "5" surrounded by STE DES BAINS DE MER • MONACO•.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

33mm, light beige.

Also known with bee counterstamp on both sides.

3. 5 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Interlaced "SC" (for Sporting Club) on silver filigreed overlay.

- e. *Obv.*: Art-deco style numeral "5" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.



1a



2a

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

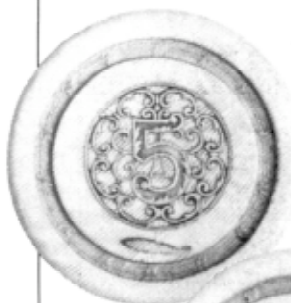


2b

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



2d



3a



3b



3c



3d



3e



3f



3h



3i



4a



4b



4c



4e



4f



5a

Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, light olive with translucent raw sienna security disk in center.

- f. *Obv.*: Numeral "5" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
30mm, shimmering pink.

- g. *Obv.*: Bold numeral "5" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
38mm, mother-of-pearl gray.

- h. *Obv.*: Numeral "5" surrounded by STE DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
40mm, shimmering pastel blue.

- i. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "5" with FR. below, surrounded by SBM LOEWS-MONTE-CARLO. Along perimeter, card hands of four aces alternating with one pair of dice bearing 2 and 5.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
39mm, orange and blue with aluminum center.

4. 10 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Interlaced art-nouveau style "MC" (for "Cercle de Monaco" or "Monte Carlo") with MONACO above, surrounded by CERCLE DES ÉTRANGERS. Engraver's name appears at lower right.

Rev.: Large "SBM" arranged in shape of inverted triangle, with "10" below and Poissy Mint privy marks on either side.

33mm, aluminum-bronze.

Varieties known with plain edge (with and without the engraver's name) and reeded edge. Minted 1924-26 at Poissy, France.

- b. *Obv.*: Numeral "10" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO in art-deco style.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
30mm, marbled brownish-orange with red and yellow security disks in center.

- c. *Obv.*: Bold numeral "10" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO in art-deco style.

Rev.: Smaller art-deco style "29" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.

32mm, emerald green.

- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "10" covering most of chip, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in four vertical lines; DE MER falls in the zero of "10."

Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, butter yellow.

- e. *Obv.*: Bold numeral "10" surrounded by STÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
43mm, mother-of-pearl beige.

- f. *Obv.*: Numeral "10" encircled by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
39mm, pearly white with translucent rose center.

5. 20 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" on silver filigreed overlay.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, crimson.

- b. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" on silver filigreed square overlay.

Rev.: Interlaced "MC" on silver filigreed diamond overlay.

32mm, orange.

Known with two distinct floral borders as on #3a.

- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" in upper half, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO; fan-shaped filigreed metal insert in lower half.

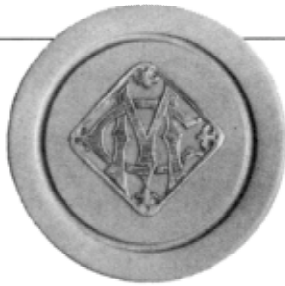
Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, dark carmine.

- d. *Obv.*: Curvilinear numeral "20" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO in art-deco style.

Rev.: Smaller numeral "36" within art-deco design, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

32mm, cobalt blue.

- e. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 30mm, Prussian blue.
 Also known in black.
- f. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" in upper half, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO in three lines in lower half.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 31mm, pearly beige.
- g. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 29mm, purplish-red, with red and lemon-yellow security disks.
- h. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and DE MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 32mm, mother-of-pearl white with red core.
- i. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" in center, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 30mm, shimmering red with translucent yellow center.
- 5. 40 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "40" on gilt filigreed circular overlay.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 41mm, crimson.
- b. *Obv.*: Curvilinear numeral "40" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at top left and MONACO at bottom right.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 34mm, pinkish-orange with translucent blue and yellow security disks.
- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "40" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER, with MONACO across center.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 34mm, brownish-maroon with translucent orange and lemon-yellow security disks.
- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "40" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO in three lines above.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 31mm, pearly gold with maroon core.
- 7. 50 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "50" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in semi-circle above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 32mm, shimmering, grained grayish-beige.
- 8. 100 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" on circular silver filigreed overlay.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 46mm, red.
 Piece bears a counterstamp in the form of a key.
- b. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" in upper half, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO; silver, fan-shaped filigreed overlay in bottom half, with two "SBM's" forming a cruciform design in center.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 38mm, light green.
- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" on octagonal silver filigreed overlay.
Rev.: Interlaced "SC" (for "Sporting Club") on octagonal silver filigreed overlay.
 43mm, pale blue.
 Piece bears a counterstamp in the form of a crescent moon. Also known with gold filigreed overlay and in cobalt blue with two distinct floral borders, as on 3a.
- d. *Obv.*: Large art-nouveau style "MC" (for "Cercle de Monaco" or "Monte Carlo") with MONACO above, surrounded by CERCLE DES ÉTRANGERS. Engraver's name at lower right.
Rev.: Large "SBM" arranged in shape of inverted triangle, with "100" below and Poissy Mint privy marks on either side.
 39.5mm, aluminum-bronze.
 Minted 1924-26 at Poissy, France.



5b



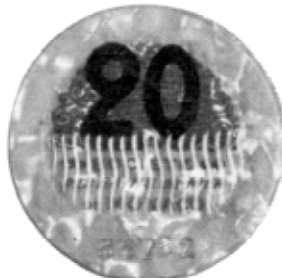
5c



5d



5e



5f



5g



5h



5i



6a



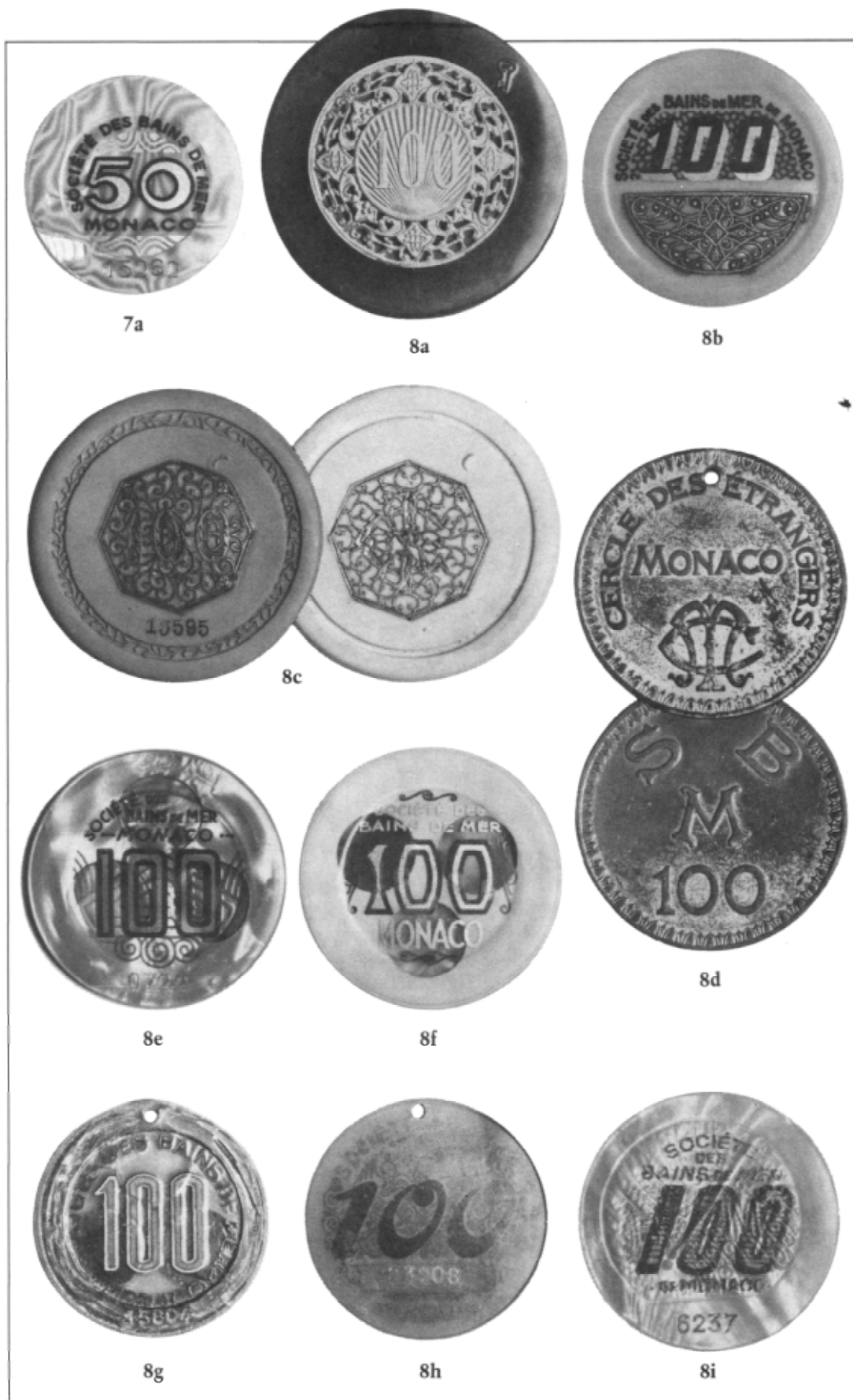
6b



6c



6d





e. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO above.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

38mm, shimmering sky blue with translucent red, lemon-yellow and olive-green security disks.

f. *Obv.*: Large numeral "100" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

38mm, rose with translucent lemon-yellow, red and green security disks.

g. *Obv.*: Large numeral "100" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

35mm, translucent beige with translucent lemon-yellow, red and green security disks.

h. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" with curlicued zeros, encircled by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

38mm, brown.

Most known examples are holed.

i. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" slanting to right, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in three lines and DE MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

38mm, shimmering beige.

j. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" encircled by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

37mm, shimmering gray.

k. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" (last two digits crossed out) with STÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

32mm, shimmering orange.

When monetary reform was instituted in 1960, 100 old francs equaled one new franc. The casino administration revalued their tokens, sometimes crossing off two zeros in the denomination.

l. *Obv.*: Personification of Fortune, with the numeral "100" at left and "Fr." at right, surrounded by CASINO DE MONTE CARLO.

Continued
in the next
issue

Rev.: Chiseled façade of casino, with 100 FRANCS below and CASINO DE MONTE CARLO along perimeter.

39mm, sterling silver.

Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1977.

m. Obv.: Casino logo, encircled by SBM/LOEWS MONTE-CARLO CASINO. 100 FRANCS.

Rev.: Card hand composed of king of hearts, queen of spades, jack of diamonds, jack of clubs and queen of diamonds, with SBM/LOEWS MONTE-CARLO above in two lines and 100 FRANCS below in two lines.

41mm, sterling silver, 12-sided.

Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1980.

9. 200 francs

a. Obv.: Numeral "200" with STE DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

32mm, shimmering emerald green.

b. Obv.: Numeral "200" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

38.5mm, shimmering yellow.

This piece was revalued in 1960 and is known with the two zeros in the denomination crossed out.

10. 250 francs

a. Obv.: SBM-LOEWS MONTE-CARLO across center. King of spades, numeral "250," a spade and FRANCS above, queen of spades, numeral "250," a spade and FRANCS below.

Rev.: Casino logo, with SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO and 250 FRANCS.

41mm, sterling silver, 12-sided.

Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1985.

11. 500 francs

a. Obv.: Numeral "500" on elaborate gilt metallic filigreed overlay.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

48 x 68mm (oval), crimson with horizontal black security stripe and black or orange security dot above. Note security stamp affixed to textured rectangle at right.

b. Obv.: Numeral "500" with SOCIÉTÉ

DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below. Diagonal design on left half of chip.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

43 x 62mm (oval), translucent grass green with beige, lemon-yellow and red security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

c. Obv.: Numeral "500" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

46 x 63mm (oval), greenish-brown with red and yellow security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

d. Obv.: Large numeral "500" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

44mm, pale blue with translucent yellow, grayish-blue and yellowish-green security disks.

e. Obv.: Numeral "500" in circle, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO in five lines to right.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

42 x 62mm (oval), yellow ochre.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

12. 1,000 francs

a. Obv.: Numeral "1000" above "SBM" on elaborate silver filigreed overlay; SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

49 x 66mm (rectangular), maroon.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

b. Obv.: Numeral "1.000" with STÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

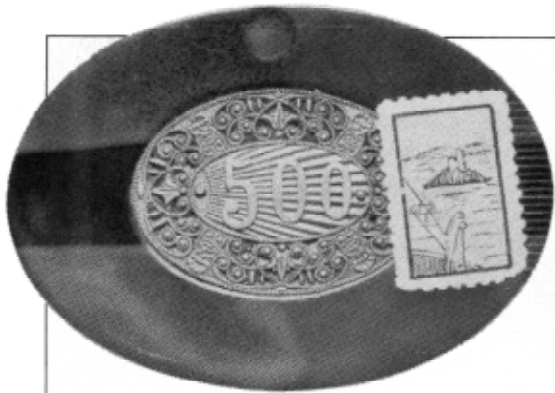
42mm, shimmering white.

c. Obv.: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

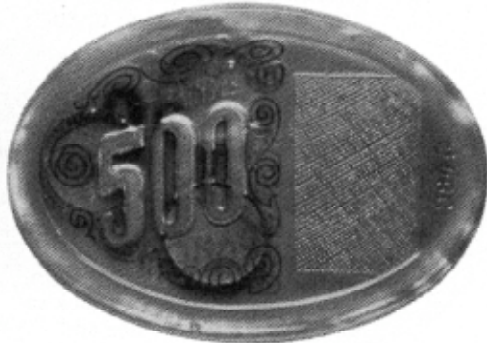
Rev.: Same as obverse.

43mm, fuchsia.

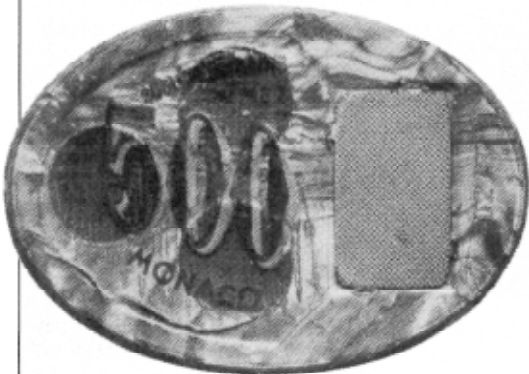
d. Obv.: Numeral "1000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO



11a



11b



11c



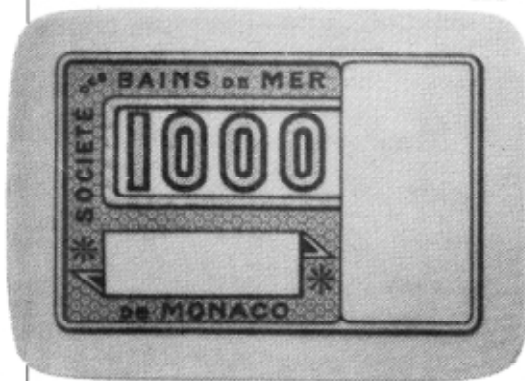
11d



12b



12c

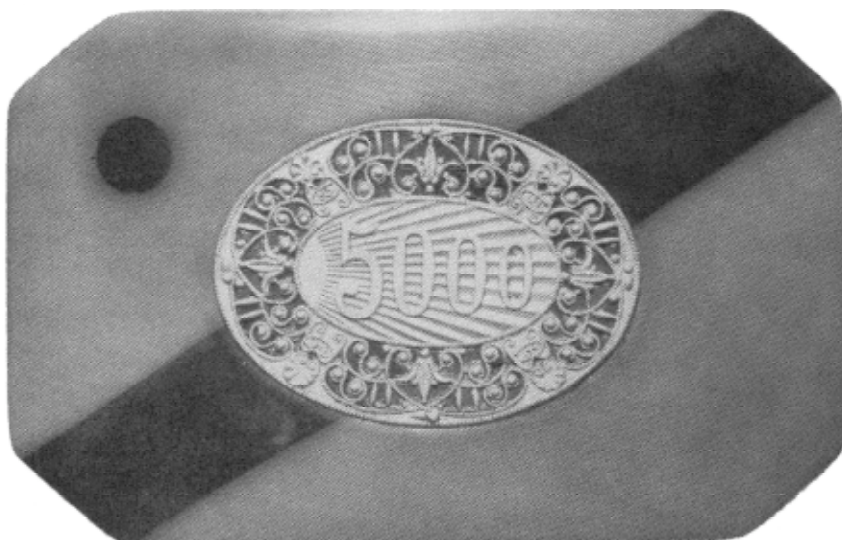


12d

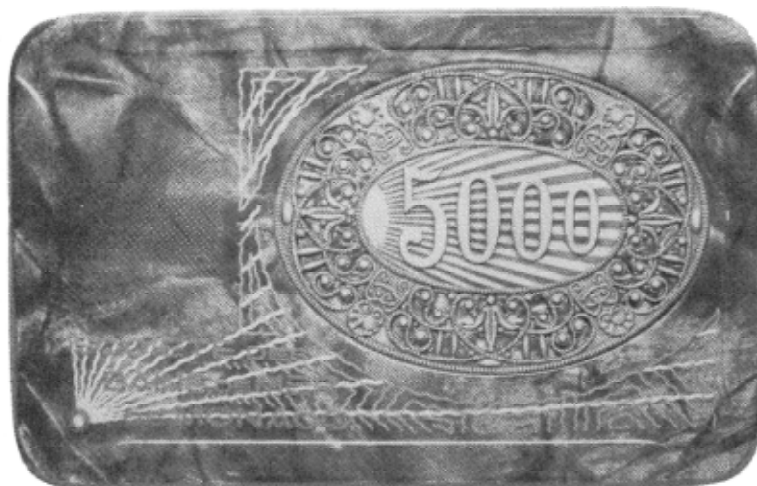


12i

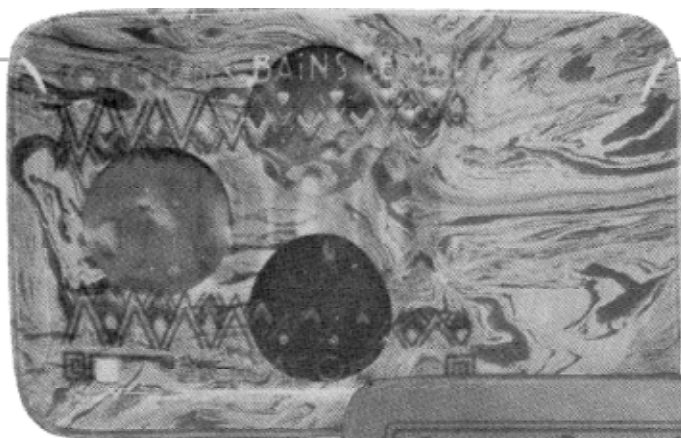
- in rectangular pattern around.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 46 x 64mm (rectangular), grass green.
 Rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- e. *Obv.*: Numeral "1000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 39 x 55mm (rectangular), shimmering, marbled red and gold.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- f. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 48 x 63mm (rectangular), butter yellow with three translucent security disks, two olive-green and one red.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- g. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 39 x 54mm (rectangular), crimson with three translucent security disks, two lemon-yellow and one red.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- h. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 51 x 67mm (rectangular), mother-of-pearl yellow with three translucent security disks, two red and one orange.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- i. *Obv.*: Personification of Song, with numeral "1000" at left and FRANCS at right; CASINO DE MONTE CARLO along perimeter.
Rev.: Chiseled façade of Casino with 1000 FRANCS below and CASINO DE MONTE CARLO around.
 32mm, .500 fine gold.
 Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1979; mintage limited to 7200 proofs.
- 13. 5,000 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "5000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 67 x 107mm (rectangular), crimson.
 Also known with diagonal translucent black security stripe.
- b. *Obv.*: Numeral "5000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO at lower left.
 Textured rectangle at left for placement of security stamp.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 59 x 93mm (rectangular), marbled olive green.
- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "5.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 53 x 84mm (rectangular), marbled bluish-green with blue core and three translucent security disks, two lemon-yellow and one red.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "5000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above, DE below and MONACO sloping upward.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 51 x 92mm (rectangular), brown.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- e. *Obv.*: Numeral "5.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 43 x 73mm (rectangular), translucent reddish-purple with three translucent green, yellow and orange security disks.
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.



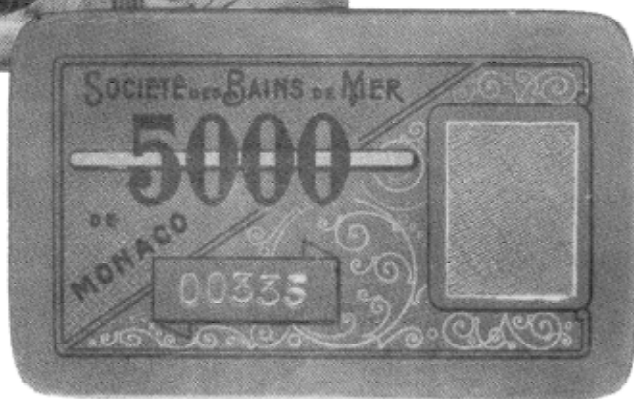
13a



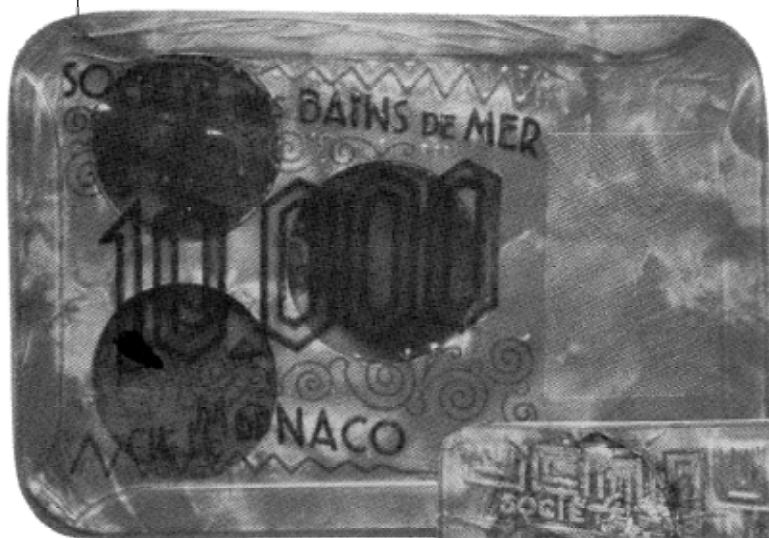
13b



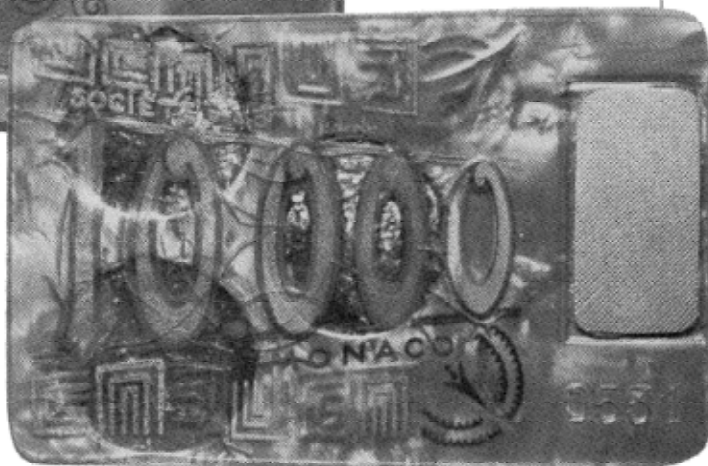
13c



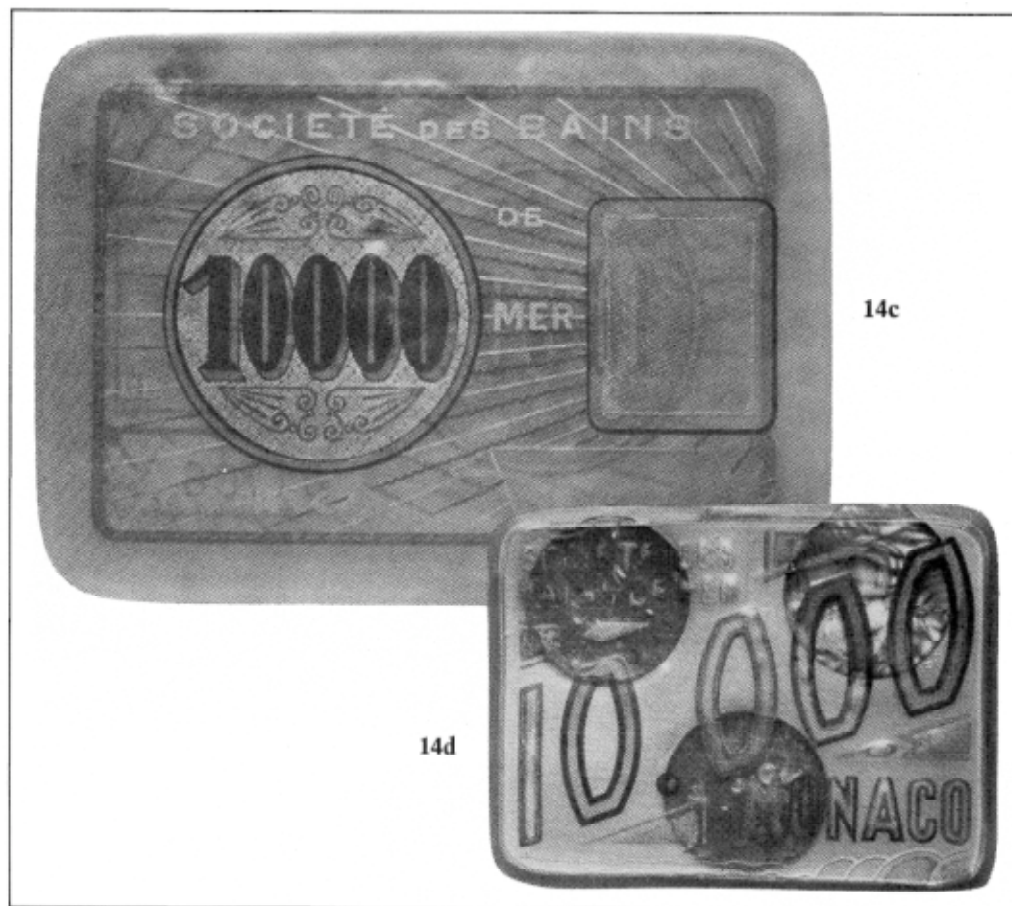
13d



14a



14b



14. 10,000 francs

- a. *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000" sloping upward, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below, both sloping downward.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

64 x 94mm (rectangular), orange with three translucent beige, green and lemon-yellow security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

- b. *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER sloping downward and MONACO sloping upward.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

57 x 88mm (rectangular), shimmering grass green with three translucent beige security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

- c. *Obv.:* Numeral "10000" in circle, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS above, DE MER at right and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

70 x 109mm (rectangular), translucent light-brown.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

- d. *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000" sloping upward, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at upper left and MONACO at bottom right.

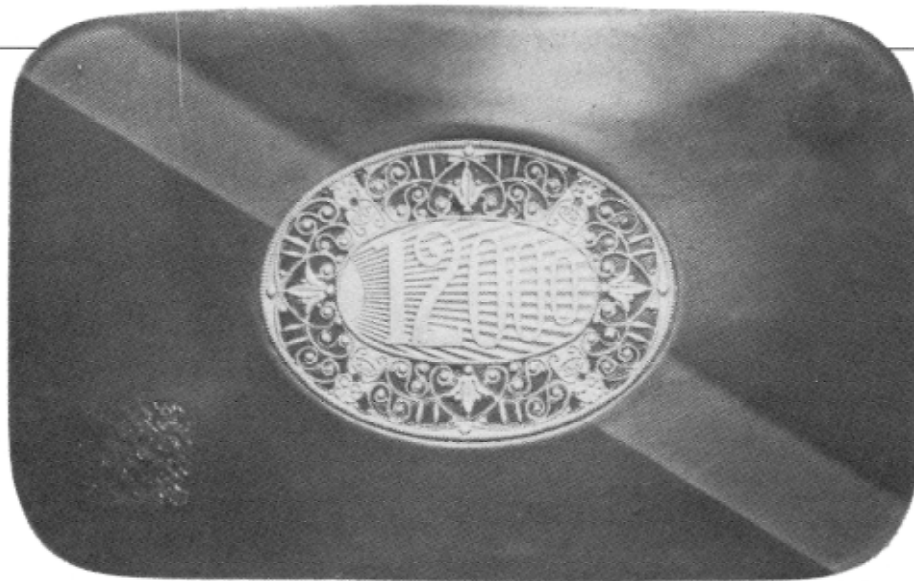
Rev.: Same as obverse.

47 x 63mm (rectangular), yellow with red core and three translucent security disks, two red and one yellow.

15. 12,000 francs

- a. *Obv.:* Numeral "12000" on elaborate silver filigreed overlay.

Rev.: Same as obverse.



15a

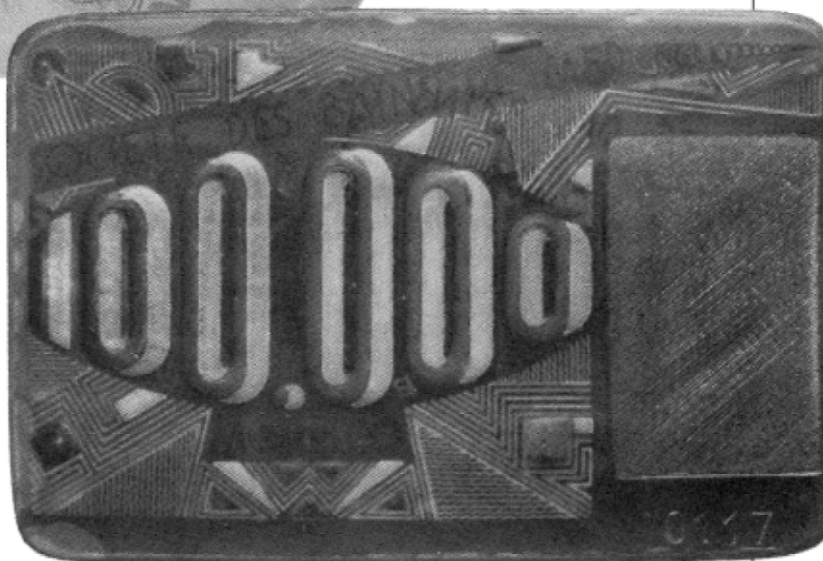
80% Actual Size



17a

65% Actual Size

17b





18a

80% Actual Size



19a

17. 100,000 francs

- a. *Obv.:* Numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

- b. *Obv.:* Art-deco style numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES



20a

21a
80% Actual Size



three translucent lemon-yellow, red and orange security disks.
Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

17. 100,000 francs

a. *Obv.:* Numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

92 x 132mm (rectangular), gray with cobalt-blue core and three security disks, two beige and one red.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

b. *Obv.:* Art-deco style numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES

BAINS DE MER sloping upward above and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

68 x 103mm (rectangular), translucent olive green.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

18. 200,000 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "200.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

94 x 137mm (oval), shimmering vermilion with white core and three translucent lemon-yellow, red and orange security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

19. 500,000 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "500.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

73 x 114mm (rectangular), lemon

yellow with three brown, red and lemon-yellow security disks.

20. 1,000,000 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at top left and MONACO at bottom right.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

77 x 123mm (rectangular), mother-of-pearl white with three red, rose and lemon-yellow security disks.

Many pieces were revalued in 1960-65 and bear a "10.000" counterstamp.

21. 2,000,000 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "2.000.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at top left in two lines and MONACO at bottom right.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

94 x 137mm (rectangular), shimmering green with three translucent rose, grayish-blue and lemon-yellow security disks.

Many pieces were revalued in 1960-65 and bear a "20.000" counterstamp.

ADDENDUM

Additional tokens not listed in the original article have been included in this reprint. As in the prior listing, the tokens are grouped in ascending order according to denomination and chronology. By using the pre-established system, the reader should have no difficulty in determining where these items would be listed in the previous catalog had they been available at that time.

3. 5 francs

- j. *Obv.*: "5 FR." surrounded by
• AMERICAN SALON • CASINO
DE MONTE CARLO. Along perimeter, three sets of letters "SBM" alternating with blue rectangles.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

40mm, blue and gray with nickel center.

- k. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "5" with FR. below, surrounded by SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO. Along perimeter, two pairs of dice bearing "2" and "5," interspersed with spade, heart, club and diamond.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

40mm, blue and white with nickel center.

- l. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "5" with FR. below, surrounded by filigreed pattern. SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO along upper periphery.

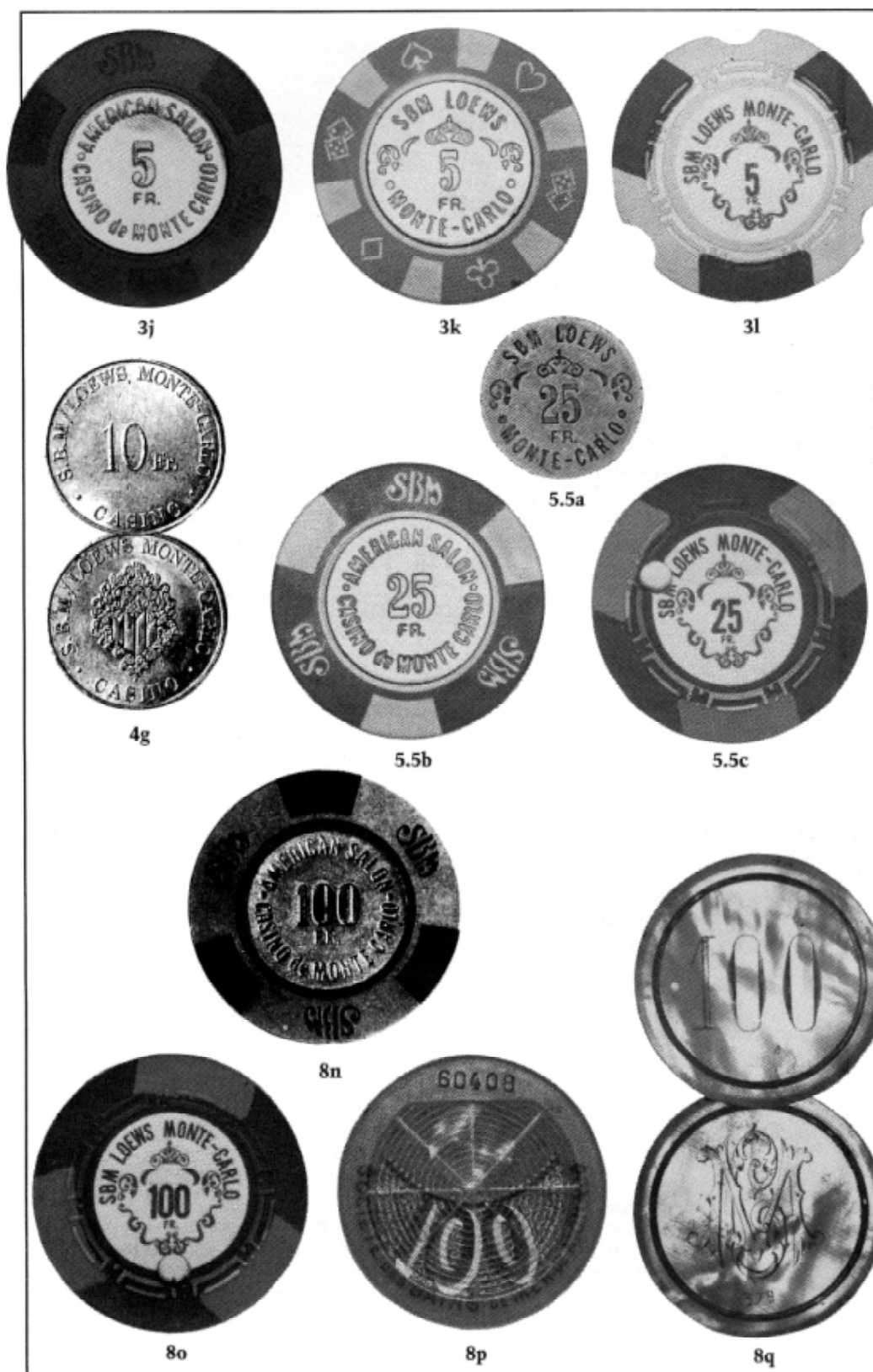
Rev.: Same as obverse.

39mm, tan and blue with white center.

4. 10 francs

- g. *Obv.*: "10 FR." surrounded by S.B.M./LOEWS MONTE-CARLO • CASINO •.

Rev.: Casino logo surrounded by S.B.M./LOEWS MONTE-CARLO • CASINO •.



26mm, nickel.

Used from 1980 to the present.

5.5 25 francs

a. *Obv.*: Crowned "25 FR." surrounded by SBM LOEWS • MONTE-CARLO •.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

24mm, nickel.

b. *Obv.*: "25 FR." surrounded by AMERICAN SALON • CASINO DE MONTE CARLO •. Initials "SBM" along perimeter.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

39mm, brown and white with aluminum center.

Used from 1980 to the present.

c. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "25" with FR. below, surrounded by filigreed pattern. SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO along upper periphery.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

39mm, red and gold with white center.

8. 100 francs

n. *Obv.*: "100 FR." surrounded by AMERICAN SALON • CASINO DE MONTE CARLO • along perimeter. Three sets of letters "SBM" alternating with black rectangles.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

39mm, pink and black with aluminum center.

Used from 1980 to the present.

o. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "100" with FR. below, surrounded by filigreed pattern. SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO along upper periphery.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

39mm, blue and orange with white center.

p. *Obv.*: Gold and black numeral "100" in lower half, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO; blue, crescent-shaped filigree around "100." Ivory sphere in upper half.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

39mm, orange plastic.

q. *Obv.*: Script initials "MC" enclosed in incuse, circular border.

Rev.: "100" enclosed in incuse, circular border.

36mm, mother-of-pearl with gold.

Possibly a token of the Casino of Menton, France, which began operating in the 1930's.

11. 500 francs

f. *Obv.*: Numeral "500" within elaborate border.

Rev.: Interlaced "MC" within an inner circle of alternating diamonds and dots and an outer circle of stars.

30mm, silver. Dated 1894.

g. *Obv.*: Numeral "500" above "SBM" on elaborate silver filigreed, semicircular overlay.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

42 x 62mm (oval), maroon (not pictured).

h. *Obv.*: Numeral "500" on silver filigreed, oval overlay.

Rev.: Interlaced "SCI" (for International Sporting Club) on silver filigreed, oval overlay.

45 x 67mm (oval), beige.

Piece bears counterstamp in the form of a crescent moon.

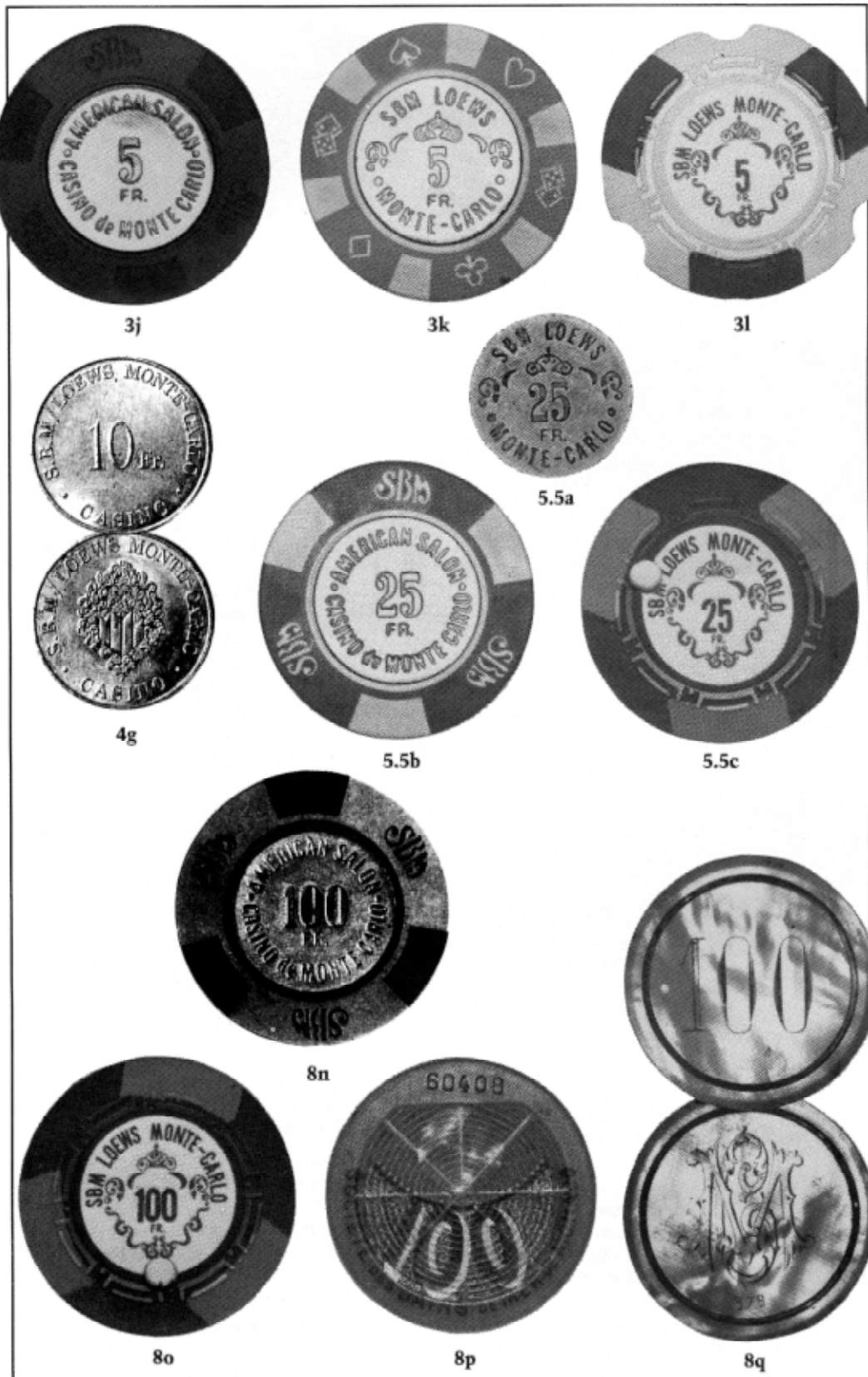
12. 1,000 francs

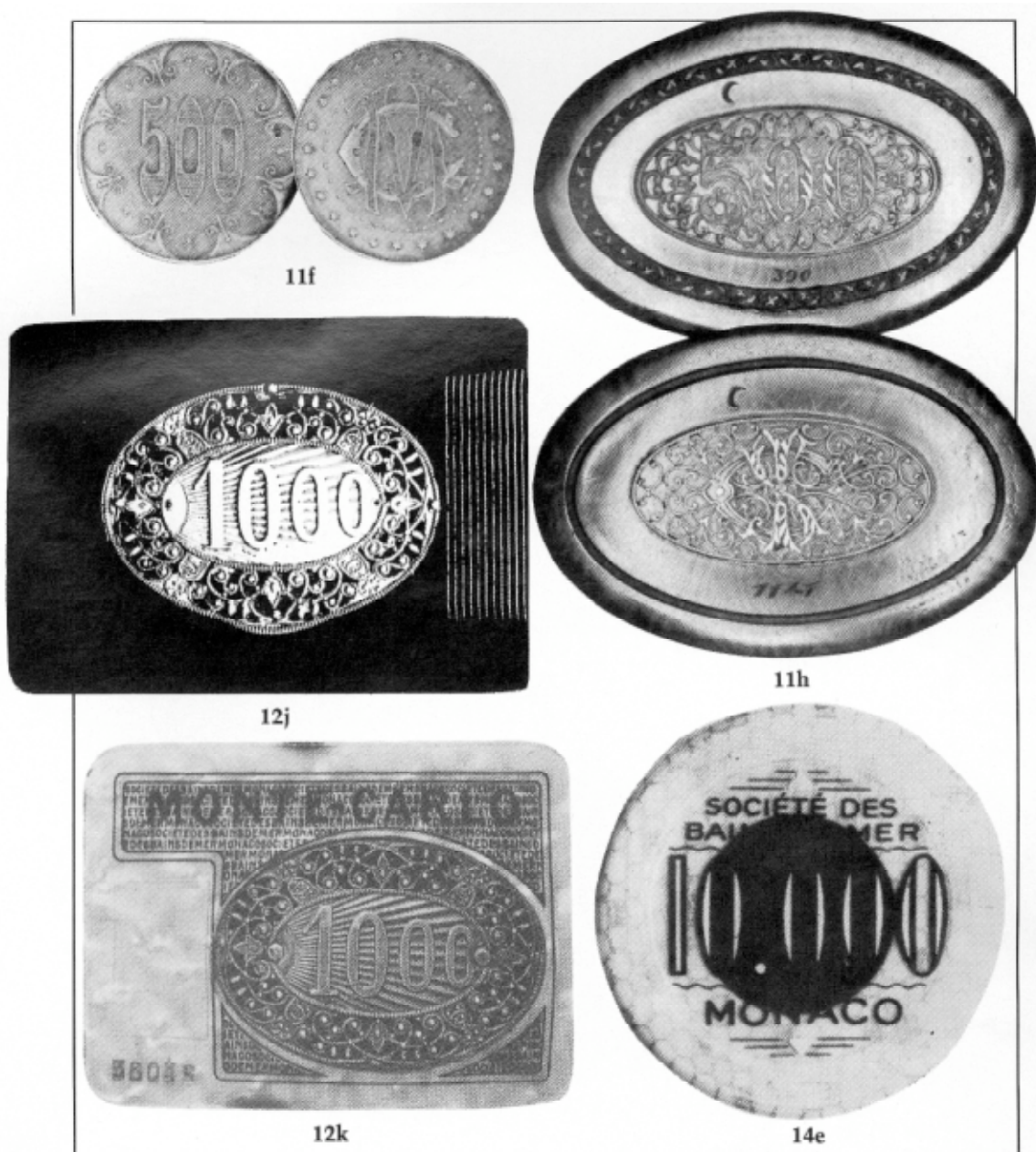
j. *Obv.*: Numeral "1000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

49 x 69mm (rectangular), crimson.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.





k. Obv.: Numeral "1000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay on continuous background of SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO, with large MONTE-CARLO in red lettering above.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

49 x 66mm (rectangular), pearly white.

Textured rectangle at bottom left for placement of security stamp.

13. 5,000 francs

f. Obv.: Numeral "5000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

43 x 76mm (rectangular), baby pink (not pictured).

14. 10,000 francs

e. Obv.: Numeral "10.000," with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

54mm, golden emerald.