

## SERBIA



1875 - 50 PARA - OBVERSE

SERBIA, PRINCIPALITY of  
VIENNA MINT

50 PARA 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1875 2,000,000

^OV: Head of Obrenovich IV (no mustache), facing left, МИЛАН М. ОБРЕНОВИЋ КНЪАЗ СРПСКИ (Milan M. Obrenovich IV, Prince of Serbia) around / A.S. under bust.

^RV: Crown / 50 / ПАРА (para) / 1875 within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Plain

MINT: (no mintmark) = VIENNA

DESIGNER: A.S. = Anton Scharff

TYPE: I - No mustache

REFERENCE: Y-4, KM-4



1875 - 50 PARA - REVERSE



1879 - 50 PARA - OBVERSE



## 1879 - 50 PARA - REVERSE

SERBIA, PRINCIPALITY of  
VIENNA MINT

50 PARA 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1879 600,000

▲OV: Head of Obrenovich IV (with mustache), facing left, МИЦАН М. ОБРЕНОВИЋ IV. КНЪАЗ СРПСКИ (Milan M. Obrenovich IV, Prince of Serbia) around / TASSET under bust.

▲RV: Crown / 50 / ПАРА (para) / 1879 within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Plain

MINT: (no mintmark) = VIENNA

DESIGNER: TASSET = Erneste Paulin Tasset

TYPE: II - With mustache

REFERENCE: Y-4A, KM-4A

*Katalog Novca Srbije I Crne Gore 1868-1918 by Vojislav Glogonjac and Dragoslav Glogonjac, Beograd, 1973.*

POPULATION: Serbia - 1892 - 1,940,000 with capital Belgrade with 37,000 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: Of the five issues of 50 para of Serbia, three were ordered from the Vienna mint, one from Kremnitz, and the last was struck at the Paris mint. Listings are in date order.

FOOTNOTE: The 1875 issue of the 50 para was the first silver coin of Serbia, after the adoption of the Standards of the Latin Monetary Union with a dinar equal to the French franc. 100 para equal the dinar.



## Milan M. Obrenovich IV

FOOTNOTE: Milan M. Obrenovich IV abdicated on March 6, 1889 in favor of his only child, Alexander who at the age of 13 became King of Serbia. Alexander dispensed with the Regency in 1893 and began at once to act the Autocrat. In 1894 he recalled his father to assist him against his radical ministers, and by proclamation restored their full privileges to his father and mother, Nathalie. On May 21st he abolished the liberal Constitution of 1889, restored that of 1869. In 1900 he married Draga Mashin, in defiance of his father's wishes. Milan was once more exiled, and Alexander began a period of high-handed personal rule which aroused intense hostility among the most influential persons in the kingdom. The attempt of Queen Draga to impose upon the people the belief that an heir to the throne was in prospect increased the popular dislike. In April, 1903, King Alexander abrogated the Constitution, changed the ministry and the laws, and then restored the mutilated Constitution to operation. This was a process attended with some peril in a country where liberalism and even republicanism had been growing. A conspiracy was formed by leading officers of the army, and on June 11th the Palace was entered, and the King, Queen, two brothers, and two of the cabinet were assassinated. A Provisional Government of Liberals was formed and the family of Karageorgevich, the rivals of the House of Obrenovich, was restored in the person of Prince Peter, then living in exile in Geneva. For a number of years there was conflict between the party of the regicides and those who insisted on their punishment. Great Britain, which would not enter diplomatic communication with the King until the murderers of his predecessor had been removed from Court, resumed official relations in 1906. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: In 1875 the daughter of a Russian colonel, named Nathalie Kehsho married Prince Milan of Serbia. In 1888 his quarrels with his Queen and his personal vices deprived him of all prestige and King Milan procured an illegal divorce. After King Milan's abdication on March 6, 1889 she returned to Belgrade, withdrawing again in 1891. She became reconciled to King Milan in 1893 and was restored to all her rights. After the assassination of Alexander, she lived in retirement.

FOOTNOTE: The 1875 and the 1879 issue of 50 para were for a long period of time identified as one type even though they were engraved by two different designers. Several years ago it was noted that the major difference was that the 1875 issue by A. Scharff was an earlier portrait of Prince Milan before he grew a mustache and that the 1879 issued was with a mustache. This is quite unique in coinage designs, as rarely has the portrait of male rulers been changed, while it is very common to show small changes when it comes to female rulers shown on coinage.

FOOTNOTE: Milan M.Obrenovich IV was born August 22, 1854 at Jassy, in Moldavia, and was a member of the Obrenovich family, then in exile. His great-uncle, Michael the reigning Prince of Serbia, adopted him when he was left an orphan and sent him in 1864 to Paris to be educated. On May 29,1868 Prince Michael Obrenovich III was murdered in the park of Topcider. Milan returned in 1868 upon the assassination of Michael and succeeded him as ruling Prince. Unlike other European Royalty Obrenovich Princesses were numbered according to their place in the dynastic succession. Milan M.Obrenovich IV at the age of 14 became Prince of Serbia, being under the direction of a Regency of ministers until 1872, when he assumed full authority. In 1876, yielding to popular clamor, Milan rebelled against Turkish sovereignty, and placed a Russian General, Tchernayef, at the head of the Serbian Army, openly declaring war. But Tchernayef was defeated and Serbia was saved only by the intervention of Russia. While Russia was defeating Turkey in the War of 1877-8, Milan seized a favorable opportunity and again revolted, this time, successfully. Serbia became an independent state in 1878, and Milan proclaimed King in 1882. His reign was a political storm. Leaning toward Austrian influence which looked to internal improvements in Serbia, the King devoted himself to railway construction, the development of natural resources, and army reorganization on the basis of compulsory enlistment. In March 1889, apparently with no reason, Milan suddenly abdicated in favor of his son Alexander, then twelve years old. He resided for a time in Paris. But returned in 1894 to advise Alexander when he was proclaimed King and allowed to remain in the Royal household. In 1898 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Serbian Army. In 1875 Milan married Nathalie Ketchko, of Moldavia, who bore him on child, Alexander. She won the love of the Serbians, and it was the divorcing of her in 1888 after conjugal differences arising from his orgies, which became public scandals, that is considered the cause of his abdication. They were nominally reconciled and the decree of divorce annulled in 1893. Milan died in Vienna, February 11, 1901. *International Year Book, New York, 1901.*

FOOTNOTE: Serbia, an independent Kingdom of Eastern Europe, bound north by Austria-Hungary, from which it is separated by the Save River and the Danube; east by Romania and Bulgaria; south by Turkey; and west by Bosnia. Population of Serbia in 1891 was 2,162,759. The climate is somewhat rigorous in the elevated districts, but mild in the valleys and plains. There are extensive forests and uncultivated wastes, the forest area being forty two percent of the total area. The chief agricultural products are maize, wheat, flax, hemp, and tobacco. Wine is grown in the districts adjoining Hungary, and the cultivation of prunes is extensive. Lead, zinc, quicksilver, copper, iron, and coal are found. Manufactures include carpet-weaving, embroidery, jewelry, and filigree work. The principal exports are prunes, pigs, wool, wheat, wine, hides, cattle, and horses; imports' cotton, sugar, colonial goods, hardware, etc. There are 340 miles of railway and 1800 miles of telegraph. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1896.*

FOOTNOTE: Population - in 1910, 382,882 lived in towns, and 2,528,819 lived in the country, 2,890,602 were Serbian subjects, and 21,086 were foreigners, of whom 5,518 were Hungarians, 6,060 Turkish, and 6,605 Austrian subjects; Of the Gipsies, 27,846 speak Serbian, 4,700 Rumanian, 181 Turkish, and 13,412 Hungarians. Serbia is an agricultural country, where almost every peasant cultivates his own freehold. The holdings vary in size from 10 to 30 acres mostly. *The Statesman's Year-Book, London, 1916.*



1904 - 50 PARA - OBVERSE



Peter I King of Serbia



## 1904 - 50 PARA - REVERSE

SERBIA, KINGDOM of  
VIENNA MINT

50 PARA 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1904 (1904) 1,400,031

▲OV: Head of Peter I, facing right, ПЕТАР I КРАЈЬ СРБИЈЕ (Peter I King of Serbia) around / SCHWARTZ under bust.

▲RV: Crown / 50 / ПАРА (para) / 1904 within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = VIENNA

DESIGNER: SCHWARTZ = Prof. Stephan Schwartz (of the Vienna School of Arts where he was Professor of Sculpture and Modal Engraving.)

POPULATION: Serbia - 1900 - 2,493,770 with capital Belgrade with 69,097 inhabitants.

REFERENCE: Y-19, KM-24

FOOTNOTE: In 1900 only 17 percent of the population of Serbia could read or write.

FOOTNOTE: In 1901 the Serbian dinar was equal to the French franc or 19.3 cents in United States money.

FOOTNOTE: on July 28, 1914 the Austrians declared War on Serbia, thus the beginning of the Great War of 1914-1918.

FOOTNOTE: The Austrian Army occupied Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, on December 2, 1914, but evacuated it December 15, after a prolonged battle in which the Serbians were victorious. On October 9, 1915, Belgrade again fell into the hands of Austria-Hungary. *Winstons Encyclopedia, 1918.*

SERBIA, KINGDOM of  
KREMNI TZMINT

50 PARA 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1912 (1913) 800,004

▲OV: Head of Peter I, facing right, ПЕТАР I КРАЈЬ СРБИЈЕ (Peter I King of Serbia) around / SCHWARTZ under bust.

▲RV: Crown / 50 / ПАРА (para) / 1912 within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = KREMNI TZ

DESIGNER: SCHWARTZ = Prof. Stephan Schwartz

REFERENCE: Y-19, KM-24



## 1915 - 50 PARA - OBV - TYPE II

FOOTNOTE: King Alexander Obrenovich V was succeeded by Peter, the first of the Karageorgevich line to be placed on the throne. Killed with Alexander was his Queen Draga and her two brothers, the Premier and the Minister of War. He was first regarded with loathing by the Great European Powers. However, when King Peter was crowned, all the European Powers, except Great Britain, were represented. He restored the Constitution of 1889 and conducted his country through the difficult crisis of 1908, when Austria seized Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1909 Prince George, his eldest son, resigned his rights to the crown, which passed to his brother, Alexander.



## 1915 - 50 PARA - OBV - TYPE I

SERBIA, KINGDOM of  
PARIS MINT

50 PARA 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1915 (1915)	7,901,068	w/ signature
1915 (1916)	4,236,860	w/ signature
1915 (1917)	1,862,072	w/o signature

▲OV: Head of Peter I, facing right, ПЕТАР I. КРАЉ СРБИЈЕ (Peter I King of Serbia) around / SCHWARTZ under bust / (cornucopia) (torch) (mintmark).

▼RV: Crown / 50 / ПАРА (para) / 1915 within wreath of laurel and oak tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (Cornucopia) = PARIS

ENGRAVER: (Torch) = Henri Auguste Patey, 1896-1930

DESIGNER: SCHWARTZ = Prof. Stephan Schwartz

TYPE: There are two varieties of the issue, with SCHWARTZ under bust and without the designers name, which were struck in 1917, the combined types had a total mintage of 14,000,000 with a frozen date of 1915 struck at the Paris mint during 1915, 1916 and 1917.

REFERENCE: Y-19

REFERENCE: *Katalog Metalnog Novca 1700 - 1994*, by Ranko Mandic, Belgrade, 1995.

FOOTNOTE: The Great War (1914-1918) brought to a close the small silver coinage of most countries, except Switzerland and a few other mostly Western Hemisphere countries, as the price of silver increased above the denomination value of the coinage.

FOOTNOTE: Peter I, King of Serbia was born July 11, 1844 at Belgrade. A son of the reigning Prince Alexander Karageorgevich. Educated at Belgrade and Geneva, he went to St. Cyr in France, and afterwards, during the War of 1870, volunteered in the French Army. In 1883 he married the Princess Zorka, eldest daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, with whom he led a very happy family life until her unfortunate death in 1890. For about ten years Peter lived in Montenegro, but after his wife's death he went to Geneva for the education of his children. The three children are; the Crown Prince George, Princess Helene, Prince Alexander. The Crown Prince after his studies in Geneva was admitted by order of the Tsar into the Noble Guard at St. Petersburg. Peter I ascended to the throne of Serbia, June 2, 1903. *The Near East*, New York, 1907.

FOOTNOTE: The country produces wheat, barley, oats, maize, rye, and beetroots. Plum marmalade and also fresh plums are exported in large quantities, spirits are distilled in large quantities from plums. *The Statesman's Year-Book*, London, 1916.



## 1915 - 50 PARA - REVERSE



Map of Serbia - 1875