

Money, as we know it, has developed from a medium of Exchange, via coins, bills of credit and bank notes, to the invisible electronic money of today.

Even so, most people carry a couple of coins in their pocket, and all of these coins bear an image. Modern coins are the same decorated disks of metal that they were long ago, when their value was that of the precious metal from which they were made.

Besides their value as money, coins are also of historical significance: they were often struck to depict a ruler or monarch, to commemorate an event, or even to illustrate an idea. In this way, coins also functioned as a means of communication and as a record of history. Indeed, we can learn a lot about history by looking at coin collectors.

The design of coins and the production of the dies and stamps to strike them is the work of specialists and craftspeople. Some coins are works of art and now worth several hundred-fold their original value as coinage.

The national currency is a unifying element in a country, a collector's item, and a means of communication. A coin is a valuable object and is treasured. And the Mint is a source of national pride.

The introduction in 1999 of the euro for financial transactions and the three years before euro coins and bank notes are brought into circulation are important milestones in history. This step towards a united Europe is important not only from a financial perspective but also from a historical and cultural perspective.

EURO  **CHANGER**



The Euro-X-changer has been developed to commemorate this historical event. This special medaillon was designed by the well-known Dutch designer Willem Noyons. He has given the medaillon an extra function as 'calculator'. The middle part of the medaillon can be turned and, by making use of the two scales engraved on the outer ring, the value of a given number of euros can be read off in the 'old' coinage, which in this example is the Dutch guilder.

EURO  CHANGER



Didrachma, republic 220 BC
Janus, the Roman god who presided over doors and beginnings. The month January is named after this deity.



Roman coin, denarius.
AD 70-75.
Democracy: a citizen brings out his vote



A million D-marks, aluminium, Saxony 1923



Roman coin, the denarius, which was struck to commemorate the games held in honour of the thousand-year existence of the Roman Empire



Willem Noyons, master silversmith, designs and makes jewelry, glasswork, medaillons and sculptures. He established his workshop and studio in Utrecht in 1983. His work is characterized by the deceptive simplicity and purity of the design. He combines the perfectionism of traditional craftsmanship with state-of-the-art design and production techniques. He has worked for, among others, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KPN, Randstad, Utrecht Council and Province, Reaal Insurance, Rabobank and ING Group. Pieces of his work are included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Boymans van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam and the Glass Museum in Leerdam.

www.noyons.com



*'The introduction of the euro
-the currency of the European Union –
is a historical and cultural event'*



WILLEM NOYONS
UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS
WWW.NOYONS.COM

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