

THE LINDÉN COLLECTION

Åke Lindén (1927-2013)



Åke Lindén, who passed away on the 13th May 2013 at the age of 86, was a man of international stature having served for a number of years and eventually becoming Assistant General Director of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), now the World Trade Organisation.

He was born in Stockholm but grew up in Karlskoga where his father was a director at Bofors munitions works. After taking degrees in law and economics, he joined the Swedish Foreign Office and served in Paris, Rio and Frankfurt before moving to the GATT Secretariat in Geneva where he became the leading expert in the international trade systems.

Being a somewhat reserved, almost shy and certainly modest person, Åke was immediately popular with people from all walks of life. His regular driver's appreciation of the man was such that he described him as "the epitome of a true gentleman". After taking his pension in the mid-1990s when GATT became WTO, he became a political consultant and was employed by both the EU and the United Nations as well as individual countries including Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Jordan and Sri Lanka.

In his limited spare time Åke enjoyed spending time with his younger brother and sister and their families, as well as a circle of close friends. He also gave legal advice and financial support to various "good works" and charities freely, which was typical of the man.

It is a wonder that Åke ever found the time to devote to his coin collecting hobby, but time he did find, or make as the case may be, and what is more he went about it in the most methodical and single-minded fashion. One could say that he became a more accomplished numismatist than many fulltime professionals. As Åke travelled from country to country he realised that there were so many different local currencies and that is what inspired him to start collecting coins. His numismatic interests were not merely wide ranging, he actually set about collecting every type coin since 1850, as per the Yeoman catalogue, from every country in the world. Being the true collector that he was, Åke would consider any coin that was missing from his collection in whichever condition available. However, when it came to the very rarest items, he did not hesitate to acquire them in top condition at whatever the price. To this end, Åke even went so far as to purchase graded coins in plastic "slab" holders, which was anathema to him because he could not enjoy handling them in the same way he was used to with coins that were "free". Such coins included, for example, the Korean 20-Won and 5-Won of 1906 and 1908 as well as numerous Japanese and American gold coins. His German States gold and silver collection, which is about as complete as one would wish for, bears testament to the methodical way that he went about putting together his collection.

This auction includes several coins from the Lindén collection and these are all marked as such in the lot description footnote.

Some Highlights from the Collection:

China : Chihli Silver Pattern Tael, ex Jacobs collection; Kirin, 1884 7-Mace; ½-Tael, 3-Mace and 1-Mace; Kwangtung 7-Mace 3-Candareens; Ching Gold Tael, 1907, with small clouds

Costa Rica : Beautiful 20-Pesos, 1873

Ecuador : 8-Reales, 1846; 5-Francos, 1858; 4-Reales, 1862; large head 2-Reales, 1862; and the unique 2-Reales of 1857

German New Guinea : Gold 10-Marks and 20-Marks, 1895

Greece : Gold 100-Drachmas, 1876A, in superb condition

Guatemala : Splendid Gold 20-Pesos, 1878

Honduras : Gold 20-Pesos, 1883; 20 Pesos from 1888, 1897 and 1908; and the extremely rare Silver 5-Centavos of 1879

Italy : Gold 50- and 100-Lire, 1864; Silver 5-Lire, 1901; the shieldback 20-Centesimi, 1863; and the possibly unique Bronze 10-Cents of 1908

Japan : Gold Mutsuhito 20-Yen; Gold Hirohito 20-Yen and 5-Yen, all extremely rare

Mexico : Magnificent Gold 60-Pesos, 1916, of Oaxaca State

Romania : Gold Pattern 20-Lei, 1868

Russia : Gold 25-Roubles of 1876 and 1896; "Imperial" Gold 10-Roubles, 1897; and "Half Imperial" Gold 5-Roubles, 1895

South Africa : 1874B Burgers Pond; and 1902 Een Pond

Zanzibar : Gold 2½- and 5-Rials, AH 1299 (1881)