

Gerard VAN LOON

MEDALLIC HISTORY OF THE LOW COUNTRIES

(1555-1716)

VOLUME 1: 1555 – 1602

Translation directed by

John SAUNDERS
Hugo VANHOUDT

NEW PUBLICATION:

MEDALLIC HISTORY OF THE LOW COUNTRIES (1555-1716)

by **GERARD VAN LOON**

English translation directed by John Saunders and Hugo Vanhoudt

Dear Numismatist, dear Dealer, dear Collector,

The set of four volumes of our new publication **MEDALLIC HISTORY OF THE LOW COUNTRIES** tells the history of the Low Countries for the period 1555 – 1716, documented by medals, jetons and coins.

The nature of the Van Loon books is iconic. We can think of no other books in the field of Numismatics, or any other discipline or science, where the leading reference books are nearly 300 years old and still in active current use. This is not only unprecedented but actually amazing. These volumes are so remarkable and important to both Numismatists and Historians that the original printing from the 1720's are indeed still in regular use.

Today, we present you the English translation of the original Dutch version in 4 volumes with full respect to all original drawings as they are each a piece of art. In addition we have added separately full color plates with medals, jetons and coins as they appear in the books.

In an effort to make these books available to the largest audience possible, we have deliberately priced them well below other comparable publications in the field. **The price for the total set of 4 volumes (1800 pages and full color plates) is only 160 euro or 200 USD (in USA).**

In annex you may find an overview of some pages of these books as examples.

Information:

Set of 4 volumes (size A4) with additional illustrations (plates)

Volume 1: period 1555-1602; introduction + 447 p. + 48 full color plates.

Volume 2: period 1602-1667; 409 p. + 40 full color plates.

Volume 3: period 1667-1691; 380 p. + 20 full color plates.

Volume 4: period 1691-1716; 438 p. + 21 full color plates.

Price: 160 euro for one set of 4 volumes, exclusive costs of packaging & postage.

Language: English

Size: A4 format, 29,7 x 21,0 cm)

Hardcover (red cloth, white lettering)

ISBN: 978-1-7356598-0-0

FREE PRE-SUBSCRIPTION:

As we will organize the printing by the mid of January 2020 we would appreciate your pre-subscription to this numismatic publication. As soon as the books are available we will inform you for the payment. Contacts for the pre-subscription by mail are:

Hugo Vanhoudt : vanhoudt.hugo@gmail.com

or John Saunders: John@spcnb.com

Thanks and best regards

John Saunders and Hugo Vanhoudt

Gerard VAN LOON

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Hugo VANHOUDT

Los Angeles, U.S.A.

2020

RAISON D'ÊTRE

This French phrase basically means “reason to be.” I think a brief explanation of why Hugo Vanhoudt and myself undertook this project is in order.

The nature of the Van Loon books is iconic. I can think of no other books in the field of Numismatics, or any other discipline or science, where the leading reference books are nearly 300 years old and still in active current use. This is not only unprecedented but actually amazing. These volumes are so remarkable and important to both Numismatists and Historians that the original printing from the 1720's are indeed still in regular use.

Our primary purpose is to bring these great works to a larger audience. For many of the people who do not have a reading ability of 18th-century Dutch or French, this makes this wonderful series of four (in Dutch) or five (in French) volumes accessible to a whole new group of people, particularly those in Germany, Spain, the America's and the Far East, as the history of many European countries was influenced by the Dutch political and economical struggle and then power in the 1550-1715's. This is also particularly important to the people of Indonesia whose numismatic history and their history in general is implicitly tied to those of the Low Countries and the VOC in particular.

In addition to these books' value to Numismatics, they are extremely valuable to historians as they are a great reference to how people of the Low Countries saw themselves and their history in the early 1700's.

Whenever I use the current Van Loon books, I open them on a large table and carefully thumb through the pages, careful not to damage a historic and valuable artifact. I would not dare to make notes in them any more than I would add collector numbers to my medals, as was sometimes done in the past. These new volumes are designed to be annotated. Collectors can record the appearance of medals at auction and prices realized, and any other information they would like to add. These books are printed on a standard A4 format with all original drawings and additional separate plates with color pictures. They are much easier to transport to coin shows, collector meetings, and auctions. If we note the collectors are actually using these books, we will feel we have accomplished our goal.

In an effort to make these books available to the largest audience possible, we have deliberately priced them well below other comparable publications in the field. The original 18th-century volumes sell for € 2,000–3,000 for a complete set, which still seems a bargain to us. Despite the costs and many hours of effort, Hugo and I are delighted to make these available at a modest premium to the cost of printing and a fraction of the cost of the original volumes. We are in hopes that this stimulates interest in this field and that we are able to share some of the pleasures that we have had using these books to further our collection endeavors.

Finally, we wish to say that it is our incredible honor to publish the English translation of this iconic work after nearly 300 years of current usage.

John SAUNDERS

Orange County, CA, USA

Hugo VANHOUDT

Leuven, Belgium

January 1, 2021



Wat lof, wat loon, VAN LOON zal Nederland best schenken,
 Om uw uyt-muntendt Werk van Munten, te gedenken?
 Het wyde u in zyn hert een prachtige Eeren-tempel,
 En drukk' dit Borst-beeldt op den gevel met zyn stempel.
 Zo kan VAN LOON, tot loon van zyn roem-ruchtig schryven,
 In Neerlands dankbaar hert met eerbiedt leevendt blyven.
J. GOOREE.



1555·9

On the second obverse: the armored bust of Philip II to the left wearing the order of the Golden Fleece to the left, and the legend PHILIPPVS DEI GRATIA ET CAROLI V. AVGVSTI PATRIS BENIGNITATE HISPANIARVM REX = *PHILIP BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE GENEROSITY OF CHARLES V, HIS ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER, KING OF SPAIN.*

On the second reverse: same as the previous medal.



1555·10

On the third obverse: the armored and laureate head of Philip's father and the legend IMPERATOR CAESAR CAROLVS V AVGVSTVS = *EMPEROR CHARLES V ILLUSTRIOUS RULER.*

On the third reverse: the armored bust of Philip II to the left and the legend PHILIPPVS HISPANIARVM ET NOVI ORBIS OCCIDENTALIS REX = *PHILIP KING OF SPAIN AND THE NEW WESTERN WORLD.* Charles V had by now abdicated all his European kingdoms and foreign territories, with the exception of the Empire, and transferred those to his son.

AFTER ABDICATING THESE SPANISH KINGDOMS, emperor Charles had nothing left but his Empire; because of that, he had decided to soon cross to Spain with the fleet, that was equipped in his service in Zealand, and in order to quietly spend the rest of his life in a monastery, free from all worldly grandeur on an income of 100,000 crowns per year, he released the Empire's and his own last worth on January 17th, 1556, and let William, prince of Orange, give the crown, scepter and other state sigils of that royal wealth to Ferdinand his brother; and then he left to Spain. In the beginning of the same year, the new king, who had received these lands together with war, signed a treaty with the French king through mediation of cardinal Polus, who had been sent as first ambassador to the Crown of England by the pope, and who subsequently, according to the appeal by Parliament, released the entire kingdom of the previously

commanded papal excommunication, in the presence of both Royalty (who had been brought there together with king Philip). This had happened after the suppression of the violent rebellion of Thomas Wyatt and the duke of Suffolk and their supporters, who had tried to put Jane Grey, the duke's daughter, on the throne of England in order to preserve the Reformed religion and so that the kingdom would not be subjugated to the Spaniard through Mary's marriage. However, because the attack failed, Thomas Wyatt and Henry Grey had to pay for the committed crime – and Jane Grey for her assistance – with their heads, while the other supporters were punished with other penalties. Thus, the following five medals were struck, both for the extermination of the rebels and for the reintroduction of the catholic faith; the first four were for Philip's glory, while the last was in the honor of his wife.

FRANCIÆ, NEAPOLIS, PRINCEPS HISPANIARUM = *PHILIP KING OF ENGLAND, FRANCE, NAPLES, PRINCE OF SPAIN.*

On the fourth reverse: the inscription FIDEI DEFENSOR = *PROTECTOR OF THE FAITH* within a laurel wreath.



1556·5

On the fifth obverse: the bust of his spouse shrouded in the contemporary head adornment to the left, and the legend MARIA I. REGINA ANGLIÆ, FRANCIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ FIDEI DEFENSATRIX = *MARY I QUEEN OF ENGLAND, FRANCE AND IRELAND, PROTECTOR OF THE FAITH.*

On the fifth reverse: Philip's spouse crowned and seated on a stone rock, where she, lit by a heavenly light, seems to uphold the scales of justice; because while the left hand burns the weapons of the rebels with a punishing torch, her right hand offers the olive and palm branch of mercy to the converted renegades. Those unwilling, however, find themselves affected by severe plagues from the Heavens as punishment for their stubbornness. This all with the legend CECIS VISVS TIMIDIS QUIES = *THE BLIND THE SIGHT, THE FEARFUL THE PEACE.*

WITH THE RECEPTION OF THE SPANISH and Indian powers Philip, in the ascension and bloom of his youth, rose to the highest levels of regard; celebrated by his own, and feared by all European Powers. That is why all tried to insure themselves of his affection, rather than his strife, by sending formal ambassadors, who greeted him with messages about his promotion and the new in-

crease in his greatness. Soon his name and new titles of honor were used everywhere in formal documents and at random; the old seal was broken, and his was introduced, and his coat of arms and the titles of his newly gained rule were rendered on medals and tokens: which is shown in the many medals that remain us from that time, and which I put forth only here as proof of that change.



1556·6

On the obverse: the armored bust of Philip II to the right, and the legend PHILIPPVS II DEI GRATIA HISPANIARVM REX = *PHILIPS II BY THE GRACE OF GOD KING OF SPAIN.*

On the reverse: his crowned coat of arms composed of the governed and transferred states between 15 – 55, and the Spanish legend GITONES DEL BVREAV DE SV MAGESTAD = *TOKENS OF THE CHAMBER OF FINANCES OF HIS MAJESTY.*

PLATE I·III



1559·11



1559·12



1559·13



1559·19



1559·20



1559·24



1559·29





PLATE I·XIII



1573·5a



1573·5b



1573·5c



1573·5d



1573·5e



1573·5g



1573·6



1573·8



1573·9



1573·10



1573·14



1573·16



1573·22



1573·23



1573·24