



**Central Bank
of Armenia**

AWARDS OF THE NOTES AND COINS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Y E R E V A N 2026



Participation of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia in International Contests

Since 2007, the Central Bank of Armenia has consistently submitted notes and coins of the Republic of Armenia to prestigious international numismatic contests. Collector coins of the Republic of Armenia enter such contests each year, as – unlike other types of notes and coins – they are issued as part of annual programs to honor significant state, historical, and cultural milestones of the year.

Banknotes, both circulating and collectible, as well as circulating and commemorative coins alike are eligible to participate in contests only if they belong to a new series or represent a new type.

Notes and coins of the Republic of Armenia nominated in international numismatic contests have earned many awards, including most prestigious ones and special prizes reflecting the sympathy of the international community. These achievements demonstrate that Armenia's notes and coins – whether in thematic content, artistic harmony, application of cutting-edge technologies, or uncompromising production quality – stand fully equal to those issued by long-established organizations and mints that participate in those contests.

This booklet contains information on the organizations that hold international numismatic contests and the prizes they award. It also features the notes and coins of the Republic of Armenia that have won these contests, along with photographs of the award-winning notes and coins, as well as the diplomas and prizes conferred upon them.

By participating in international numismatic contests, notes and coins of the Republic of Armenia contribute to the wider recognition and worthy presentation of significant state, historical, and cultural events across both domestic and international numismatic platforms.

INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS



Coin Constellation

“Coin Constellation” is an annual international numismatic contest held in the Russian Federation; it features collector coins issued by different countries in the course of the preceding year. The contest is organized by the publishing house “Water Mark”, which is the issuer of the professional magazine *Zolotoy Chervonets* (“Gold Chervonets”). The winning coins are selected by an international jury on the basis of photographs and descriptions.

The “Coin Constellation” contest includes the following categories:

- **Unique Concept** – Open to coins made of any metal and minted using any theme or technology. The evaluation considers both the chosen theme and how vividly, originally, and successfully it is expressed through design and technology.
- **Best Artistic Solution** – Assesses the artistic design of the coin, including the harmony and aesthetic quality of the composition.
- **Original Technology** – Evaluates the coin in terms of execution quality, the application of special technologies, processing methods, the use of unconventional materials, and how effectively these technological choices enhance the presentation of the theme.
- **Best Circulating Coin** – Features circulation coins made of non-precious metals. They can be issued under any theme, using any technology.

- **Coin Classic** – The category requires, as the main condition, compliance with the classical principles of the art of medal making.
- **Souvenir Coin** – Evaluates the marketing concept of the coin and its ability to attract public interest. This category may include coins of non-standard shapes or those produced using non-traditional technologies (such as inserts, color printing, enameling, hot stamping, etc.).
- **Series of the Year** – Recognizes series of collector coins, assessed for conceptual unity, artistic design, and overall harmony of the series.
- **Silver Coin of the Year** – Awards the best silver collector coin based on overall impression, thematic presentation, artistic design, and production quality.
- **Gold Coin of the Year** – Applies the same criteria as for silver coins: overall impression, thematic presentation, artistic design, and production quality.
- **Coin of the Year** – The most prestigious category, evaluating the extent to which a coin has become a notable event in the numismatic market during the year, owing to its theme, design, and quality of mintage.

In addition, the “Coin Constellation” has established two special awards:

the *Special Prize of the Organizing Committee*, granted for originality, and the *Audience Sympathy Award*, presented to the coin receiving the highest number of votes in the online voting on the website: www.gold10.ru.



Vicenza Numismatica

(Activity terminated since 2015)

The Vicenza Numismatica exhibition-fair, held in the Italian city of Vicenza, was one of the most important numismatic events in Europe, as it attracted representatives of culture, science, trade, as well as collectors and enthusiasts from around the world. Banknotes, coins made of precious and non-precious metals, medals, and other numismatic items were exhibited there. The purpose of the exhibition was to expand the knowledge of numismatists and collectors regarding coins and medals reflecting the history and culture of different countries and peoples, as well as to promote the development of creative and artistic approaches in numismatics.

One of the key events of the Vicenza Numismatica exhibition-fair was the “International Numismatic Awards” contest, in which a jury composed of prominent representatives of culture, fine arts, and numismatics awarded three prizes, as follows: “Vicenza Numismatica” for the winning coin in the “Best Commemorative Coin of the Year” category (evaluated on the basis of its reference to a universal theme, artistic originality, and minting technology); “Vicenza Palladio”, granted to the most beautiful commemorative coin featuring architectural elements; and a third prize awarded to the authors of coin and medal designs for their creative achievements.



International Association of Currency Affairs (IACA)

The International Association of Currency Affairs (IACA) is a non-profit organization. Established in the United States in 2004, it closely cooperates with representatives of both the public and private sectors involved in the money circulation industry.

The goal of the Association is to provide advice on issues of interest to participants in cash circulation and to support them through design expertise, programs, and information resources. Its members include central banks and currency issuing authorities, ministries of finance, state and commercial printing works and mints, cash management companies, as well as suppliers of cash-handling machines and equipment.

The IACA holds biennial competitions for banknotes and coins in the following categories:

“Best New Circulating Banknote or Banknote Series”;

“Best New Circulating Coin or Coin Series”;

“Best New Commemorative or Test Circulating Banknote/Coin”.

In these categories, entries are evaluated based on their overall appeal, completeness, and harmony.

The winners are determined by a vote of IACA members, and the results are announced during the **Currency Conference** organized by the Association.



Reconnaissance International

Reconnaissance International is a leading global information and research organization.

Its mission is to provide information and advisory services on markets, technologies, trends, and strategies through publications, newsletters, conferences, forums, and consulting activities.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom and established in 1988, Reconnaissance International operates through a network of representatives in Europe, South Africa, China, India, and Latin America. Over the years, it has gained wide international recognition, with numerous clients, partners, and event participants across the globe.

Reconnaissance International is particularly known for organizing conferences on secure printing across different regions, including High Security Printing EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa), High Security Printing Asia, and High Security Printing Latin America. These conferences showcase the latest technologies and methods used in the production and issuance of banknotes, electronic passports (ePassports), identification cards (ID cards), visas, and other secure documents.



International Bank Note Society (IBNS)

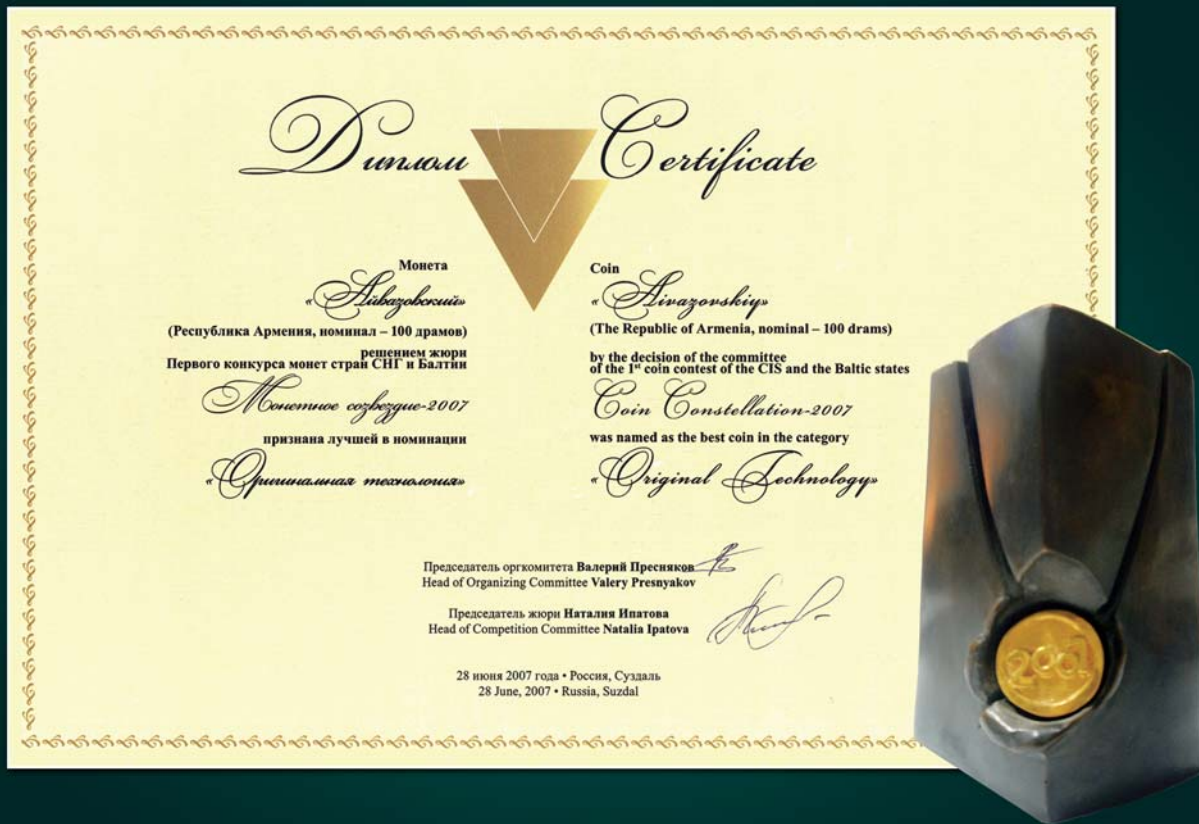
The International Bank Note Society (IBNS) is a non-profit, US-based educational organization that has been operating since 1961. Its mission is to promote and support the study and understanding of banknotes and related issues among a wide audience. The Society's activities have an educational, scientific, and historical focus.

The IBNS has set up the annual “Banknote of the Year” contest; it features banknotes newly issued and in circulation that are distinguished by their artistic design or the incorporation of innovative security features.

The winner is determined by a vote of IBNS members, with the banknote receiving the highest number of votes.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2007





Hovhannes Aivazovsky

100 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2007”

Nomination – “Original technology”

Award – I place

Obverse: the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia and
a fragment from the painting “Sinking Ship” (1854) by Hovhannes Aivazovsky.

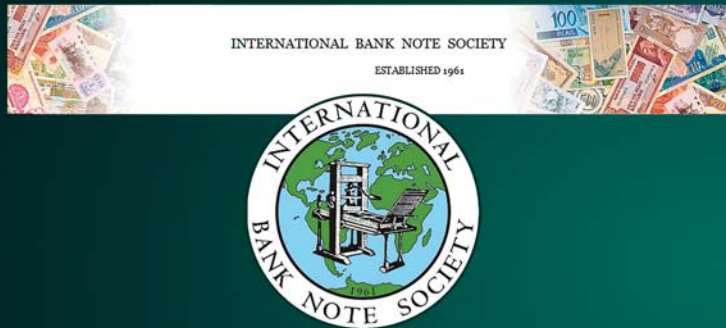
Reverse: the portrait of Aivazovsky and a fragment from his painting “Battle of Chesme” (1886).

Designed by Robert Kotowicz.

Minted at the Mint of Poland.

A W A R D S

INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY – 2009



*Nomination – “Banknote of the year – 2009”
The banknote is included in the list of
the best 9 banknotes of the year*

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CURRENCY AFFAIRS – 2010



*Nomination – “Best new banknote or
banknote series – 2010”
Award – Finalist*

ARMENIAN NOTE



100 000 dram denominated banknote

2009 year of issue

Front: King Abgar V pointing at a canvas with a lively portrait of Jesus Christ attached to the royal flag.

This is the canvas that Jesus wiped his face and onto which it is believed that the portrait of Jesus was imprinted. Having seen this portrait King Abgar V was cured of leprosy. The background: an excerpt from a 1st-century regional map. On the right: a historical coin depicting the royal dynasty of Abgar V, dating to the reign of King Abgar X of the Kingdom of Edessa (AD 239–242) and the Roman Emperor Gordian III (AD 238–244).

Back: the disciple Thaddeus handing the canvas to King Abgar V (the image is taken from a painting done by Mkrtoum Hovnatanian in 1836).

Designed by Haroutiun Samuelian.

Producer: De La Rue, Great Britain.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2011



Диплом

5-й Международный конкурс памятных монет

Монетное созвездие-2011

Победитель в номинации

Серебряная монета года

**1600-летие со дня рождения
Мовсеса Хоренаци**
(Центральный банк Армении)

Председатель жюри конкурса
Head of the Contest Jury

28 сентября 2011 года. Россия, Санкт-Петербург
28 September 2011. St. Petersburg, Russia



Diploma

5th International commemorative coins contest

Coin Constellation-2011

Winner in the nomination

Silver coin of the year

**1600th Anniversary
of Movses Khorenatsi's Birth**
(Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia)

Наталия Ипатова
Natalia Ipatova

Организатор конкурса – Издательский дом «Уотер Марк»
Contest Organizer – Water Mark Publishing House



1600th Birth Anniversary of Movses Khorenatsi

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2011”

Nomination – “Silver coin of the year”

Award – I place

Obverse: the first page of the manuscript made by motives of medieval miniature and an excerpt from the “History of Armenia” written by Movses Khorenatsi.

Reverse: a collective image of the historiographer (an excerpt from Sargis Pitsak’s work), a vestry and a quote from the “History of Armenia” by Movses Khorenatsi.

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan.

Minted at the Royal Dutch Mint.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2011





Jazz

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2011”

Nomination – “Successful artistic solution”

Award – III place

Obverse: a jazz band with stylized instruments for jazz.

Reverse: stylized instruments for jazz.

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan.

Minted at the B.H. Mayer Mint, Germany.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2011





Tanacetum Zangezuricum

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2011”

Nomination – “Souvenir coin”

Award – III place

Obverse: the flower of Tanacetum Zangezuricum and the petal.

Reverse: the flower and stems of Tanacetum Zangezuricum.

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan.

Minted at the B.H. Mayer Mint, Germany.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2012

Диплом

6-й Международный конкурс памятных монет
Монетное созвездие-2012
II место в номинации
Серия года

Хачкары Армении

(Центральный банк Республики Армения)

Председатель жюри конкурса
Head of the Contest Jury

14 июня 2012 года. Россия, Москва
14 June 2012. Moscow, Russia



Diploma

6th International commemorative coins contest
Coin Constellation-2012
II place in the nomination
Series of the year

Cross-stones of Armenia

(Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia)

Наталья Ипатова
Natalia Ipatova

Организатор конкурса – Издательский дом «Уотер Марк»
Contest Organizer – Water Mark Publishing House

ARMENIAN COIN SERIES



Cross-stones (khachkars) of Armenia

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin series

“Etchmiadzin Cross-stone”, “Kecharis Cross-stone”, “Gndevank Cross-stone”,
“Goshavank Cross-stone”, “Noravank Cross-stone”, “Sanahin Cross-stone”

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2012”

Nomination – “Series of the year”

Award – II place

Obverse: the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia.

Reverses: miniature copies of the cross-stones made of compound marble,
images of monastic complexes and crosses, decorative patterns.

Minted at the B.H. Mayer Mint, Germany.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2012





2200th Anniversary of Foundation of Artashat

1000 dram denominated gold collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2012”

Nomination – “Coin of the year”

Award – III place

Obverse: obverse of the copper coin of the city of Artashat (1 BC – 2 AD) depicting Tikhve – Goddess of Artashat – with the crown in the form of a tower.

Reverse: reverse of copper coin of the city of Artashat (1 BC – 2 AD) depicting the portrait of Nike – Goddess of victory.

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan.

Minted at the Royal Dutch Mint.

A W A R D

VICENZA NUMISMATICA – 2014



International Award
VICENZA NUMISMATICA 2014

1st Prize

Yerevan 2012 - World Book Capital

Central Bank of Armenia





500th Anniversary of Armenian Book Printing

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Vicenza Numismatica – 2014”

Nomination – “The best coin of the year” category

Award – I place

Obverse: the logotype of celebrations dedicated to announcing Yerevan the worldwide capital of the book.

Reverse: one of the sights of Venice, the stamp mark of Hakob Meghapart, the first Armenian printer, “Urbatagirq” and a picture “Patient’s visit” from the book.

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan.

Minted at the Royal Dutch Mint.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2014





Letters of Armenian Alphabet

500 dram denominated silver collector coin series

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2014”

Nomination – “Special prize from the Organizing Committee”

Obverse: the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia.

Reverses: 39 letters of the Armenian Alphabet.

Designed by Armen Kyurkchyan.

Minted at the Royal Dutch Mint.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2015





The Oldest Trees of the World

100 dram denominated silver collector coin series

“Skhtorashen Platanus”, “Hundred Horse Chestnut”,
“Angel Oak”, “General Sherman Tree”

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2015”

Nomination – “Series of the year”

Award – III place

Obverses: the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia, the fruit of the tree in color.

Reverses: the image and the name of the tree.

Minted at the Mint of Poland.

A W A R D

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CURRENCY AFFAIRS – 2015





Wild Trees of Armenia

200 dram denominated circulating commemorative coin series

“Plane (*Platanus orientalis*)”, “Willow (*Salix babylonica*)”, “Oak (*Quercus araxina*)”,
“Beech (*Fagus orientalis*)”, Poplar (*Populus tremula*)”, “Pine (*Pinus kochiana*)”

Contest – “International Association of Currency Affairs”

Nomination – “Best new commemorative or test circulating coin – 2015”

Award – Finalist

Obverses: sprouts of Plane, Willow, Oak, Beech, Poplar, Pine trees.

Reverse: the face value of the coin – 200 dram, and national ornament.

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan (*obverses*), Karapet Abrahamyan (*reverse*).

Minted at the Mint of Slovakia.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2016





The Centenary of the Armenian Genocide

100 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2016”

Nomination – “Coin of the Year”

Award – I place



Obverse: Armenian Genocide Memorials (right to left): the monument to the sorrowful mother (Izhevsk, RF, 2010, author – T. Abramidze), the monument to musician Komitas (Paris, France, 2003, author – D. Yerevantzi), the memorial – cross-stone (The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia, 1965, author – R. Israelyan), the stela – cross-stone (Glendale, USA, 2000, author – K. Karibian). At the bottom – Tsitsernakaberd memorial (Yerevan, Armenia, 1967, authors – A. Tarkhanyan, S. Qalashyan).

Reverse: Armenian Genocide Memorials (right to left): the monument to Armenian freedom fighters (Udjan, Armenia, 1989, author – Yu. Minasyan), a fragment from the memorial in the form of an eagle (Aleppo, Syria, 1990, authors – V. Bertizian, G. Yeramian), a fragment from the memorial plaque: a statue of a woman (San Paulo, Brazil, 1966, author – Jose-Jerez Rikalde), a cross-stone (Antwerp, Belgium, 2003, author – H. Sofoian). At the bottom – Tsitsernakaberd memorial.

Designed by Suren Simonyan *and* Aram Urutyan.

Minted at the Mint of Lithuania.

A W A R D

RECONNAISSANCE INTERNATIONAL (HIGH SECURITY PRINTING EMEA) – 2018





500 dram denominated “Noah’s Ark” collector banknote

2017 year of issue

Contest – “Reconnaissance International” (High Security Printing EMEA)

Nomination and award – “Regional Banknote of the Year – 2018”

Front: a reliquary with a fragment of Noah’s Ark against the background of the illustration “View of Ararat and the Monastery of Etchmiadzin” by F. Parrot.

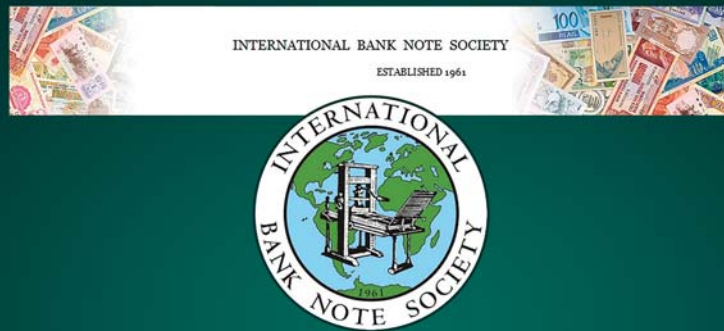
Back: a fragment of illustration “Leaving the Ark” by J. Carolsfeld against the background of the Mountain Ararat.

Designed by Suren Simonyan.

Producer: Giesecke & Devrient GmbH, Germany.

A W A R D

INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY – 2018



Nomination – “Banknote of the Year – 2018”

The banknote is included in the list of the best 16 banknotes of the year.



50 000 dram denominated circulating banknote

2018 year of issue

Front: the image of St Gregory the Illuminator (circa 239–325/326) against the background of the manuscripts telling about the life and activities of the Pontiff, the images of the dome of the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, and the winged cross.

Back: St Gregory the Illuminator's tombstone in Etchmiadzin against the background of the Mountain Ararat, Khor Virap monastery complex and a scene depicting adoption of Christianity, which is engraved on the wall of St Astvatsatsin Church.

Designed by Suren Simonyan.

Producer: Giesecke+Devrient Currency Technology GmbH, Germany.

A W A R D S

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CURRENCY AFFAIRS – 2019

RECONNAISSANCE INTERNATIONAL
(HIGH SECURITY PRINTING EMEA) – 2020



RECONNAISSANCE
**HIGH SECURITY
PRINTING™** EMEA

ARMENIAN NOTE SERIES



1000, 2000, 5000, 10 000, 20 000, 50 000 dram denominated banknotes

2018 year of issue

Contest – “International Association of Currency Affairs”

Nomination – “Best New Banknote or Banknote Series – 2019”

Award – Finalist

Contest – “Reconnaissance International” (High Security Printing EMEA)

Nomination and prize – “Best New Series of the Year – 2020”

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan (1000 dram), Suren Simonyan (2000 dram, 5000 dram, 10 000 dram, 20 000 dram (50 000 dram - reverse), Vardan Vardanyan (20 000 dram - reverse).

Producer: Giesecke+Devrient Currency Technology GmbH, Germany.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2019





2800th Anniversary of Foundation of Yerevan

5000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2019”

Nomination – “Coin of the year”

Award – III place

Obverse: the symbolic images of the city of Yerevan – the coat of arms, the city plan and a relief ornament in the form of the life tree which decorates the building of Municipality.

Reverse: a fragment from the monumental sculpture “King Argishti and the city founders” (author – A. Harutyunyan) which decorates the wall of “Erebuni” Historical and Archeological Museum Reserve.

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan.

Minted at the Lithuanian Mint.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2020





150th Birth Anniversary of Komitas

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2020”

Nomination – “Coin of the year”

Award – III place

Obverse: the drawings by Komitas Vardapet and the fragments from the first printed song “National Hymn” (1891) in Armenian and European notes.

Reverse: the portrait of Komitas Vardapet, outlines of the building of Gevorkian Theological Seminary (architect – H. Abgaryan), stylized images of a crane, Armenian and European notes.

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan (*obverse*), Eduard Kurghinyan (*reverse*).

Minted at the Lithuanian Mint.

AWARD

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2021





100th Birth Anniversary of Jansem

10 000 dram denominated gold collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2021”

Nomination – “Coin classic”

Award – III place

Obverse: a fragment from Jansem’s “Woman with Masks” painting (1978).

Reverse: the portrait of Jansem.

Designed by Eduard Kurghinyan.

Minted at the Lithuanian Mint.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2021



The image displays two 3000 Armenian Dram silver coins. The left coin shows the Mother Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin. The right coin shows the Mother Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin with a religious icon inside.

30 100 dram denominated silver collector coin

Nomination and award – “People’s Choice Award”

Obverse: Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Reverse: the altar of the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin against the background of the inner part of the dome.

Author of the project: CIT Coin Invest AG, Liechtenstein.

Minted at the B.H. Mayer Mint, Germany.

AWARDS

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2022





100th Birth Anniversary of Arno Babajanyan

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2022”

Nomination – “Coin of the Year”

Award – I place

Nomination – “Best Artistic Solution”

Award – III place

Nomination and Award – “People’s Choice Award”

Obverse: a wedding couple, a treble clef, as well as a stylized rose and vinyl.

Reverse: Arno Babajanyan’s portrait, stylized images of vinyl, piano keys, notes and pen.

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan.

Minted at the Lithuanian Mint.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2024





“Ararat-73” – 50th Anniversary of Golden Double

1000 dram denominated silver collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2024”

Nomination and Award – “People’s Choice Award”

Obverse: the “Ararat” football team emblem (1973).

Reverse: the USSR Cup, the Medal of the USSR Top League Champion (1973).

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan.

Minted at the Mint of Poland.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2024





30 Years of National Currency

500 dram denominated circulating commemorative coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2024”

Nomination – “Best circulating coin”

Award – III place

Obverse: the logotype of the 30 years of the national currency.

Reverse: the face value of the coin – 500 dram, and national ornament.

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan (obverse), Karapet Abrahamyan (reverse).

Minted at The Royal Mint, Great Britain.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2025





100th Birth Anniversary of Sergey Parajanov

10 000 dram denominated gold collector coin

Contest – “Coin Constellation – 2025”

Nomination – “Gold coin of the year”

Award – I place

Obverse: scene from Sergey Parajanov’s “The Color of Pomegranates”, the monument to Parajanov at the Komitas pantheon, Yerevan (sculptor: A. Shiraz, 1999).

Reverse: portrait of Sergey Parajanov, excerpts from his collages titled “Variation with Shell on the Theme of Pinturicchio and Rafael”, 2nd version, dedicated to V. A. Katanyan (1989), “Weeping Gioconda” (1977) and “Portrait of Daniel Olbrychski” (1980).

Designed by Haroutiun Samuelian (*obverse*), Anna Kurghinyan (*reverse*).

Minted at the Mint of Poland.

A W A R D

COIN CONSTELLATION – 2025





AWARDS OF
THE NOTES AND COINS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA





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