



FRANCE

1515-47 FRANCE ECU'OR FR - 347 FRANCOIS I MS-62 NGC



Francis I

Francis I was the first of five monarchs of the Angoulême branch of the House of Valois. A Renaissance patron of the arts and scholarship, a humanist, and a knightly king, he waged campaigns in Italy (1515–16) and fought a series of wars with the Holy Roman Empire (1521–44).

At the bloody Battle of Marignano, charging at the head of his cavalry, he defeated the reportedly invincible Swiss mercenaries of Duke Massimiliano Sforza and his ally Pope Leo X. After the victory, by his own wish, he was knighted by the captain who had fought most bravely: Bayard, the most famous chevalier of his time. Wasting away with fever, dying, he wandered from castle to castle, carried on a litter.

Finally, on March 31, 1547, the knight-king died. Notwithstanding the personal afflictions of the last 20 years of his life, Francis was to his countrymen and to the succeeding generation le grand roi François.

Obverse: Crowned arms of Francis with a radiant sun above.

Reverse: Alternating fleur-du-lis and F's in the angles of the cross.

Mint: Limoges

