

The Royal Coin for Andreas Morgan & Kallista Morganova

Created by: Violeta deValencia

For Reign of Andreas Morgan III and Kallista Morganova III, Æ56

The Guild set about attempting to meet the request of Their Majesties to produce a design for a coin that will show support and understanding for our rapidly changing society; a coin that represents diversity and inclusion.

This was a surprisingly difficult task, given that the historical designs for coins tend to be focused on rulers, nations, or events. Additionally, historical symbols for concepts like diversity and inclusivity are, as far as we can find, non-existent. Therefore, we tried to modify our thinking away from strictly historical concepts and knowledge that was contemporary to the age. However, we still wanted to design a coin that, even if it included anachronistic symbols and knowledge, would blend well with the SCA's aesthetics and overall feel.

The Obverse:

As always, we try to reference historical coins for our designs. The obverse, which typically contains some indication of the sponsor for the coin, was the best opportunity for doing so with this project. We chose to reference a coin minted between 1325 and 1327: a silver Groschen minted for King Edward II in the Duchy of Aquitaine. The reverse of this coin is the source for the obverse of our design.

We chose Edward II because he is one of the more well documented LGBTQ+ royalty of medieval Europe. It's frequently tempting to say that this or that king or queen was homosexual or transgender, but viewing these individuals through the modern lens of gender nonconformity can be potentially misleading. So, although LGBTQ+ people certainly existed at the time, they wouldn't have necessarily viewed themselves that way or used the same terminology that we use today. However, with sufficient evidence we can sometimes apply modern terminology with reasonable confidence. Edward II was one of these. His extreme interest in men, and disinterest in women, was frequently noted by many. Additionally, his relationship with the first Earl of Cornwall Piers Gaveston was well documented. The Annales Paulini, the Lanercost Chronicle, and the Chronicle of Melsa all recorded much of the drama caused by their relationship, which so troubled the nobility and clergy that they eventually passed laws against them which would ultimately lead to Gaveston's execution. To this day the subject remains debated, largely because Edward II seemed to have no problem siring children including one outside of his marriage. Through the modern lens, Edward II was most likely bisexual, but certainly plenty of homosexual people have children, so there's no real way to know. All we can reasonably say, with high

confidence, is that Edward II wasn't heteronormative. For this reason, we look to him for inspiration in our coin design.

During his 20 year reign, Edward II had lots of different coins minted. We chose this one because we felt the castle on the reverse would serve as an appropriate symbol given the desired message of the coin. A castle is a safe place; a fortification to protect from aggressors; a refuge for the people when they are under attack. We preserve this design element for this coin.

Around the outside edge of the coin are leaves, but on another, similar coin minted for Edward II these were fleurs. We opt to replace the border of leaves with the 8 fleurs of the escarbuncle, representing our kingdom.

For the words, the inner legend we chose a short, simple but modern slogan that will be highly recognizable even in Latin: AMOR EST AMOR, "love is love", with a modern heart symbol above the castle connecting the two concepts. The outer legend we take a cue from ancient Roman coins that would frequently only give the consonants and omit the vowels. In-between the fleurs we write: AKMRGNRX, meaning "Andreas Kallista Morgan(ova) Rex". We note that "Morganova" is the feminine form of "Morgan" in Slavic languages, and therefore we chose to use just one "M" to represent both as well as to maintain balance and coherence of the design.

The Reverse:

The reverse of the coin was more challenging, and we thought that perhaps a well-known modern symbol of acceptance, tolerance, love, and inclusion would be acceptable if presented in a manner that was subtle and period. Therefore, we chose a very simple reverse design: the pride flag, rendered using medieval heraldic patterns representing each of the colors, and changed to a vertical format. Unfortunately, because the pride flag uses both orange and yellow, but heraldic colors only give us gold as an equivalent, our design must make do with five colors instead of all six.