

ÉREMKINCSEK: A MAGYAR NEMZETI MÚZEUM KINCSEI. By *Katalin B. Sey* and *István Gedai*. Budapest: Magyar Helikon and Corvina, 1972. 42 pp. + 82 plates. 84 Ft.

In text and pictures this volume presents a selection of the most exquisite and rare pieces from the approximately 250,000 items of the Medal Cabinet of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest. In choosing the show pieces from the huge medal collection of the museum, founded 170 years ago by Count Ferenc Széchenyi with the donation of his library and collection of medals, the authors had a hard task indeed. Many rare specimens are not spectacular ones; on the other hand, some gorgeous coins cannot be regarded as rarities. In outlining the development and enrichment of the medal collection, the authors decided to choose the outstanding items of the major collections, finds, and other sources. Besides giving numismatic data, they discuss the origins of the coins and their history before becoming part of the Medal Cabinet.

Information about the development of the collection is followed by an exact description of the coins, presenting them in chronological order along with necessary numismatic data, such as dimensions, weight, and bibliography. Finally, the plates show the coins in enlargements and in some detail pictures. Altogether eighty-two coins are dealt with, beginning with one from Lydia from the sixth century B.C., and followed by other ancient, medieval, and modern coins and medals. The sequence ends with the unique proof mint of a metal coin designed at the time of the Hungarian Soviet Republic (1919). All specimens are worthy to be the treasured possessions of any numismatic collection. The gold medals of Maximianus Herculus, the Roman stamped gold bars, the hundred-ducat gold coin of Mihály Apafi, and the Saint George medal of the same weight—to mention only a few outstanding pieces—are unique copies indeed, but all the coins presented are well worth including for one reason or another.

In displaying such choice material it is inevitable that numismatists or collectors will emphasize pieces in their own line. Apart from this subjective point of view, no objection can be made to the choice of coins here. Such a huge collection as the Hungarian National Museum's Medal Cabinet could yield material for a couple more similar publications; however, the size of the book was limited, and the medals chosen are without exception outstanding.

All things considered, the booklet renders an important service in introducing the collection of the Budapest Medal Cabinet. All over the world, coin collections are put under lock and key; thus a popularizing booklet such as this one throws light on at least one valuable set of locked treasures.

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INDUSTRIA DIN ROMÂNIA ÎN A DOUA JUMĂTATE A SECOLULUI AL XIX-LEA: DESPRE STADIILE PREMERGĂTOARE INDUSTRIEI MECANIZATE. By *G. Zane*. Academia de științe sociale și politice a Republicii Socialiste România, Institutul de cercetări economice, Biblioteca istorică 24. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1970. 239 pp. Lei 17.50.

The purpose of this book is to offer a comprehensive and detailed survey of Rumanian industrial development during the second half of the nineteenth century.