



FRANCE

1328-50 FRANCE ECU'OR FR-270 PHILIPPE VI MS-62 NGC



Philip VI of Valois

Philip VI was the first king of France from the House of Valois, reigning from 1328 until his death in 1350. Philip's reign was dominated by the consequences of a succession dispute. When King Charles IV of France died in 1328, the nearest male relative was his nephew King Edward III of England, but the French nobility preferred Charles's paternal cousin Philip. At first, Edward seemed to accept Philip's succession, but he pressed his claim to the throne of France after a series of disagreements with Philip. The result was the beginning of the Hundred Years' War in 1337. After initial successes at sea, Philip's navy was annihilated at the Battle of Sluys in 1340, ensuring that the war would occur on the continent.

The English took another decisive advantage at the Battle of Crécy (1346), while the Black Death struck France, further destabilising the country. In 1349, King Philip VI bought the Province of Dauphiné from its ruined ruler the Dauphin Humbert II and entrusted the government of this province to his grandson Prince Charles. Philip VI died in 1350 and was succeeded by his son King John II, the Good.

FR-270, 4.46g. On the obverse is the king with a sword and shield, seated on a Gothic throne, holding scepter and fleur de lis. On the reverse is a floriated cross in quadrilobe, fleur de lis in angles.

