



FRANCE

1422-61 ECU'OR FR - 309 CHARLES VII MS-63 NGC



Charles VII

Charles VII was King of France from 1422 to his death in 1461. In the midst of the Hundred Years' War, Charles VII inherited the throne of France under desperate circumstances. Forces of the Kingdom of England and the duke of Burgundy occupied Guyenne and northern France, including Paris, the most populous city, and Reims, the city in which French kings were traditionally crowned. In addition, his father, Charles VI, had disinherited him in 1420 and recognized Henry V of England and his heirs as the legitimate successors to the French crown. At the same time, a civil war raged in France between the Armagnacs (supporters of the House of Valois) and the Burgundian party (supporters of the House of Valois-Burgundy, which was allied to the English).

Although Charles VII's legacy is far overshadowed by the deeds and eventual martyrdom of Joan of Arc and his early reign was at times marked by indecisiveness and inaction, he was responsible for successes unprecedented in the history of the Kingdom of France. The legitimacy of Charles VII's rule was based upon her visions of the Archangel Michael, Saint Margaret and Saint Catherine instructing her to support the then uncrowned king. Highly desirable for its historical links to this dramatic portion of French history.

Crowned fleur du lis flank the coat of arms, both the obverse and reverse legends begin with a crown and there is a crown in each angle on the reverse.

