

The currencies of the suabos emperors

The 25 of December of 1194, with the coronation of Enrique I, began the domination of the House of Suabia in southern Italy. Under this dynasty, the activity of the mint of Palermo stopped, but they continued working to total rate the one of Messina for Sicily and the one of Toast for the continental regions. To these factories, that they produced tari and multipli of gold, apuliensi, denari and mezz denari, they added the mints of Gaeta (to follar of Enrique I), Amalfi (ta@i of gold for Enrique Vi and Federico 11), Manfredonia (covers and multipli of gold, denari and mezz denari in name of Manfredo) and Salerno (to follar and mezz to follar of Enrique I), giving rise to a very rich production and varied throughout dominion of the suabos sovereigns (that concluded in 1266, year of coming of the Angevinos).

the currencies of a small king

We can divide the production of Federico 11 for Sicily in three periods. First it includes/understands of 1197 to 1208, and agrees with the regency of its Constanza mother and after feudales dignitaries and indigenous gentlemen and German, because Federico had raised the throne just by three years of age. This production, that partly continues the one of Enrique I, is characterized by the introduction, in the obverse, of a small one eagle, times monocéfala (with a single other head) and bicephalous (with two heads), element that will characterize during centuries the currencies sicilianas. In 1209 Federico it assumed the power personally and it did not take in pronouncing itself very resolute and sagacious in the political management. To this second period (that arrives until 1220) diverse gold currencies belong with letters **F**, **FAITH** and **FC** (monogramas of name of Federico), along with the name of its father, Enrique I, and letters in cúficos characters, inheritance of the Arab currencies, although now reduced to pure decorative element and deprived of a real meaning and a message. We also have currencies that present/display the traditional eagle already, and other that take two in center or more small globes. There are also some denari and mezz denari of alloy (coined in Messina) that they celebrate the esponsales of Federico, hardly fifteen years, with Constanza de Aragón (1209), and others, not less interesting from a point of historical Vista, whose legend gathers the title of **REX ROMANOR**. . These last ones give testimony of the election of Federico like King of Romans, celebrated in Germany in 1212 in Maguncia and Aquisgrán.

the currencies of the emperor

In 1220 Pope Honorio 111 crowned in Rome to Federico **imperator Romanorum to semper augustus ET Rex Siciliae**. To this last period, that includes/understands 29 years, belong currencies of great interest and artistic quality very well-taken care of, superior to the one of previous emissions. In ta@i they appear legend **F. IMPERATOR**, the eagle and the Latin cross next to monograma of Christ (**IC XC**) and to victorious affirmation **Nor KA**. Also from this period they date the gorgeous **augustales**, gold currencies of very Latin flavor, that are also opposed to the previous ones of gold and of bizantina and Arab derivation. The name reveals that the iconography sends specifically to the golden ones of old Rome: in the obverse we found, in effect, the picture of Federico in many variants (more or less great head, youthful and sometimes sometimes more mature

face, outstanding or with crown of conventional laurel or), accompanied by the significant legend **CAESAR AVG/IMP ROM.** . Reverso presents/displays the name, accompanied by an eagle that if in the essential he has remained immutable, offers many variants of style and position. The great newness to the birth of the augustal it is in the fact that to the gold currency a fixed and constant weight is assigned to him, 5.25 g, and one law of 20 carats and means (as opposed to the one of tari, 16 and a third). The currency has great historical value, because it is the fruit of the most important ones Meifitanas constitutions of 1231, by which it was tried to equip the kingdom with a legislation of public and deprived right, able one often to reorganize with solidity the government of southern Italy. To the third diverse period they belong denari of silver, between that we remembered, by his interesting historical entailment, those in which it appears the name of Federico accompanied by the title of **REX IERVSOLOMIT O F. ROMANOR IMP/IERL ET SICILI**, from which it is evident ostentation of the dignity of king of contributed Jerusalem as it equips in 1225 by Isabel, daughter of Juan de Brienne, but mainly conquered during sixth crossed. Another emission characteristic of this last phase of the currencies of Federico represents denari, with which the State Treasury obtained high gains and that, with time, underwent an inflation more and more hard and, which is worse, was devaluated. new emissions were very frequent, and every time they presented/displayed one more a lower law, situation than it did not take in taking to one serious devaluation. If 16 denari of 1209 contained 3.6 g of pure silver, 24 denari of the last emission (1249) only presented/displayed 0.6 precious metal g. !>

The meifitanas Constitutions

The meifitanas Constitutions, calls also Constitutions of kingdom of Sicily, gathered and ordered derivation norms normanda and others imposed by the own emperor Federico I. The intention consisted of equipping the kingdom with a solid bureaucratic apparatus named by the king, who allowed a management of government very centralized under direct dependancy of the sovereign. Federico thus acted with a purpose of acabar on the feudalism, still alive inside Empire, and to eliminate the autonomistas tendencies of the diverse communal cities. The Constitutions, of great historical importance in addition to documentary, reflect the great political intelligence of Federico, who, in certain sense, opportunely anticipated when conceiving a strong and centralized State, in which a judicial administration was predicted and state financier who had to use to civil employees with specific and qualified competitions. With great amplitude of sights and capacity she stopsto interpret the facts of his time, Federico realized of which each social component performed its own function and had to receive his personal reconnaissance: thus it did not deny the exerted fundamental function in those years by the municipal bourgeoisie. With a plan that pointed to extend his hegemony to all the peninsula, Federico seted out to coordinate the activity of the communal cities under the authority and control of State. The collaboration with the Church, surpassing therefore the thorny was predicted problem of the supremacy of a power on another one. But to the clergy, just like the other citizens, it asked that it paid taxes to him and it accepted the competition of the civil courts.