

## Count Rudolf von Normann–Ehrenfels’s Numismatic Collection

Noble families would affirm their prestige with various collections, and noblemen would often compete regarding the value and number of items in their collections, and they would acquire most of their material, aside from family heirloom and travel, at auctions held at European capitals like Vienna. The von Normann-Ehrenfels family was no exception to the collecting practices.

The collection arrived at the Museum of Slavonia in an interesting way, because, according to the records, Count Rudolf von Normann-Ehrenfels was not even aware of the Museum’s existence. (...) *Dr Firinger reported that Count Rudolf Normann from Valpovo would possibly be willing to donate his money collection, with about 50 ducats, to the City Museum, even though his original intent was to donate this collection to the Numismatic Society in Zagreb, which he founded. Count Normann expressed the desire to visit the museum because he was not aware of its existence, so when he visits Osijek, he will be welcomed and a bound Zbornik will be presented to him as a gift.*<sup>1</sup>

It is obvious that the gentlemen from the Archaeological Club “Mursa” left a good impression with Count Rudolf because he donated his collection to the Museum, through the mentioned society, which we discovered from the following text: *The president reported that Count Rudolf Normann st. from Valpovo became a patron of our society and the city museum by donating to the city museum, through our society, his extraordinarily valuable collection of money, therefore we propose to make him an honorary member according to the regulations, which is accepted unanimously.*<sup>2</sup>

This enables us to follow the journey of the Collection to the ownership of the Museum further. The records themselves, as well as the Donation Certificate, clearly show that each step taken in the handover of this Collection has been precisely arranged. This enables us to conclude two facts about Count Rudolf as a collector. Count Rudolf, as well as any other well-off collector at the time, was exceptionally attached and proud of its Collection, and for the purpose of its keeping, he had two cases, made for the occasion. These two facts can be confirmed by the following text: *Dr Firinger submitted the donation certificate from Count Rudolf Normann st. from 20/2/1940, by which he donated to the City Museum, through our society, his collection with over 200 pieces of mostly rare*

*or highly valuable money, 60 of which are gold coins. According to the donation certificate, the collection must be managed by a special committee of curators consisting of: One representative of the city, two representatives of Mursa, and one member of the Franciscan monastery, because it is also establishing its church museum. The collection itself, stored in two specially commissioned cases, is now sealed in the Jugošiht vault.*<sup>3</sup>

Everything has been clearly determined, and the committee of curators will be taking special care of the Collection. In the Donation Certificate, Count Rudolf himself determined the members and the authority of the committee of curators to be founded, which was to manage the Collection, so we can read the specifics about the committee of curators in the following quote from two Minutes, as well as the specifics about the decision of the Osijek City Council to accept Count Rudolf’s collection for the City Museum: *Blažeković, the president, and Dr Firinger, the secretary, are appointed as the representatives of Mursa, and it is decided that they should, along with the vice-president, as soon as possible, visit Commissioner Vukovac and hand the donation certificate to him, as well as take all possible steps to make sure that the City appoints their representative as soon as possible, so that the collection can be accepted and stored immediately. It would be better to place it in the vault of Gradska štedionica, where the gold coins and the rare items should also be placed, which are currently located in the museum, in the treasurer’s chest, which is certainly not very secure against burglary. The vice-president will write a report for the newspapers about this donation, and this collection, along with the other rarities and with appropriate advertising, will eventually be displayed for the public in the museum. (...) The decision of the City Council Osijek on the acceptance of Count Normann’s collection for the City Museum is read and the senator Mr Trbojević is appointed as a member of the committee of curators.*<sup>4</sup>

During the following months, we can follow the handover procedure of the Collection to the City Museum further. *Regarding these minutes, it is decided that the handover of Count Normann’s money collection to the City Museum must be conducted during the current month, therefore, the company Šiht will address the City Council. The Collection will be stored in the safe of Gradska štedionica. During the handover, inventory will be verified and then the curator*

*will write a piece for the newspapers in Osijek and beyond about the collection.*<sup>5</sup>

*Regarding these minutes, it is reported that the handover of Count Normann’s money collection to the City Museum will be conducted during the current month.*<sup>6</sup>

The last Minutes that mention this Collection are dated 5 November 1940, so we could conclude that the Collection was handed over to the City museum in late 1940, but due to the war looming over the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, it was handed over to the City Museum, i.e. the Museum of Slavonia at the time, after the Second World War.<sup>7</sup>

The Collection contains 252 items, of which money from Classical Antiquity (86), Middle Ages and Modern Period money (142), medals and plaques (24).<sup>8</sup> This collection had great significance for the Count, which can clearly be seen from the text of the Donation Certificate for the donation of his collection to the Museum. The details that the Count expressly states in his donation certificate confirm this: (...) *my family has been connected to the history of Slavonia for the last over 200 years, i.e. since 1721. With the desire to preserve the memory for future generations about the affection of my ancestors, barons Prandau and counts Normann, and to document our true and genuine affection to Slavonia and the neighbouring city of Osijek, I decided to donate, through the society of friends of antiquity Mursa in Osijek, for the Osijek City Museum, my select collection of numismatics, which I collected for several decades. Furthermore, the collection, which will be called “Rudolf Normann’s Collection”, must be fully displayed in the City Museum of Osijek and it must not be separated.*<sup>9</sup>

The two specialised leather numismatic cases that Count Rudolf had made for his collection add more significance to it. In her analysis of this collection, our colleague Hermine Göricke-Lukić determined the following: *The oldest items in the Collection are Roman coins, including: republican 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, Claudius (41-54 AD), Domitian (81- 96), Antoninus Pius (138-161); Hadrian (117-138). The Collection has special meaning because of the gold coins and medals that the Normann Prandau family won (for agricultural cultures) at world and international exhibitions: London 1862; Budapest 1885, Zagreb 1864, Pecs 1888. The oldest among the gold coins are: form the age of Gratian (367-383) and Justinian I (527-565), and the most numerous are from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.*<sup>10</sup>

Count Rudolf’s collection is varied and divided into four groups: Classical Antiquity money, Medieval money, Modern Period money, medals and plaques. Due to the complexity of the collection, the material presented in this selection has been divided into two thematic units: the selection of medals relevant for Croatian history and the selection of medals and money of important political reformers.

Medals in this collection are very interesting, even though it is clear that Count Rudolf did not have a particular plan for their collection, most of

these medals are nevertheless related to the area close to us or the area of today’s Croatia. So this selection includes the medal *Liberation of Hungary and Slavonia* (cat. no. 135, MSO) awarded to Prince Eugene of Savoy and commissioned by Emperor Leopold I, which can be seen from the inscription at the obverse side of the medal.

Obverse, LEOPOLDVS MAGNUS ROM. IMP. P.P. Bust of Leopold I without armour, in profile, to the right, with a wig over his chest. Sign. G.H.

Reverse, seven oval medallions with cities liberated from the Turks: POSEGA/ESSECK/WALPO/ PETERWARDEIN/PALOTTA/ERLA. Inscription on the ribbon: SCHLACHT BEI SICKLOS. In the middle WERMEHREER DES REICHS.

H. G. L. / B. M.

The medal *Ban Josip Jelačić – The Fall of Vienna and the Victory at Schwechat* from the tumultuous years of the *Spring of Nations* is also a part of the Collection, honouring Ban Josip Jelačić, as a memorial to the fall of Vienna and the victory at Schwechat in 1848 (cat. no. 140, MSO), the medal was made by a Viennese medal maker Thomas Rabausch, the master of fine description and clear symbolism.<sup>11</sup>

Obverse, the bust of Ban Josip Jelačić in uniform. Inscription in a double circle: JOSEPH FREIHERR VJELLACJICH BANUS V. KROATIEN/ GEBOREND 16. OKTOBER 1801

Reverse, two headed eagle hovering with two snakes over Vienna and Budapest. FUR RAISERGESETZ. U. GLEICHBERECHTIGUNG. D. NATIONALITAETEN

H. G. L.

The medal *Opening of the University in Zagreb* from 1874 is also interesting, (cat. no. 136, MSO) which commemorates this important event in our history. It is made by the medal maker Wilhelm Mayer, and it is minted in the famous forge in the city of Kremnica.

Obverse, a young woman in the field personifies science, she is in front and holding a torch and the coat of arms of the triune kingdom. In the bottom a signature: M.V.-K.R. Inscription in the ring: DOCTRINAE LV MEN- GENTIVM VIGOR.

Reverse, a horizontal inscription in thirteen lines in the wreath: REGNANTE / FRANCISCO JOSEPHO I / BANTVM TENENTE / JOANNE MAŽURANIĆ / VNIVERSITAS LITTERARVM CROATICA / AVCTORE / EPPO J. G. STROSSMAYER / POPVLI OPIBVS CONDITA / A REGIS NOMINE APPELLATA / SOLEMNITER INAGVRATA / ZAGRABIAE / A.D. XIV. KAL. NOV. / MDCCCLXXIV

The collection also contains the medal *Anniversary Economy-Forestry Exhibition in Zagreb* from 1891 (cat. no.141, MSO) by Josip Radković, a medal maker who opened his own workshop in 1881, which became the largest in Croatia.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p.186.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p.188.

<sup>7</sup> Old collection b.b. Collection handed over by the donor for the Museum to the society “Mursa” 1939/1940 (see Donation Certificate). And in 1941 stored in the bank safe by prof. Buntak. Turned over to the Museum of Slavonia by Komunalna banka after World War II.

(Entry book of the Museum of Slavonia, book no. 8, from 1983 to 1988, no. 14831/a)

<sup>8</sup> Dr. sc. Hermine Göricke-Lukić, in the text Description of the Content of the Collection for Registration at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, was the first to organise this collection during her many years of service at the Numismatics Department of the Museum of Slavonia, and she registered it as a museum collection. This paper was created as an annex to her research and the organisation of the material in this museum collection.

<sup>9</sup> From the Donation Certificate of Count Rudolf 1939/40.

<sup>10</sup> According to dr. sc. Hermine Göricke-Lukić and the mentioned text Description of the Contents of the Collection.

<sup>11</sup> According to Göricke-Lukić, H. Medalje i plakete iz zbirke Muzeja Slavonije Osijek 15.–20. stoljeće : katalog izložbe. Osijek : Muzej Slavonije,1994., p. 23.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 23–24.

<sup>1</sup> Arheološki klub „Mursa“ : Zapisnici sa sjednica 1933-1944. Grubišić, A. (prir.). Osijek : Muzej Slavonije, 2005., p. 169.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p.175.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p.182–183.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 185.

Obverse, Coats of Arms of Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slavonia with a crown. Inscription in the ring: JUBILARNA GOSPODARSKA ŠUMARSKA IZLOŽBA U ZAGREBU 1891.

Reverse, a crop farmer sitting on a plough and holding a scythe. A horse and a sheep behind him. Inscription in the ring: USPOMENA NA 50 GODIŠNJICU HRV. SLAV. GOSP DRUŠTVA 1891. Sign: RADKOVIĆ H. G. L.

Many medals were minted during the Great War. They were minted as propaganda (commemorating some generals, battles), as well as humanitarian for aid (widows, the wounded)<sup>13</sup>. There is also a posthumous memorial medal from the Great War in Count Rudolf's collection. It is the medal *IN MEMORIAM Franz Ferdinand and Sophie*, (28 June 1914) (cat. no. 138, MSO). The author of the medal is R. Bachmann, who was very respected at the time and who made many medals with themes from the Great War.

Obverse, busts of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este and Countess Sophie Chotek, Duchess of Hohenberg.

Reverse, personal coats of arms of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este and Countess Sophie Chotek, Duchess of Hohenberg, in the leaf ornaments. In the bottom middle, the date of the assassination 28. VI. 1914.

H. G. L. / B. M.

Justinian I, Byzantine Emperor, Frederick III the Wise of Saxony, Elector of Saxony, and Vincenzo Gioacchino Pecci, aside from the fact that all of them enacted important reforms during their term and are remembered for it, are mentioned here together because their money and a medal are in the Count Rudolf von Norman-Ehrenfels's collection.

A gold coin from the 6<sup>th</sup> century depicting the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I (527 – 565), a great lawmaker and reformer. (cat. no. 127, MSO) Justinian commissioned the construction of the famous Hagia Sofia, strengthened the bonds between the Church and state (which will be even more visible later, especially in the structural organisation of Orthodox churches), and was a tough opponent of Arianism. We owe the foundations of our current laws to his famous Corpus juris Civilis.

Obverse, DN IVSTINI - ANVS PP AVG. Emperor's bust with a helmet, in armour, facing forward, holding a cross.

Reverse, VICTORI - (A)AVGGG. Aa angel standing upright holding a labarum and an apple with a cross.

In the segment: CONOB. In the space to the right, a star.

H. G. L.

Somewhat less than one thousand years after the Emperor Justinian I, during the (Protestant) reformation started by Martin Luther, Frederick

III the Wise of Saxony had an important role. He was Luther's protector and under his protection Luther translated the New Testament, and later also the books of the Old Testament.

*Groschen of Frederick III and Luther's translation of the Bible*

*Mt 22:19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius*

*Mt 22:19 Weiset mir die Zinsmünze! Und sie reichten ihm einen Groschen dar.*

When Martin Luther translated this line from Greek, in his translation to German he used *die Zinsmünze!* (*tax money*), and further in the translation *einen Groschen*, which refers to the groschen used to pay taxes, just like Frederick III's groschen. (cat. no. 131, MSO)

Obverse, the elector coat of arms with a mantle in the middle, two crossed swords on the shield of the coat of arms. A knight's helmet above the shield. Circular inscription on the edge: FRI ○ IO ○ GE ○ D ○ G ○ DVCES ○ SAXsign of the cross

Reverse, the coat of arms of Saxony with a helmet in the middle, positioned vertically. Circular inscription on the edge: GROSSVS ○ NOVVS ○ DVCVM ○ SAXORI<sup>14</sup>

The medal of Bishop Vincenzo Gioacchino Pecci<sup>15</sup> (1810 – 1903), later more known as Pope Leo XIII is especially interesting. This medal commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appointment of Gioacchino Vincenzo Pecci as the titular bishop<sup>16</sup> of the city of Tamiathis (todayDumyat(Damietta)) in northern Egypt.In 1846, Vincenzo Gioacchino Peccibecame the bishop of Perugia with the title of archbishop, and in 1853 Pope Pius IX appointed him as a cardinal. Vincenzo Gioacchino Pecci was elected pope at the conclave in 1878 and he took the name Leo XIII. He is one of the first *modern* popes, and he is certainly most famous for his encyclicalRerum Novarum.

This medal from his first post as a bishop (cat. br. 139, MSO) was exceptionally significant to him, so he entrusted its creation to Friedrich Leisek, a Viennese medal maker who also worked in Italy. Leisek also made many state and imperial medals, including some for Franz Joseph I himself.This medal, which was minted in Vienna, is very rare<sup>17</sup>, and it features exceptional reliefs that emphasize each individual detail.

Obverse, a profile of a bust of the Pope Leo XIII. Inscription on the edge: LEO XIII. 1843.-1893.

Reverse, a laurel wreath along the edge. Inscription in the centre:

LEO XIII / SVMMVS PONTIFEX / EPISCOPATVS. / LUSTRUM.X  
PERAGENS / TOTO.ORBE / CATHOLICO / APPLAUDENTE

H. G. L. / B. M.

<sup>13</sup> Mare: Šarinić, M. Prvi svjetski rat – medalje i plakete. Numizmatičke vijesti 67(2014), Zagreb, 119–153.

<sup>14</sup> Groschen (European medieval coin – this coin is type of German State Saxony (B.M.)) determined by analogy (version I-4337): Levinson, R. A. The Early Dated Coins of Europe 1234-1500, The Coin and Currency Institute Inc., Clifton, NJ, USA, 2007., str. 97.

<sup>15</sup> Leon XIII. (Leo XIII. B.M.) (actual name Vincenzo Gioacchino Pecci), pope from 1878 to 1903 (*Capireto Romano, 21/11/1810 – Roma, 20/VII/1903*). The first pope without secular authority, he attempted to bring the Church up to date with the modern times, especially through numerous encyclicals (relationship between the Church and state, religion and science, social issues). He banned priests,as well as religious people in Italy, from politics. In his encyclical *Of New Things (Rerum novarum, 1891)* he presented the Catholic position on the issue of labour and initiated the development of Catholic social science. He was the proponent of the renewal of Neo-Scholasticism and exegesis. He opened the Vatican archives to historians regardless of their confession or world view. For the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of the work of St Cyril and Methodius, he issued the encyclical *Special Duty (Grande munus, 1880)*. URL: http://www.enciklopedija.hr/natuknica.aspx?id=36048(2/3/2018)

<sup>16</sup> Titular bishop–the bishop of a bishopric of the Catholic Church that no longer exists. As the title suggests, the titular bishop only has the title, because his bishopric does not have a territory. Such titles are usually granted to the members of the Roman Curia for the purpose of honouring the tradition and hierarchy (of advancement) within the Catholic Church. Such is also the case with the bishopric of the city of Tamiathis (Damietta) which has officially stopped being a part of the Catholic Church in the 13th century, but it was renewed as a titular bishopric in the 17th century. Gioacchino Vincenzo Pecci was appointed as the 14th titular (arch)bishop of Tamiathis (27 January1843-19 January1846) so he could be a nuncio in the Kingdom of Belgium, and later, as a bishop in Perugia, he can hold the title of archbishop, so he was appointed as a cardinal in 1853. URL: https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naslovni\_biskup\_(2/3/2018) (This footnote explained and edited by B.M.)

<sup>17</sup> URL: http://numismatica-italiana.lamoneta.it/moneta/W-AE1116/43(2/3/2018)