

ROMANIA



1873B - 50 BANI - OBVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1873 4,810,000
1876 2,116,980

▲OV: **B** (mintmark) / Crown / DATE within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below / STERN below.

▼RV: 50 / BANI, ROMANIA above within partial wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **B** = BRUSSELS

ENGRAVER: STERN = Stern

REFERENCE: Y-8, KM-9

FOOTNOTE: The mark on the coin at the top is actually the head of Saint-Michael, patron of the city of Brussels. The 50 bani 1873 and 1876 were struck by Jose Allard Mint in Brussels.

FOOTNOTE: *The Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of Romania* were first ordered from the Brussels mint dated 1873, then Austrian mint at Vienna struck an issue dated 1881. There was a two year period when the 50 bani were struck by the National mint at Bucharest, 1884-5, followed in 1894 by Brussels again. The next series of 1900-1 were produced at German Imperial Mint of Hamburg. The last series were produced concurrently by both Hamburg and Brussels. The listings are arranged in mint order.



1873B - 50 BANI - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Romania is a kingdom in central Europe bordering on the Black Sea. The people are descendants of mixed population of old Roman Dacia, Macedonia, Thrace and Moesia who were so effectively Romanized that the language has survived to this day. Moldavia and Wallachia were joined into the Principality of Romania in 1861. Prince Charles of the Royal Prussian Family of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen was elected Prince on March 26, 1866. The coins of Romania of this period are of the standards of the Latin Monetary Union, although Romania was never a signatory to the convention. Currency of Romania - 100 bani = 1 lei

FOOTNOTE: The Kingdom of Romania was named from the people who speak a neo-Latin dialect *Romanian* a romance language, derived from colonists settled by Trojan in Dacia, an area considerably removed from the main area of romance speech, designated as Rumeni or Romani (Romans). It also contains many Slavic words and expressions.

FOOTNOTE: There are about 4,600,000 Romanians, 400,000 Jews, 200,000 Gypsies, 100,000 Bulgars, 50,000 Magyars, 50,000 Germans, 15,000 Greeks and 15,000 Armenians. Three-fourths of the population are peasants, who until 1864 were kept in virtual serfdom by the Boiars or nobles. In that year upwards of 400,000 peasant families were made proprietors of small holdings averaging 10 acres, at a price to be paid back to the state in fifteen years. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Phila., 1896.*

FOOTNOTE: The union of the two Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia was publicly proclaimed at Bucharest and Jassy on Dec. 23, 1861, the name of Romania being given to the united provinces.



1894 - 50 BANI - OBVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1894 600,000

▲OV: Head of Charles I, facing left CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI (Charles I King of Romania) around/ A.SCHARFF under bust.

▼RV: 50 / BANI / 1894 within wreath of laurel and oak.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = BRUSSELS

ENGRAVER: A.SCHARFF = Anton Scharff

REFERENCE: Y-24, KM-23

POPULATION: 1892 - 5,376,000 with capital Bucharest with 221,805 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: The Romanian coinage issue of 1873-1881 and 1884 were retired and demonetized due to wear resulting from prolonged use, both in loss of weight and the inability any longer, to distinguish either the indication of their value or Arms of the country, in consequence of which the public can be easily deceived and the coining of counterfeit coins rendered easy. A new issue with the same fineness, weight, diameter and tolerance provided by the Monetary Law of March 12, 1890 conforming to the conditions of the Latin Monetary Union was struck. The striking of the new coins, as well as the sale of the old material was agreed to by private contract with the approval of the Romanian Council of Ministers. The Minister of Finances was authorized to make a coinage of...50 bani in small coins in 50 bani pieces of 5,000,000 lei. Both the Brussels and Hamburg mints contracted for this issue, struck between 1910 and 1914.



1894 - 50 BANI - REVERSE



Carol I, King of Romania

FOOTNOTE: The constitution of Romania, revised in 1884, closely resembles that of Belgium.





1912 - 50 BANI - OBVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Carol I, King of Romania - In 1862 the Danubian provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia formed a union as the Principality of Romania. After the dethronement of Alexander John (Cuza), the Romanians choose for their ruler a German Prince on April 20, 1866, Charles of Hohenzollen Sigmarigen. He was born on April 20, 1839, the second son of Prince Karl Anton. This was a side-branch of the Royal Prussian Family, who also was connected through his mother with the Dynasty of Napoleon. Austria and Russia were not enthusiastic over having a Hohenzollen reigning at Bucharest. In May Prince Charles through fear of being halted by Austria traveled to his new country down the Danube disguised as a second-class passenger, until on Romanian soil, he left the boat and was greeted by his future Prime Minister. Bucharest was a pitiful pretense for a capital, and the Prince on his arrival "could scarcely believe that a one-stored building, looking out upon a dirty square was the 'Palace'. The country was in wretched condition, the prey of rival factions and foreign intrigues. The new Prince as Carol I, showed tact and statesmanship in the work of reorganization. At the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877, the Romanian army was mobilized, an alliance was concluded with Russia, and Price Carol I took command in person. The army was kept on Romanian territory for some weeks, after the opening of the Campaign, because of Austrian jealousy of military activity on the part of her Balkan neighbors. Prince Carol took the field with his Romanians, and when an attack on Plevna had been opened, rendered valuable assistance in the hardest fighting of the War. A few weeks after the beginning of the War Romania declared her independence (May 21, 1877). Romania assumed the title of Kingdom and on May 22, 1881 Carol I was Crowned King of Romania at Bucharest. Under his direction the internal development of the country went forward, education advanced and a safe course was steered in the difficult policies of south-east Europe. Carol I married Princess Elizabeth Von Wier (known by her pen-name, Carmen Sylva) November 15, 1869. Since their only child died, the succession was settled upon his elder brother, Leopold, who renounced the claim in favor of his son, Ferdinand who succeeded Carol I upon his death in October 1914.

FOOTNOTE: The decimal system was introduced into Romania in 1876, the unit of the monetary system being the leu, equivalent to the franc.



1912 - 50 BANI - REVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
BRUSSELS MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1910	3,600,000
1912	1,800,000
1914	1,600,000

▲OV: Head of Charles I, facing left CAROL • I • REGE
• (Charles I King) left, • AL • ROMANIEI (Of Romania) right /
TASSET under bust.

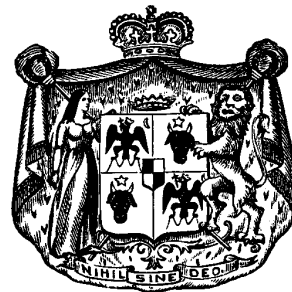
▼RV: Crown / Laurel branch / DATE, ROMANIA left
50 BANI right.

EDGE: Reeded (Round edge)

MINT: (no mintmark, round edge) = BRUSSELS

ENGRAVER: TASSET = Erneste Paulin Tasset

REFERENCE: Y-44, KM-41



Arms of Romania



1884B - 50 BANI - OBVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
BUCHAREST MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1884	1,000,000	scarce
1885	200,000	rare

▲OV: Head of Charles I, facing left CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI (Charles I King of Romania) around/ KULLRICH under bust.

▼RV: 50 / BANI / DATE within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below / B (mintmark) below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: B = BUCHAREST

ENGRAVER: KULLRICH = Wilhelm Kullrich

REFERENCE: Y-19, KM-21

POPULATION: 1899 - 5,912,600 with capital Bucharest with 282,071 inhabitants

FOOTNOTE: Count Wilhelm Kullrich, Chief Engraver of the Berlin mint was born on December 18, 1821 at Dahme, Germany. His early training included the Berlin Academy of Fine Arts. He was employed in London by the Wyons in 1850 and later Brussels, Paris, Munich and Switzerland. Returning to Berlin in 1859, he was appointed Assistant-engraver. Three years later he became the Chief Engraver of the Berlin mint. Kullrich occupied a place of honour among German medallists. He died at Berlin September 1st, 1887.



1884B - 50 BANI - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Bucharest, the capital of Romania, situated on the Dimbovitza about 33 miles north of the Danube, in a fertile plain. It is in general poorly built, among the chief buildings being the Royal Palace, the National Theatre, the University buildings, the National Bank, and the Mint. There are handsome public gardens. Manufactures are varied but unimportant, the trade is considerable, the chief articles being grain, wool, honey, wax, wine, hides. The mercantile portion of the community is mostly foreign, and the whole population presents a curious blend of nationalities. Bucharest became the capital of Walachia in 1665, in 1862 that of the United Principalities of Walachia and Moldavia.

FOOTNOTE: The Kingdom of Romania is bounded by Austria-Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, the Black Sea, and Russia. The capital is Bucharest. The entire Kingdom is in the basin of the Danube, which has a course of 595 miles in Romania, forming the boundary with Bulgaria nearly the whole way. Romania is an essentially agricultural and pastoral state, fully 70 per cent of the inhabitants being directly engaged in husbandry. The chief cereal crops are maize, wheat, barley, rye, and oats; tobacco, hemp, and flax are also grown; and wine is produced on the hills at the foot of the Carpathians. Cattle, sheep, and horses are reared in large numbers. Excellent timber abounds on the Carpathians. Bears, wolves, wild boars, large and small game, and fish are plentiful. The country is rich in minerals of nearly every description, but salt, petroleum, and lignite are the only minerals worked. Manufactures are still in a rudimentary state. Trade is fairly active, but is almost entirely in the hands of foreigners; the internal trade is chiefly carried on by Jews, whose numbers and prosperity are constant sources of anxiety to Romanian statesmen, and who are in consequence subject to certain prejudices. Railways began in 1869, having a total length of 1600 miles, nearly all in the hands of the government, which also monopolizes salt and tobacco. The French decimal coinage has been introduced, the franc being called leu (pl. lei), the centime bani. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Phila., 1896.*

FOOTNOTE: The Romanians, although partly Slav by race, claim to be descendants of ancient Roman colonists; they speak a language derived largely from Latin. *The Statesman's Year-Book, London, 1916.*



1900 - 50 BANI - OBVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
HAMBURG MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1900	3,838,000	
1901	194,205	rare

^OV: Head of Charles I, facing left CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI (Charles I King of Romania) around/ A.SCHARFF under bust, with an outer ring of 102 pearls.

▽RV: 50 / BANI / DATE within wreath of laurel and oak.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = HAMBURG

ENGRAVER: A.SCHARFF = Anton Scharff

REFERENCE: Y-24, KM-23

FOOTNOTE: The dies for Hamburg mint issue of 1900-01 were made at the Bucharest mint.

FOOTNOTE: Charles I, King of Romania was born April 20, 1839, the second son of Prince Karl Anton of a side-branch of the Hohenzollen family, who was also, connected, through his mother, with the Dynasty of Napoleon. Austria and Russia were not enthusiastic over having a Hohenzollen reigning at Bucharest. Through fear of being halted by Austria, the Prince traveled down the Danube disguised as a second-class passenger, until, on Romanian soil. He left the boat and was greeted by his future Prime Minister. He had earlier served in the Prussian Army, and after the dethronement of Alexander John (Cuza) was elected Prince of Romania, April 20, 1866, and arrived in the capital, Bucharest, in May. Bucharest was a pitiful pretense for a capital and the Prince on his arrival "could scarcely believe that a one-storied building, looking out upon a dirty square, was the *Palace*". The country was in a wretched condition, the prey of rival factions and foreign intrigues.



1900 - 50 BANI - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Prince Charles showed tact and statesmanship in the work of reorganization. At the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War in 1877, the Romanian army was mobilized, an alliance was concluded with Russia, and Prince Charles took command in person. The army was kept in Romanian territory for some weeks, after the opening of the campaign, because of Austrian jealousy of military activity on the part of her Balkan neighbors.



1911 - 50 BANI - OBVERSE



1911 - 50 BANI - REVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
HAMBURG MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1910 included with Brussels
1911 3,000,000
1914 included with Brussels

▲OV: Head of Charles I, facing left CAROL.I. (Charles I King) left, .AL.ROMANIEI (Of Romania) right / TASSET under bust.

▼RV: Crown / Laurel branch / DATE, ROMANIA left 50 BANI right.

EDGE: Reeded (Straight edge)

MINT: (no mintmark, straight edge) = HAMBURG

ENGRAVER: TASSET = Erneste Paulin Tasset

REFERENCE: Y-44, KM-41

POPULATION: ROMANIA - 1913 - 7,200,000 with capital Bucharest with 300,000 inhabitants.



1881 - 50 BANI - OBVERSE

ROMANIA, KINGDOM of
VIENNA MINT

50 BANI 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1881 1,000,000

▲OV: Head of Prince Charles I, facing left CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI (Charles I Prince of Romania) around / KULLRICH under bust.

▼RV: Arms of Romania with motto: NIHIL SINE DEO (Nothing without God) on ribbon below, ROMANIA above, 1881 divided by Arms, / V (mintmark) 50 BANI (wheat stalk) around below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: V = VIENNA

ENGRAVER: KULLRICH = Wilhelm Kullrich, Chief Engraver Berlin mint.

REFERENCE: Y-13, KM-13

MARK: (wheat stalk) = Romania

FOOTNOTE: Prince Charles took the field with his Romanians, however, when an attack on Plevna had been opened, and rendered valuable assistance in the hardest fighting of the war. A few weeks after the beginning of the war Romania declared her independence (May 21, 1877). In 1881 Romania assumed the title of Kingdom, and on May 22 Charles was crowned as King of Romania at Bucharest. Under him the internal development of the country has gone actively forward, education has advanced, and a safe course has been steered in the difficult politics of the southeastern Europe. Charles married Princess Elizabeth von Wied (known by her pen-name Carmen Sylva), November 15, 1869. The succession in case of his dying childless, was settled upon his elder brother, Leopold, who renounced the claim in favor of his son, Ferdinand.

ROMANIA



1881 V - 50 BANI - REVERSE