



FRANCE

1380-1422 FRANCE ECU'OR FR - 291 CHARLES VI MS-63 NGC



Charles VI

Charles VI was King of France from 1380 to his death. He was a member of the House of Valois. Charles VI was only 11 when he inherited the throne in the midst of the Hundred Years' War. The government was entrusted to his four uncles. Although the royal age of majority was fixed at 14, the dukes maintained their grip on Charles until he took power at the age of 21. In 1388 Charles VI dismissed his uncles and brought back to power his father's former advisers, known as the Marmousets. Political and economic conditions in the kingdom improved significantly, and Charles earned the epithet "the Beloved". But in August 1392 en route to Brittany with his army in the forest of Le Mans, Charles suddenly went mad and slew four knights and almost killed his brother, Louis of Orléans.

A fierce struggle for power developed between Louis of Orléans, the king's brother, and John the Fearless, Duke of Burgundy, the son of Philip the Bold and the king's cousin. When John instigated the murder of Louis in November 1407, the conflict degenerated into a civil war between the Armagnacs (supporters of the House of Valois) and the Burgundians. John offered large parts of France to King Henry V of England, who was still at war with the Valois monarchy, in exchange for his support. After the assassination of John the Fearless, his son Philip the Good led Charles the Mad to sign the infamous Treaty of Troyes (1420), which disinherited his offspring and recognized Henry V as his legitimate successor on the throne of France.

Obverse: KAROLVS : DEI : GRACIA : FRAnCORVM : REX, crowned arms of France

Reverse: XPC * VIICIT * XPC * REGIAT * XPC * IIPERAT, cross fleurée, a star in the center; all within a quadrilobe with lis at points and crowns in spandrels.

