

To the Belgian Monetary Authorities

Dear Sirs,

it is a widely accepted fact that the nobility is something utterly ridiculous. Although a duke or a baron is not more ridiculous than a king, the existence of kings certainly can lead to more dramatic negative consequences than the existence of people with less noble titles.

If these consequences are kept within a country and do not cause damage outside the state whose population is willing to carry the burden, everything is all right: the foreign royals can be ignored or even observed without paying for them, which is entertaining, because there is no doubt that their behaviour often is hilariously funny. The situation aggravates when populations outside the negative influence zone of the nobility are forced to sustain the consequences of its existence.

Some people have a good taste. They like beautiful things.

When the Euro was adopted, some countries, like Italy or San Marino, took this as a chance to capitalize on their rich culture and produced Euro-coins that showed it. These coins regularly remind the users of the money all over Europe of the great history and the superior taste of the issuing state. Other countries could not resist to coin their royals on their money. But at least they did not put them on the whole set of coins and the looks of their royals are not below certain aesthetic levels.

Unfortunately, this is not the case with the Belgian Euros. It can be only suspected why you decided to emboss a picture of your king on all of your coins. Some believe it was some kind of over-compensation ("Our king is *not* bad looking, we want to show him on every coin"). Some insinuate you compensate doubts about your national identity ("Yes, we are *Belgian*, we even have *our own king*"). Others believe it is most probable that you felt just too confident because of your central position in Europe ("The capital of all of the EU is *Bruxelles*, they can never throw us out, we can do *everything*, even *issue coins* with our *king* on them and spread them all over the place").

Whatever lead you to your decision, we believe it was a mistake. Our society emphasises the inner beauty of currency and therefore doesn't really have an opinion about the look of your king. But news is spreading that a lot of Europeans find your king extremely bad looking. What you might see as cute *babyspeck* is just perceived as obese by many. Also the shape of his face seems not to be admired by everyone outside Belgium. We even heard of cases where people feel reminded of the tragic child abuse scandals that occurred in your country some time ago whenever they receive the above mentioned coins as change.

We are optimistic that your country has something else to show. In deep worry about you, we suggest you to not hesitate to act in improving the tattered reputation of your state abroad. Please start to respect the good taste of 300 million Non-Belgian Europeans in the Euro-Zone. Please start issuing Euro-coins showing something else than your king as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

*The members of the
Society for Taste and Elegance in Modern Numismatics (S.T.E.M.N.)*