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French Coins Added to PCGS Pop Report, Next PCGS Paris Grading Week Set for April 11 - 15, 2011

(Paris, France) – The resounding success of the new Professional Coin Grading Service Paris Office has prompted a welcomed expansion of the PCGS Population Report to now include French coins. There has also been confirmation that some PCGS-certified French coins are commanding significantly higher prices in the marketplace compared to similar but uncertified coins.

“The PCGS Population Report (<http://www.pcg.com/pop/default.aspx?t=2>) has added four distinct categories of French coinage: Les Monnaies Royales, Les Monnaies Constitution & Convention, Les Monnaies Décimales and les Essais & Piéforts. Commemoratives and modern Euro coins also will be added,” said Don Willis, President of PCGS, a division of Collectors Universe, Inc. (NASDAQ: CLCT).

Michael Sherman of PCGS, who set up the new French coin categories immediately prior to the most recent PCGS Paris Grading Week, March 7 - 11, 2011, explained: “The logical grouping of French coins into these categories will make it easy for anyone to use. It’s part of PCGS’ expanding involvement in world coins.”

“We are seeing great rare coins and the emergence of a strong market for graded coins in Europe and at European auctions. The new French Population Report is added tremendous information that until now was not easily accessible to French coin collectors in Europe and all around the world,” said Muriel Eymery, PCGS Director of International Business Development and Manager of the Paris Office.



Dublin-based dealer Jerome Lacroix holding the finest known 1921 French 5 centimes, PCGS MS64 Red, and PCGS Co-Founder David Hall at the March 2011 PCGS Paris Grading Week.

“The PCGS Grading Center in Paris has created new opportunities for our European dealers and collectors to show the rarity and diversity of their coinages. They are spreading the word worldwide. The number of coins we grade each visit continues to increase and the positive feedback we receive is overwhelming,” Eymery added.

The next PCGS Paris Grading Week for PCGS Authorized Dealers in the European Union is scheduled for April 11 - 15, 2011.

PCGS Co-Founder and Collectors Universe President David Hall personally met with PCGS Authorized Dealers from across Europe during the March PCGS Paris Grading Week. They talked about the current rare coin marketplace in Europe and the importance of third-party grading.

Hall believes the European numismatic marketplace now is showing the same trends as the U.S. market did when third-party grading was becoming accepted. “The more you tell (about your coins), the more you sell,” he explained to the dealers in Paris. He emphasized the key role PCGS plays in providing important information for dealers and collectors as well as bringing added confidence and liquidity to the market.

Among the coins certified in March by PCGS in Paris were:

- 1889-A 5 Francs Flanc Bruni graded PCGS PR65 that was brought in by Numisaisne of Paris (<http://www.monnaie-de-collection.com/>). There are only 30 to 40 known examples with none graded higher.
- 1864-T 50 Lira graded PCGS Genuine. A very rare coin with perhaps only about 100 examples known.
- 1894 100 Francs gold type Génie struck at the Paris Mint. Graded PCGS MS62, this coin has a mintage of only 143 and this example is tied for the second highest graded by PCGS. It was immediately sold by Saive Numismatique (<http://www.saivenumismatique.com/>) at a very significant premium over the Krause-Mishler catalogue value. It is listed in KM at US\$10,000 in MS62, but brought €15,000, about US\$21,000.



1889-A French 5 Francs: One of less than 40 known, this 1889-A 5 Franc Bruni was submitted by Numisaisne of Paris and certified PCGS PR65 (with none graded higher).

One of the returning PCGS Authorized Dealers, Alexandra Werling of Dutchman Numismatik (<http://www.franquinet.de/>) in Germany, described her experience submitting coins for grading in Paris: “Like the last time we participated with the services provided by PCGS, we are very satisfied and our customers are happy, too!”

Jerome Lacroix of the Dublin-based auction house International Coin Exchange Ltd. (<http://auction-ice.com/>) submitted a 1921 French 5 centimes that was graded PCGS MS64 Red. He stated: “I am very happy to grade my coins with PCGS, and the results are very satisfying.” He described the 1921 5 centimes as the finest known of its kind.

Other visitors included Eric and Stephane Palombo of Maison Palombo (www.maison-palombo.com). Eric said: “High-end European coin collectors are relying more and more on PCGS to grade their collections and single them out. This time, one of our clients, who probably owns one of the top three most beautiful collections of Bulgarian coinage, contacted us not only to start grading his collection with PCGS, but also to seek a pedigree so that the name of his collection could appear on the PCGS label.”

Coin collectors continue to see more PCGS-graded coins in international auctions. Among the examples is an Italian 1858 5 Lira graded PCGS MS62 that will be featured in the next live auction of Monnaies d’Antan (www.monnaiesdantan.com) on May 12 - 14, 2011 among 229 other PCGS-graded world coins.

To make an appointment for the next PCGS Paris Grading Week or to obtain more information, EU dealers can contact the Paris office at info@PCGSglobal.com or by calling Muriel Eymery at 33 (0) 1 40 20 09 94. Additional information about PCGS is available in English and other languages at www.PCGSglobal.com. For a list of PCGS Authorized Dealers in the EU, visit www.PCGS.com/dealers and click on the map to locate your country.