

Collection of Early 20th C. Christian Stamped Medals & Coins

I (**Judy Blackman**) have a particular fondness for Papal coins, medals, and accessories. At the July 2008 Waterloo Coin Society meeting I was quite delighted to find an unusual watch fob which had been made from a 1926 Chicago 29th International Eucharistic Congress medal. How very unusual, and beautiful! The ticket price read \$10 Cdn. and I gladly dug out the money only to in confusion to receive \$5 back. I was informed all the books of coins and medals were 50% off that night. When I enquired as to why, the response was "we need gas money to get home"! So a big smile went on my face, and I was so pleased to have this new addition to my collection. As always, I researched my new treasure:



Date: late 19th C. to early 20th C. (I didn't research late 20th C. to early 21st C.)



(on July 14th, I found this is pendant on e-Bay and so far the bid is at \$14.99 U.S.)

Commemorative Coin — 1 1/4 inches in diameter

The coin commemorates the Special Celebration June 20-24th, A.D. 1926 Chicago 28th International Eucharistic Congress. On the front of the coin is a relief bust of Pope Pius XI. On the back of the coin is pictured a chalice and the radiating light from God with the Sun enclosing a cross and the letters 'IHS'. Around the edge are the Latin words "UBI PETRUS IBI ECCLESIA". It is signed with the initials 'S.J.' on the back, and 'SILVA' on the front. In 2000, this medal was available as pendant, or watch fob for U.S. \$45 from some jewellers who specialize in early 20th Catholic Christian stamped medals and coins. The theme for the 28th congress was "The Peace of Christ in the Reign of Christ". Pope Pius XI himself presided and created Giovanni Vincenzo Bonzano Cardinal Priest of S. Pancrazio in the Consistory of the 28th congress on May 18th, 1926 and then Cardinal G. Bonzano was the Italian Papal Legate to the congress. Special thanks to the Catholic Encyclopedia and the Canadian dioceses of the I.E.C. for the research contained herein.

Eucharistic Congresses are mass gatherings of Catholics, organized on an international, national and regional scale having as its aim a strengthening and activating personal link with Christ a consequence of a deepening understanding of the Eucharist, especially in its existential aspect (linked with human life), through lectures, talks and discussions as well as adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Paschalis Baylon was made patron of Eucharistic Congresses by Pope Leo XIII in 1897. International Eucharistic Congresses (IEC) were initiated by

Emile Tamisier (1834-1910), who organized numerous Eucharistic pilgrimages in France supported by her confessor, Blessed Pierre Julian Eymard and Bishop L.G. Segur and the lay activist Philibert Vrau. At the beginning they were organized every year, then every two years during the period between the World Wars following a directive from Pope Pius XI and after the Second World War every four or five years. The first Eucharistic Congress was 28-30 June 1881 in Lille under Bishop Henri Monnier with 8,000 participants (4,000 men took part in the procession) mainly from Europe (Belgium, France, Greece, Spain, Holland, Switzerland) as well as both Americas and Asia. Pope Leo XIII supported this initiative of organizing Eucharistic congresses through an apostolic brief and encouraged their continuation. The next Eucharistic congress took place in 1882 in Avignon, in 1883 in Liege, 1885 in Friburg-Switzerland, 1886 in Toulouse, 1888 in Paris, 1890 in Antwerp, 1893 in Jerusalem (with, for the first time, the Papal Legate, Unitarians and Armenians taking part), 1894 in Reims, 1897 in Paray-le-Monial, 1898 in Brussels, 1899 in Lourdes, 1901 in Angers, 1902 in Namur, 1904 in Angouleme, 1905 in Rome, 1906 in Tournai, 1907 in Metz, 1908 in London (with a procession without the Blessed Sacrament due to a ruling by the authorities forbidding this but 7 cardinals, 90 bishops, 1000 priests, 25000 adults and 20000 children took part), 1909 in Cologne, 1910 in Montreal (30000 children went to their First Holy Communion), 1911 in Madrid, 1912 in Vienna, 1913 in Malta and 1914 in Lourdes. After the break caused by the First World War the next congress was in 1922 in Rome, then in 1924 in Amsterdam, 1926 in Chicago, 1928 in Sydney, 1930 in Carthage, 1932 in Dublin, 1934 in Buenos Aires, 1937 in Manila, 1938 in Budapest (with the logo "Eucharist the bond of love") – no Germans in attendance as Hitler forbade them to come. After the Second World War, renewing Eucharistic congresses in 1951 in Barcelona and in 1955 in Rio de Janeiro, actual problems in the Church and the world were considered. The Eucharistic congress in Munich in 1960 with the logo "The Eucharist a brotherly feast of Love" had a penitential character for the Nazi crimes in the whole world and also an ecumenical character (lecture with the title "The Eucharist according to the teaching of our separated brethren"). At the Eucharistic congress in 1964 in Bombay with a logo "New man through the Eucharist" ways of modern man's renewal was discussed. The Eucharistic congress in 1968 in Bogota and in 1973 in Melbourne were concerned with the involvement of the Church in solving social problems. This was also a matter for discussion at the congress in 1974 in Philadelphia, which was arranged here at the 200th anniversary of the United States at which there were priests and faithful of other American churches (Episcopal, Lutheran, and Orthodox). The subject was "The Eucharist and hunger in the human family" (hunger for bread and God together with freedom, justice, truth and mutual understanding). The Eucharistic congress in 1981 was in Lourdes with a logo "Jesus Christ, bread for a new world" had as its aim to show the union between the Eucharist and the Church, especially the ecclesial role of the Eucharist, which forms the structure of the whole of Christianity, proclaiming faith, the development of evangelical love and emphasizing the source of hope for everyone who is on the way towards salvation and unity with Christ. National congresses were introduced in Spain, France, Italy, Germany and the United States and local ones among others in France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, England, Canada, Australia and the United States. There were also congresses in Poland – the national ones (1930 and 1987) and diocesan ones (1928, 1931, 1936, and 1977). (Note: the 2008 I.E.C. was held in Quebec City in June 2008 to celebrate Quebec's 400th Anniversary.)

Here are some others, that are not in my collection but I would certainly enjoy having:

