

The Leeuwengroten Types of Louis of Nevers, Count of Flanders (1322-1346): A Preliminary Overview

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Louis of Nevers was the Count of Flanders from late 1322 until August 26, 1346, when he was killed fighting for the French at the Battle of Crécy. Current thinking holds that the silver *leeuwengroot* was first struck in Flanders c. late May or early June 1337, in response to the devaluation of the coinage in France earlier that same year. Within a few short weeks, these coins were being imitated in Brabant and Namur, and possibly in Holland and Hainaut as well. Eventually, the coins were imitated in many other regions as well.

External circumstances have forced us to publish the current paper ahead of schedule, as it were, and for that reason we shall be all but ignoring the rather complicated history behind the currency and focusing solely on the coins themselves. In addition, we have been asked to number the coins in the catalog, which is, in fact, somewhat premature for our *magnum opus* on the *leeuwengroot* of all regions. Nevertheless, we have complied with this request, and provided a basic numbering scheme for the *leeuwengroten* of Louis of Nevers in this paper.

Previous literature, in particular Gaillard's *Recherches sur les Monnaies des Comtes de Flandre* (ref. 1), will be dealt with in Appendix C. For the interested reader, the relevant historical details can be found in *Het Munthuis in Gent* by Jean-Claude Martiny (ref. 4).

There are various, obvious differences in the details of the *leeuwengroten*, such as the number of obverse, border leaves (either 12, or 11 with a lion). There are also a number of subtler differences including different forms of **A**, different **types** of border leaf on the obverse, and the use of **N** or **Ń** in certain words in the reverse, outer legend. The study of *leeuwengroten* is the study of small details. Most of these differences were almost certainly the result of the mint(s) marking the coins for some reason, whether to indicate "issue", die-engraver, or something else.

It is worth noting that the *gros compaignon* of 1337 was the first Flemish coin to feature a round ● in a legend.

Letters, marks or text of note are in red.

There are 4 basic types of *leeuwengroot* known to have been struck for Louis of Nevers:

TYPE I: **Border of 12 ♣ with ⚙ MONETA legend**
May 1337 – Nov. 1338 ?

TYPE II: **Border of 11 ♣ / 1 ⚙ with ⚙ MONETA legend**
c. Mar. 1341 – Oct., 1343 ?

TYPE III: **Border of 11 ♣ / 1 ⚙ with ⚙ MONETA legend**
20 Jan. 1346 – 20 Nov. 1346
Louis of Nevers: ⚙ Aug. 26. 1346
This issue continued into the reign of Count Louis II of Mâle
(becoming his Issue I)

TYPE IV: **GANDEN/LOUVAIN Type**
Jan. 1340 – Feb. 1341 ?
Joint-issue with Brabant, but probably not struck in Flanders

Chronologically, Type IV should come after Type I. But since it was probably never struck in Flanders at all, we would have preferred to deal with this type in detail under the Brabant coins. We have therefore placed it after all of the other Flemish issues.

Each type has its own sub-types, which show further minor variance between the coins. Only Type I has the word DEI in the reverse, outer legend.

In addition to the coins listed above, there are the so-called *vieux gros* and *Ghent groot* (or *3-steden groot*), which are coins similar to the *leeuwengroot*, and relevant to its history, but in all likelihood not minted at the direction of Louis of Nevers, but rather at that of Jacob van Artevelde and his followers, in the semi-rebellious cities of Ghent, Lille, Bruges and or Ypres.

TYPE: **“vieux gros”**
struck ?

TYPE: **“Ghent groot” or “3-steden groot”**
struck ?

(See Appendix A for details.)

The reverse, outer legend of a Flemish *leeuwengroot* reads:

BNDICTV SIT NOME DNI NRI {DEI} IHV XPI

Note that while the N's of BNDICTV, DNI and NOME may be either **N** or **Ń**, the letter form in NRI never changes – the **Ń** is always uncial (Lombardic, gothic): **ŃRI**.

CATALOG OF TYPES

TYPE I

12 ♣ BORDER



D&I in reverse, outer legend

25 May 1337 to 7 November 1338 (?)

Gaillard Type 202 / Vanhoudt Type G 2578* / Serrure Type 30 / Martiny Type 20

* (Vanhoudt's illustration erroneously shows Gaillard 220.)

Eagle as initial mark in obverse legend, border or 12 leaves.

Type I

Catalog	Sub-type	A's	Border leaf	Reverse outer legend	Mark after MONETA
1.1	I-A	⌘	♣	N	*
1.2	I-B	⌘	♣	N	
1.3	I-C	⌘	♣	Ŋ	*
1.4	I-D	⌘	♣	Ŋ	*
1.5	I-E	⌘	♣	Ŋ	

Only Martiny makes any distinction between sub-types; all of the cat. Type I coins are Gaillard 202 / Vanhoudt G 2578 / Serrure 30. The chronological order of the sub-types is not certain; the correct order may be sub-type B followed by sub-type A.

catalog 1.1

SUB-TYPE A (I-A)

12 leaves, 5-lobes type ☙

Chevron 𐌹 crossbars, X after MONETA, Roman N's in reverse, outer legend.

Martiny 20-2

☙ MONET 𐌹 * FL 𐌹 ND'
LVD OVI 𐌹 DO MES

☙ BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI : DEI : IHV : XPI



private collection / 3.97 g.

The N's look like: **H** or even **H**.



Martiny 20-2

The N's of the outer legend look like: **H**, the M's: **𐌹**, and the D of DNI: **𐌹**.

catalog 1.1 / sub type I-A

also: Elsen 94-1265 / 3.84 g.
 Elsen 107-840 (also 117-1356 and 112-873) / 3.97 g.
 Elsen 109-1035 / 3.77 g.
 Elsen 110-1010 / 3.91 g.
 Elsen 118-995 / 3.89 g.
 Elsen 119-1211 / 3.93 g.
 Elsen 121-896 / 3.68 g.
 Ghyssens 1c / 3.44 g.
 CNG 79-179 / 3.56 g.
 De Wit-Künker I, 1309
 I-Numis 25-688 / 3.63g
 Pegasi 136B562 / 3.70g
 Twenste Welle 01

N.B.

⚔ MONET * FLAND'
 ↓



DNB NM-11341

The chevron A's on the obverse are unusual. The apostrophes and macrons (abbreviation bars) are unusually large in the reverse, outer legend. Ostensibly the same as the previous coins.

catalog 1.2

SUB-TYPE B (I-B)

12 leaves, 5 lobes type ❁

Chevron ❁ crossbars, no mark after MONETA, Roman N's in reverse, outer legend.

- Same as the previous coin, but with no mark after MONETA.

Martiny —

❁ MONET ❁ FL ❁ ND'
LVD OVI CꝛCO MES

❁ BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI : NRI : DEI : IHV : XPI




PBA-Lille, collection A. Vernier, inv. S-562 / 3.68 g.

We know of no other specimens of this type (cat. Type 1.2).

catalog 1.3

SUB-TYPE C (I-C)

12 leaves, 5-lobes type 

Chevron **W** crossbars, **X** after MONETA, Lombardic **D**'s in reverse, outer legend.

- Same as **cat. Type A (1.1)**, but with different border leaves and Lombardic **Ų**'s on the reverse.

Martiny 20-1

MONETA * FLAND'
LVD OVI QDQ MES

✠ BŲDICTV : SIT : ŲOŲE : DŲI : ŲRI : DŲI : IŲV : XPI
↓



Elsen 106-652 / 3.98 g.



private collection / 3.90 g.
(Martiny 20-1)

also: Brusale 7-57 (734289) / 3.89 g.
Elsen 92-958

catalog 1.4

SUB-TYPE D (I-D)

12 leaves, 3 lobes type ❁

Standard **Æ** crossbars, **X** after MONETA, Lombardic **Ń**'s in reverse, outer legend, 3-lobed border leaves.

- Same as the previous coin, but with straight **Æ** crossbars and 3-lobed border leaves.

 Martiny —

❁ **MONETÆ** * **FLÆND'**
LVD OVI **Æ** **CO** **MES**

❁ **BŃ** **DI** **CTV** : **SIT** : **Ń** **OM** **ES** : **DŃ** **I** : **Ń** **RI** : **D** **EL** : **I** **H** **V** : **X** **P** **I**
 ↓

*Elsen 273-619 / 3.99g**Elsen 92-958*

Also: DNB NM-11338 / Museum Rotterdam 55641-1

catalog 1.5

SUB-TYPE E (I-E)

12 leaves, 3 lobes type ❁

Standard **Æ** crossbars, no mark after MONETA, Lombardic **Ń**'s in reverse, outer legend, 3-lobed border leaves.

- Same as the previous coin, but with no mark after MONETA.

Martiny 20-3

❁ **MONETÆ FLÆND'**
LVD OVI CÆCO MES

❁ **BŃDICTV : SIT : ŃOMŃ : DŃI : ŃRI : DŃI : IŃV : XPI**



Martiny 20-3

Although the border leaves appear to be: ❁, they are in fact most likely: ❁ (see for example the leaf at about 4 o'clock). We know of no other specimens of this type.



No mark after MONETA

TYPE II

11 ♣ / 1 🦁 BORDER



(No DEI in reverse, outer legend)

Gaillard Type 201 / Martiny Type 29 / Vanhoudt —

Eagle as initial mark in obverse legend.

No DEI in reverse outer legend

The reverse, outer legend is always the same:

✠ BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI : NRI : IHV : XPI

The central lion often has a large, easily visible ear opening.

Type II

Catalog	Sub-type	Border leaf	A's	Mark after MONETA	Reverse outer legend
1.6	II-A	✠	AA	✠	N
1.7	II-B	✠	AA		N
1.8	II-C	✠	AA	✠ ✠	N
1.9	II-D	✠	AA	✠ ✠	N
1.10	II-E	✠	AA	✠	N

catalog 1.6

SUB-TYPE A (II-A)

11 leaves, 3 lobes type ❁

No A cross bar in MONETA, *fleur-de-lis* mark.

Gaillard — / Ghyssens — / Serrure — / Vanhoudt — / Martiny —

❁ MONETA ❁ FLAND'
LVD OVI CACO MES

✠ BNDICTV : SIT : NOMES : DNI : NRI : IHV : XPI
↓



Elsen 106-655 / 4.01 g.


This type, known only from a single specimen, auctioned off by the firm of Jean Elsen et ses fils in 2010, is extremely unusual. The unexplained, ultra-French *Fleur-de-lis* mark after MONETA borders on the bizarre. The possibility has been raised that this is a test piece made by the mint. The weight is quite heavy.

Not only is the mark unusual, but there does not seem to be any crossbar to the A of MONETA.

Other than the Elsen auction catalog, where its unusual mark was not noted, this type of *leeuwengroot* has not been previously published.

catalog 1.7

SUB-TYPE B (II-B)

11 leaves, 3 lobes type 
No mark after MONETA.

 **MONETA FLAND'**
LVD OVI CACO MES

 **BNDICTV : SIT : NOMEN : DNI : NRI : IHS : XPI**
↓



Martiny 29-4

catalog 1.8

SUB-TYPE C (II-C)

11 leaves, 3 lobes type ❁

- Same as the previous coin, but with a leaf mark after MONETA.

❁ MONETA ❁ FLAND'
LVD OVI C^o MES

❁ BNDICTV : SIT : NOMEN : DNI : NRI : IHS : XPI

↓



private collection / 3.49 g.



Elsen 107-841

catalog 1.9

SUB-TYPE D (II-D)

11 leaves, 3 lobes type ❁

Leaf mark after MONETA.

Martiny 29-1

- Same as the previous coin, but the border leaves are different.

❁ MONETA † FLAND'
LVD OVI CACO MES

❁ BNDICTV : SIT : NOMB : DNI : NRI : IHV : XPI

↓



private collection / 3.82 g.

At this point in time, it is far from clear to what extent the changing border leaves on the Flemish *leeuwengroten* should be considered as some kind of minting mark, or whether they are simply the hands of different engravers. In any case, the border leaves on this sub-type are clearly different from those of the previous sub-type.

catalog 1.9 / sub type II-D

*G. Henzen 1208*

The central lions on these coins are all very similar in style, with a large eye, ear and mandible, as well as a long, flat forehead. The leaf-mark shows some variance, but it is unlikely that the differences are meaningful. It has a very crooked stem, and appears to have voided lobes.

The border leaves clearly have 3 lobes, each with an individual open space, and another open space in the center of the leaf.

catalog 1.10

SUB-TYPE E (II-E)

“common type” for Louis of Nevers

11 leaves, 3 lobes type ❁

Leaf mark after MONETA.

Martiny 29-2 and 29-3

- Same as the previous coin, but the leaf-mark is different, as are the border leaves.

Numerous examples of this type known.

❁ MONETA ❁ FLAND'
LVD OVI CACO MES

❁ BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI : NRI : IHV : XPI

↓



Elsen 107-875 / 3.68 g.



*private collection / 3.67 g.
(Martiny 29-2)*



Martiny 29-3

✠ MONETA ✠ FLAND' ↓



private collection / 3.61 g.

Probably the same as the previous 3 coins, just a “mashed” leaf-mark.

Note the subtle differences in the leaf-mark between the cat. Type II-C / II-D and II-E coins: ✠ ✠. Although slightly different from one another, these marks may in fact be “the same”. Based on the quality of the workmanship of the coins, the ✠ mark is probably earlier than the ✠ mark. The lack of voided areas on some marks is probably simply the result of “mashing” during striking: ✠ ✠.

TYPE III

11 ♣ / 1 BORDER



20 January, 1346 – 20 November, 1346

Martiny 33-1 – 33-4

Gaillard Type 219 / Vanhoudt Type G 2596 / Serrure Type 33 / Elsen (1981) Type 21
all under Louis of Mâle









Border of 11 leaves and 1 lion, cross as initial mark in obverse legend.

No **DGI** in reverse outer legend

Reverse, outer legend always the same:

✠ BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI : NRI : IHV : XPI

Type III

Catalog	Sub-type	Border leaf	A's	Mark after MONETA
1.11	1*		AA	
1.12	2		AA	
1.13	3		AA	
1.14	4*		AA	



* Types 1 and 4 not completely verified.


The last issue of Louis of Nevers was continued on into the reign of Louis of Mâle after the former's death at the Battle of Crécy in August of 1346. This is not in question, as it is clear from the medieval records that this is the case (ARA 793a). According to Martiny (p. 142)^[4], actual striking of Type III *leeuwengroten* probably began some months previous to January, 1346.

There seems to be no way to distinguish between the coins of this issue struck under Louis of Nevers and those struck under Louis of Mâle; at least, none has yet been found.


Louis of Mâle, ISSUE 1 - Long O

Haec ascribed coins with no pellet at all by the initial cross to Issue I, and our subsequent research seems to confirm this theory. The coins are almost always well-struck on large, round flans. The leaf-mark after MONETA is often 'feeble'.

Haec noted the distinctive A's often seen on coins of this issue: . We do not feel that these A's are significant or intentional marks of any kind, rather they are 'standard' A's whose uppermost serifs are not well defined: .

The C's of this issue are 'sharp' and the L's are 'wedge' type. The {3-lobed} border leaves are the convex, 'holly' type with tiny lower axils and stem: .

The *Leeuwengroot* of Lewis The Bavarian

Some previous researchers have attempted to date the Flemish *leeuwengroten* with an  border and no pellets by the initial cross by comparing it with the unique specimen of a *leeuwengroot* from Hainaut struck for Lewis the Bavarian, Holy Roman Emperor, currently found in the Cabinet de Médailles, Brussels (CdMB/KBR).

R Serrure 59 / Lucas 100 / DW plate A, 9 / Vanhoudt G 501
3.20 g.

✠ MONETA ✠  
LVD OVI  RO IMP'

✠ BNDICTV : SIT :  ME :  RI :  XPI
↓



This coin has an obverse border of 12 leaves and an eagle (instead of a lion), no DEI in the reverse, outer legend, and an obverse, initial cross with no pellets left or right. In theory, it is concurrent with the Flemish type with no pellets by the initial cross (**cat. Type III**, Issue I).

But when exactly was this coin struck in Hainaut?

– *some time between Margaret & Lewis becoming count and Lewis' death, i.e.*

26 Sep. 1345 – 11 Oct. 1347

– *or some time between Margaret & Lewis' Blijde Intrede in Valenciennes and Lewis' death, i.e.*

23 March 1346 – 11 Oct. 1347 (Martiny)

– *or some time between Margaret's Blijde Intrede and the appearance of the pellet right of the cross in Flanders (24 November, 1346), i.e.*

23 March 1345 – 24 November 1346

– *or some time between Margaret & Lewis becoming count, and the appearance of the pellet right of the cross in Flanders i.e.*

11 Oct. 1347 – 24 November 1346

When a pellet appeared to the right of the cross in Flanders (24 November, 1346), did Hainaut continue to strike coins without a pellet? Without the answer to this question, how can the Hainaut coin be used to date the Flemish coins?

Perhaps a better reason to assign the Flemish coins with no pellets by the cross to the issue of 20 January, 1346 – 24 November, 1346, is the 3-lobed leaf used in the outer border. Current thinking is that the oldest *leeuwengroten* of Louis of Nevers have 5-lobed border leaves (**cat. Type I, A/B** above). These coins were followed by those with 3-lobed leaves (**cat. Type I, C-E** above), in turn followed by the **cat. Type II** coins, which also had 3-lobed border leaves.

Next in the series seems to be the last issue of Louis of Nevers / first issue of Louis of Mâle, which also have 3-lobed leaves. The following issue (Issue II) began with 3-lobed leaves, but at some point this changed to 5-lobed leaves. The use of 5-lobed leaves then continued all the way through Issue VI. Only with Issue VII do 3-lobed leaves make a return.

Furthermore, the small Staple Hoard (2015) ^[5] seems to help corroborate this theory, as it contains 5 coins from Louis of Mâle's Issue II (i.e. coins with a round **O** in COMES) and 1 from Issue I (i.e. a coin with no pellets by the initial cross).



Staple Hoard (2015) S-03

But the most compelling evidence for placing the coins with no pellet by the cross into Issue I, is an identifiable punch that can be shown to have been used to make the dies that were used to produce coins from late in Issue I to a point in Issue II after the leaves had changed to the 5-lobed type (details to follow in a subsequent report).

In order to follow Haeck's system, at least to some extent, we have numbered the Type III sub types instead of lettering them.

catalog 1.11

Sub-Type 1 (?) (III-1)



Haeck: I.1 (*sic*: ✠ MONET ✠ FLAND')
Martiny 33-1

No A crossbars in MONETA or FLAND, no pellet by cross, leaf-stem curving to F,
3-lobed border leaves

THIS TYPE IS NOT COMPLETELY VERIFIED

✠ MONET ✠ FLAND'
MVD OVI QDO MES
↓



Haeck I-1 / Martiny 33-1

Although the A of FLAND does not appear to have a crossbar, we have no other corroborating specimen of such a type for verification.

Haeck based this type on only 2 coins, 1 in a private collection and 1 in the hoard Haarlem A. The leaf mark is feeble and illegible.

Is this simply a Sub-Type 2 (1.12; Haeck I-2) with a weak crossbar in the A of FLAND?

catalog 1.12

Sub-Type 2 (III-2)



Haeck: I.2 (*sic*: ✠ MONETA ✠ FLAND')

Martiny 33-2

No A crossbar in MONETA, no pellet by cross, leaf-stem curving to F, 3-lobed border leaves
 • Same as the previous coin, but there is an A crossbar in FLAND.

✠ MONETA ✠ FLAND'



*Elsen 124-750 / 3.46 g.
 'normal' A's*



Elsen 108-890

catalog 1.12 / Sub-Type III-2



private collection / 3.05 g.



This coin seems to have 'footless' N's in the reverse, outer legend.



private collection / 3.43 g.

catalog 1.12 / Sub-Type III-2



Note the intended but weak serif



Another clearly intended (but weak) serif



Another clearly intended (but weak) serif

also: Elsen 106-660 (Eeckhout 282)
 CdMB 3.56 g.
 CGB 300281 / 3.34 g.
 CGB 273516 / 2.72 g.

catalog 1.13

Sub-Type 3 (III-3)



Haeck: I.4

Martiny 33-4

No A crossbar in MONETA, no pellet by cross, straight leaf-stem, 3-lobed border leaves

- Same as the previous coin, but the leaf-mark stem is straight.

✠ MONETA + FLAND'



Elsen 106-658 / 3.46 g.

The leaf-mark is feeble, and the stem may well be **curved**.



Elsen 106-659 / 3.56 g.



private collection / 3.52 g.



*private collection / 3.53 g.
Haeck I,2 / Martiny 33-2*

This coin seems to have 'footless' N's in the reverse, outer legend.



also: Staple (2015) 03
York Coins LdM-I / 3.52g

catalog 1.14

Sub-Type 4 (?) (III-4)



Haeck: I.3

Martiny 33-3

No pellet by cross, straight leaf-stem, 3-lobed border leaves

- Same as the previous coin, but there is an A crossbar in MONETA.

THIS TYPE IS NOT COMPLETELY VERIFIED

✠ MONETA **A** ✠ FLAND'



Haeck I-3 / Martiny 33-3

Haeck only knows of one example (Bergues find).

There does indeed appear to be a crossbar to the A of MONETA, but the lack of corroborating specimens is cause for concern.

catalog 1.14 / Sub-Type (III-4) (?)



*Bergues Find
Haeck I-3 / Martiny 33-3*



The A of MONETA



This coin also seems to have 'footless' N's in the reverse, outer legend.

TYPE IV

Gros of Convention, Flanders-Brabant

catalog 1.15

Years struck ?

Gaillard Type 206 / Vanhoudt Types G 291 & G 2590 / Serrure Type 32
De Witte 380 / Martiny Type 27

Obverse border of 11 leaves and 1 lion: ❖ ❖ ❖



Gaillard 206



De Witte 380 / Vanhoudt G 291

catalog 1.15 / Type IV

✠ GĀNDEN? LOVĀIN?

•LVD' COM' •IOh' DVX

✠ BNDICTV : SIT : NOME : DNI : NRI : IHV : XPI

↓



Elsen 118-996 / 3.64 g.

Note that on the reverse, the 'rule' of 1st **O** round, 2nd **O** long has not been followed. On the other hand, the model **IOh** and **COM** of the Brabantine and Flemish *compagnons* (respectively) have.

Current thinking is that this type was never actually struck at Ghent (nor anywhere in Flanders). We have yet to find any variants of any sort of this type of coin. The apostrophes are found above the **D** and **M** in the reverse, inner legend:

•LVD' COM' •IOh' DVX

also: Martiny GdnLvn 01 / 3.68 g.
 Martiny GdnLvn 02
 Martiny GdnLvn 03 / 2.71 g.
 Catalog Crédit de la Bourse, April 1993, Lot 834 / 3.31 g.
 CdMB: 3.60 g. (105) / 3.68 g. (104)
 NBB N- 1479 / 3.65 g.
 NBB N-2035 / 3.60 g.
 Noord Brabant 09833.0196

CONCLUSION

Our investigation into the *leeuwengroten* of Louis of Nevers is far from finished, and we feel that it is too early to draw too many conclusions just yet. At this time, the types known to have been minted for Louis of Nevers and their identifying characteristics are as follows:

Type I

11♣

1.1	I-A	✠	⌘	×	N
1.2	I-B	✠	⌘		N
1.3	I-C	✠	⌘	×	Ⓝ
1.4	I-D	✠	⌘	×	Ⓝ
1.5	I-E	✠	⌘		Ⓝ

Type II

11♣ / 1♣

1.6	II-A	✠	⌘⌘	✠	Ⓝ
1.7	II-B	✠	⌘⌘		Ⓝ
1.8	II-C	✠	⌘⌘	✠ ✠	Ⓝ
1.9	II-D	✠	⌘⌘	✠ ✠	Ⓝ
1.10	II-E	✠	⌘⌘	✠	Ⓝ

C and D (and E?) the same ??

Type III

11♣ / 1♣

1.11	1*	✠	⌘⌘	✠
1.12	2	✠	⌘⌘	✠
1.13	3	✠	⌘⌘	✠
1.14	4*	✠	⌘⌘	✠

* Types 1 and 4 not completely verified.

Type IV / GANDEN-LOUVAIN type.

♠ 11 ♣ / 1 ♠

1.15	♣	♠
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Vieux Gros

1.16	I	♠
1.17	II	♠
1.18	III	♠

Ghent Groot

1.19	I	♠
1.20	II	♠

Medieval forgeries

1.21	Brabant / Flanders
1.22	Flanders / Brabant
1.23	Flanders / Holland or Namur
1.24	standard
1.25	round ● in COMES
1.26	♠ instead of ♠

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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APPENDIX A: The *Vieux Gros* and the *Ghent Groot*

For some reason, use of the hard-to-engrave round **O** was continued on the semi-legitimate coins now known as the *vieux gros* and the *Ghent groot* (or *drie steden groot*). Perhaps it was felt that it gave the coins an “official” look. Only in the outer legend of the *vieux gros* was a long **O** used at all on either of these two coin types.

VIEUX GROS

vieux gros

Old groot

Gros au lion / leeuwengroot

Gaillard 184 var. / Ghyssens (1974) II a / Elsen (1991) 11 / Martiny Type 26

Struck 1338-1339?

There seem to be three types of this coin, each with a different sort of A.



Gaillard 184

We do not believe that Gaillard’s drawing is accurate; we believe all of the interpunction marks are **X**’s, although they sometimes look more like: **✕** on the coins.

catalog 1.16

TYPE I



Crédit de la Bourse 1993, lot 828 / 3.29 g. (Martiny 26.1)

✠ MONET **ⲡ** ✠ COMITIS ✠ FL **ⲡ** ND'

✠ LVDOVIC **ⲡ** ✠ COMES

✠ B̄NDICTV̄ : SIT : NOM̄ : DN̄I : NR̄I : IH̄V : ✠PI

also: CdMB / 3.20 g (2-000)_
NBB N-4646 2.90 g.

catalog 1.17

TYPE II



Elsen 106-654 / 3.45 g. (Martiny 26-2)

✠ MONETA * COMITIS * FLAND'

✠ LUDOVIC * COMES

✠ BNDICTV : SIT : NOMB : DNI : NRI : IHV : PI

also: Elsen 87-704 / 3.03 g. (Martiny 26-3)
Vernier S-544

Note that the 'standard', Louis of Nevers *leeuwengroot* C is used on these coins: **C**, as well as the 'standard', *leeuwengroot* outer legend C: **C** (Louis I and II). There are annulet T's on the obverse, but 'normal' T's on the reverse. All of the O's are round, except the reverse, outer legend (NOME). All the L's are 'wedge' letters. A Roman E is used on the obverse and reverse "main" legends, a gothic **E** on the religious saying on the reverse.

The crossbars on the coin above are straight; on the following coin, they are chevrons:

catalog 1.18
TYPE III



S545 / 3.31 g.

✠ MONET  ✠ COMITIS ✠ FL  ND'

The mark after MONETA looks like a leaf.



GHENT GROOT

Gros de Trois Villes

“Gros au lion / leeuwengroot”

Moneta Nova groot

Gaillard 185; Elsen (1991) 16; Martiny 31

There seem to be two types. One with **R** in FLANDRIE (cat. 1.19), the other with **R** (cat. 1.20).

catalog 1.19

Type I: R



Elsen 106-657 / 3.34 g.

✠ MONETA : NOVA : COMITIS : FLANDR

CA ND

✠ LUDOVICVS : COMES : FLANDRIE

Note that the ‘standard’, Louis of Nevers *leeuwengroot* C is not used on these coins, rather a typical ‘sharp’ C is used: **C**. The two T’s on the obverse are annuleted, and all of the O’s are round. All of the L’s are ‘wedge’ letters, the E’s are all gothic: **E**, and the A crossbars on the coin are straight.

There has been a return to the sexfoil around the central lion of the *grand blanc* and similar coins.

catalog 1.19 / Type I



SMzB BM-058-20 / 3.56 g.

Most of the known examples seem to have the **R** type in FLANDRIE.

also: Elsen 87-706 / 3.60 g.
 Vernier S-547 / 3.40 g.
 Crédit de la Bourse 1993_829 / 3.22 g.
 SMzB_BM-058-20 / 3.56g
 NBB N-4647 / 3.68g

catalog 1.20

Type II: R



PBA-Lille, collection A. Vernier, inv. S-548 / 3.65 g.

✠ MONETA : NOVA : COMITIS : FLAND'

6 A N D

✠ LUDOVICVS : COMES : FLANDRIE

The **R** in FLANDRIE is different than on the previous coin:



Vernier S 547 / 3.40 g.

R



Vernier S 548 / 3.65 g.

R

Gaillard's description of a medieval counterfeit *Ghent groot*

— 149 —

N° 183. Double aigle. **MONETA : NOV : COMITIS : FLAN**.
 Lion debout dans un entourage composé de six arcs de cercle.
 r ✠ **LVDOVICVS : COMES : FLANDRIE**. Grande croix
 cantonnée des lettres **G — A — N — D**.
 A. gr. 3,60. (Nouveau gros.) Cabinet de M. Serrure.

N° 186. Variété. Double aigle. **MONETA : COMITIS : NOV : (sic.)
 FLAN**.
 C. Cabinet de l'Université de Gand.

C'est une contrefaçon ancienne de la pièce décrite sous le numéro précédent.

Gaillard p. 149

Gaillard 186; Martiny 31-1 / 2.70 g

✠ **MONETA : COMITIS : NOV FLAN**

G A N D

✠ **LVDOVICVS : COMES : FLANDRIE**

↓



Gaillard's drawing does not accurately portray the C's.

APPENDIX B: Medieval Counterfeit Coins

catalog 1.21

Gros of Convention, Flanders – Brabant (counterfeit)



Elsen 106-653

Sometimes touted as a coin of the 1337 (?) Brabant-Flanders monetary union, this piece has traded hands several times in the past decade, for sums ranging from € 500 to € 1,000, which is quite astonishing since it is a **contemporary counterfeit** and not an official issue at all.

Although once reported as being a unique specimen, another example of this [counterfeit] coin is in the collection of the CdM in Brussels, a third has been sold at auction, and a fourth, fifth and sixth are in private collections. All six specimens seem to be struck in poor metal.

If it is imitation of an official Flemish-Brabantine coin, no examples of an original have yet been found. The hard-to-read legends are: MONETA FLAND / IOH DVX BRABAN. Since all of the coins are rather poor, accurate reading of the legends is difficult. At least one specimen, however, shows definite chevron A's: **Λ**.

It is noteworthy that all 6 of the examples of this type of counterfeit known to exist have a crack that runs from the edge to the center and includes a piece missing from the edge. On 2 of the coins, the crack runs under the **O** of MONETA. On another 2, the crack runs between the **N** and **E**. On the remaining two, 1 is cracked between the **L** and **A** of FLAND, the other between the **D** and the initial eagle (and again through the **L** of FLAND).

catalog 1.21



The bottom left coin is in the CdMB, the others in private collections.



CdMB / 3.120 g.

catalog 1.22

Gros of Convention, Brabant – Flanders (counterfeit)

Recently, two specimens have come to light which show the “opposite” arrangement of the coins shown above, i.e. legends reading MONETA BRABAND / LVDOVIC COMES. One of these pieces is found in a private collection, the other in the collection of A. Vernier, in the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille



PBA-Lille, collection A. Vernier, inv. S-592 / 3.11 g.

catalog 1.23

Gros of Convention, Flanders – Holland or Hainaut (counterfeit)

For some reason, other hybrid counterfeits have gone relatively unnoticed, such as the MONETA FLAND / ODV XLO TBR ABI coin found in France by a metal detector user, or this MONETA FLAND / GVILLEMVS COMES coin in the CdM in Brussels:



CdMB-E313-021 (062) / 2.830 g.

catalog 1.24**Counterfeit *leeuwengroot*, standard**

The Flemish *leeuwengroot* was one of the most counterfeited coins of the later Middle Ages, second only, perhaps, to the English *sterling*. Countless examples are known to us today. Most of them are recognizable by their poor metal, or by the abnormal leaf mark after MONETA or by light weight.



private collection / 1.85 g.



private collection / 3.03 g.



private collection

catalog 1.25

Counterfeit *leeuwengroot*, round **O** in COMES

There is a fairly large group of medieval counterfeits that were all made by the same forger or workshop of forgers. These coins are immediately recognizable by the round **O** in COMES – something that is not seen on official Flemish issues of Louis of Nevers. That is to say: if these counterfeits are copies of official coins, no original has ever been found. We are at a loss to explain why counterfeiters should use a round **O** when this was not the case on the official issues of Louis of Nevers. It is possible that only one set of dies was used to make these forgeries.



private collection / 2.82 g. (ex- Fleur de coin 1912249)



private collection / 3.81 g. (ex- Elsen 269-640)

also: Vernier S-564
Elsen 119-1212
CdMB E373-001

catalog 1.26

Counterfeit *leeuwengroot*, **CD•CD** instead of **CDzCD**



private collection / 3.14 g.

IIVD OVI CD•CD MES

Unusually, this piece has a pellet instead of an apostrophe and a small x in the reverse, inner legend. It also appears to have an obverse border of 12 leaves.

APPENDIX C: Previous Literature

For many decades, *Recherches sur les Monnaies des Comtes de Flandre* by Victor Gaillard (ref. 1) has been considered to be the standard work on medieval, Flemish coins, despite its many deficiencies and inaccuracies. More recently, this has been supplemented by *Atlas der munten van België van de Kelten tot heden* by Hugo Vanhoudt (ref. 6), which is useful as a quick-reference guide.

Most recently of all, *Het Munthuis in Gent: Deel I Karel de Grote – Lodewijk van Mâle (768 –1384)* by Jean-Claude Martiny (ref. 4) provides far greater insight into the minting under Louis of Nevers

GAILLARD

Gaillard included transcriptions of the medieval minting records in his books, which is extremely useful for the modern researcher. There are, however, one or two minor errors in the transcriptions. Rather than discuss these errors in detail, it should suffice to say that they have been noted and corrected by Martiny in his transcriptions (see below).

Despite the fact that it is still used as the standard work on Flemish coins, Gaillard's book is full of errors regarding the *leeuwengroot*.

For example, Gaillard's description of his number 202 is missing the word DEI from the reverse, outer legend. Therefore, no coin anywhere actually matches the description of his number 202. (This omission was repeated by Duplessy (1974)). Gaillard makes no mention of the forms of the N / **Ń** or E / **Ɔ** in the reverse, outer legend. The problem only gets worse when one looks at the accompanying illustration, which clearly shows the absence of the word DEI, as well as an obverse border of 12 leaves:



Gaillard 202
as illustrated, this coin does not exist

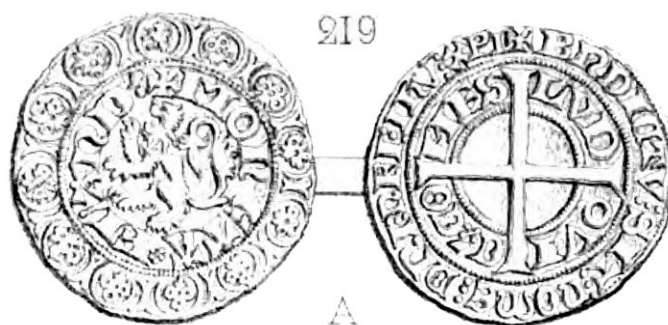
It seems likely that a drawing of an 11♣ / 1♣ border coin was used, and then the border lion altered to a leaf. The result was an illustration with the incorrect reverse shown.

Gaillard 201: The drawing used for Gaillard's illustration of his number 201 shows an accurate representation of a **cat. 1.10 (Type II-E)** coin:



Gaillard 201

Gaillard 219: The drawing used for Gaillard's illustration of his number 219 (**cat. Type III / 1.11 - 1.14**), does not show a Louis of Mâle, Issue I coin as it should, but rather an Issue VII coin, with pellet L's and 3-lobed border leaves:

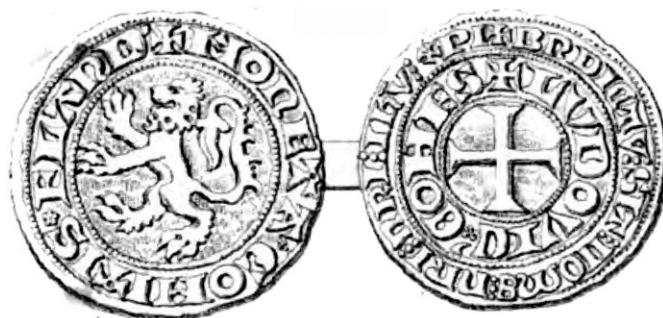


We must, of course, forgive Gaillard for this, as he could not have known any better. His only intention was to depict a coin with 11♣ / 1♥ in the border, and an initial cross in the obverse legend, which he has indeed done.

Gaillard 220: All too often, this coin is used as a reference number by modern scholars and coin dealers, but it represents a medieval counterfeit, and should never be used as a reference number. We are left to wonder if the drawing is accurate: it shows 13 border leaves, something which is all but unheard of on a *leeuwengroot* from any region.



Gaillard 184: As previously stated, we think that Gaillard's drawing of the *vieux gros* (**cat. 1.16 - 1.18**) is inaccurate; we believe all of the interpunction marks are X's, not rosettes.



Gaillard 184

MARTINY

Martiny provides an in-depth account of the minting process under Louis of Nevers in his book. Strictly speaking, his book supercedes that of Gaillard, and for all intents and purposes could (and should) be used in place of the older work, at least when it comes to the *leeuwengroot* and its related coins. People are creatures of habit, however, and most continue to use Gaillard's outdated work as a reference, despite its deficiencies.

Martiny has also provided transcriptions of the medieval minting records, but in a far more readable form than Gaillard. Furthermore, he has noted and corrected a number of errors present in Gaillard's transcriptions.

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