

20-KRONE COIN COMMEMORATING VOYAGES TO VINLAND - A COLLABORATION WITH CANADA



Obverse



Reverse

In 1960, Helge Ingstad's systematic search of extensive stretches of the coast of North America culminated in the discovery of seven overgrown house foundations at L'Anse aux Meadows, at the northernmost point of Newfoundland, Canada. Under the direction of his wife, the archaeologist Anne Stine Ingstad, an Old Norse habitation site was brought to light at the location.

This is believed to be the site of the first Viking landing in North America - called Vinland in the sagas. In his book "The Viking Discovery of America", Ingstad writes that the first voyages probably took place around the year 1000, or slightly earlier.

In 1998, Canadian prime minister Jean Chrétien wrote to Kjell Magne Bondevik, the prime minister of Norway, proposing that Canada and Norway each issue a coin in 1999 to commemorate the fact that it was about a thousand years since this landing took place.

As a result of this collaboration, the Royal Canadian Mint is minting a coin with a nominal value of CAD 5 to commemorate the event, and the Royal Norwegian Mint a 20-krone coin. 36 000 coins are being struck especially for collectors, and will be sold in pairs in two different presentation cases, one Canadian and one Norwegian. 16 000 of the sets are destined for the Canadian market and 10 000 for the Norwegian market.

The production of the coins is also a joint effort, since the blanks for the Canadian coins are being produced at Kongsberg, Norway, and are identical to the blanks from which the Norwegian coins are being struck. The Royal Canadian Mint is thus left only with the task of actually striking their own coins.

The 20-krone coin is being issued for circulation. It is legal tender and is being issued at face value.

Technical details:

Diameter:	27.5 mm
Thickness:	2.2 mm
Weight:	9.9 g
Alloy:	81% Cu, 10% Zn, 9% Ni

Design:

Obverse:

A portrait of H. M. King Harald V facing right. Below the neck of the portrait, the artist's signature: NAA. Underneath, the inscription: HARALD V / NORGES KONGE (Harald V, King of Norway).

Reverse:

The bows of a Viking ship viewed from the front, with the outline of the hull and keel visible below the waterline. The value and date: 20 / KRONER / 1999 are placed on the left half of the coin above the hull, and the inscription MOT / UKJENT / LAND (Towards unknown lands) on the right. The mintmark of the Royal Norwegian Mint, the crossed pick and hammer, and the initials of the director of the Mint, JEJ (Jan Erik Johansen), are placed underneath the vessel on the right half of the coin.

Edge: Plain.

The coin was designed by the Norwegian sculptor Nils Aas.

The coin will be put into circulation on 9 October 1999. No ordinary 20-krone coins will be minted with the date 1999.

The Canadian coin bears a portrait of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse side, and the reverse shows a Viking ship en route to L'Anse aux Meadows. The denomination, 5 DOLLARS, is inscribed below the ship.



Obverse



Reverse