

**France**  
**Henry VI**  
**1422-1453**



Coin  
Mint  
Obverse<sup>4,5</sup>

Salut D'Or  
St. Lô

Angel Gabriel in profile right behind quartered Arms of France and England, facing nimbate Virgin Mary behind Arms of France, between them AVE on scroll reading downwards surmounted by five-rayed sun. Beaded circle above and below legend with double pellet stops.

Reverse<sup>4,5</sup>

Legend: | Lis | HENRICVS : DEI : GRA : FRACORV : Z : AGLIE : REX

Latin cross with 'h' below, lis left and leopard right within lis-tipped ten arc tressure. Beaded circle above and below legend with mullet stops.

Legend: | Lis | XPC★VINCIT★XPC★REGNAT★XPC★IMPERAT

Reference

Duplessy<sup>1</sup> 443A; Friedberg<sup>2</sup> 301

Metal

Gold

Weight

3.48 g

Diameter

26 mm

Condition

EF

Provenance

Münz Zentrum Auction 180 12 January 2017 lot 1508

*Actual Size*



Issuer

Henry VI

Date

1423 (1<sup>st</sup> issue)

Collection Criteria

A French coin issued under an English Monarch.

### Notes

#### **The Coin<sup>4-8</sup>**

The name salute refers to the iconography of the obverse which shows the Annunciation. A salute was originally struck in both gold and silver by Charles I (of Anjou) King of Naples (1256-85) upon which the French salutes were derived. From a heraldic view the twin shields on the salute are slightly curious, since the English arms were already quartered with France by Edward III and in succeeding to the crown of France Henry VI was only acquiring what his coat of arms already claimed. The heraldry of the twin shields seems to emphasize his double claim, the original one through Edward III and the more immediate one through his mother and the Treaty of Troyes (an agreement that King Henry V of England and his heirs would inherit the throne of France upon the death of King Charles VI of France, signed in Troyes on 21 May 1420 after Henry's successful military campaign in France).

The first issue of Henry VI, was struck by order dated 6 September 1423 with salutes about equal in weight to the English half-noble. This is indirectly confirmed by the provision in the order that salutes should be current for 22s. 6d. tournois (money of account), the rate which was fixed for the half-noble. The *maistre general* at Paris was given control of the ten mints which struck gold coins in Henry's name. A pellet in the legend was used as a privy mark to denote a change of masters at a mint after the first issue (the coin in the collection is without a pellet mark making it a first issue).

**Obverse Iconography** Angel Gabriel in profile right behind quartered Arms of France and England, facing nimbate (with halo) Virgin Mary behind Arms of France, between them AVE (the first word of the angel's salutation and hence the name of the coin) on scroll reads downwards surmounted by five-rayed sun (representing the Holy Ghost). Beaded circle above and below legend with double pellet stops.

**Legend:** |Lis| hENRICVS : DEI : GRA : FRACORV : Z : AGLIE : REX  
 = Henricus Dei Gratia Francorum Et Angliae Rex  
 = Henry by the Grace of God King of France and England  
 A Lis is the mintmark of St. Lô

**Reverse Iconography** Latin cross with 'h' (for Henry) below, lis (for France) left and leopard (for England) right within lis-tipped ten arc tressure (raised line on a coin). Beaded circle above and below legend with mullet (star) stops.

**Legend<sup>10</sup>** |Lis| XPC★ VINCIT★XPC★REGNAT★XPC★IMPERAT  
 (XPC for Jesus Christ from Greek for Christos)  
 = Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat  
 = Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands

## Historical Context<sup>9</sup>

Henry VI (6 December 1421 – 21 May 1471) was King of England from 1422 to 1461 and again from 1470 to 1471, and disputed King of France from 1422 to 1453. The only child of Henry V, he succeeded to the English throne at the age of nine months upon his father's death and succeeded to the French throne on the death of his grandfather Charles VI shortly afterwards. Henry inherited the long-running Hundred Years War (1337–1453), where Charles VII contested his claim to the French throne. Henry married Charles's niece, Margaret of Anjou, partially in the hope of achieving peace in 1445, but the policy failed, leading to the murder of William de la Pole, one of Henry's key advisors. The war recommenced, with France taking the upper hand; by 1453, Calais was Henry's only remaining territory on the continent.

Henry experienced a mental breakdown after the failure of the war, with Richard of York taking control of the government as regent until his recovery the following year. Civil war broke out in 1460, leading to a long period of dynastic conflict known as the Wars of the Roses. Henry was taken prisoner by Richard of York at Northampton on 10 July 1460 but was rescued that December by forces loyal to Margaret. He was deposed on 29 March 1461 following the victory at Towton by Richard's son, who took the throne as Edward IV. Henry suffered another breakdown and, despite Margaret continuing to lead a resistance to Edward, he was captured by Edward's forces in 1465 and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Richard Neville, the Earl of Warwick, restored Henry to the throne in 1470, but Edward defeated Neville and retook power in 1471, imprisoning Henry in the Tower once again.

Henry died in the Tower during the night of 21 May 1471, possibly killed on the orders of Edward. He was buried at Chertsey Abbey, before being moved to Windsor Castle in 1484. Miracles were attributed to Henry after his death, and he was informally regarded as a saint and martyr until the 16th century. He left a legacy of educational institutions, having founded Eton College, King's College (Cambridge) and All Souls College, Oxford. William Shakespeare wrote a trilogy of plays about his life, depicting him as weak-willed and easily influenced by his wife, Margaret.



Henry VI

- Sources**
- 1 Les Monnaies Françaises Royales 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; Duplessy J
  - 2 Gold Coins of the World: From Ancient Times to the Present 8<sup>th</sup> Edition; Friedberg AL & IS
  - 3 Money that Changed the World; Gullbekk SH
  - 4 Coin description <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=3060089>; <http://www.mfa.org/collections/object/henry-vi-salut-dor-56618>; <https://www.stanleygibbons.com/anglo-gallic-henry-vi-gold-salut-d-or-22s-6d-coins-currency-cm002070.html>
  - 5 The Salutes of Henry VI; R. D. Beresford-Jones BNJ 1973 Vol XLIII pp 67-79
  - 6 Legends and abbreviations of European coins of the 14-19th centuries <http://muzeydeneg.ru/eng/?p=550>
  - 7 Coin dictionary <http://typesets.wikidot.com/coin-dictionary>
  - 8 [http://sri.lamoneta.it/Numismatica/legende\\_EN.php?lettera=D](http://sri.lamoneta.it/Numismatica/legende_EN.php?lettera=D)
  - 9 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_VI\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_VI_of_England)
  - 10 Christogram <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Christogram>; <https://catholicismpure.wordpress.com/2014/04/21/christus-vincit-christus-regnat-christus-imperat/>