

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

INNOVATIVE ISSUE

Some Like It Hot!

Niue's silver Vesuvius coin commemorates the menacing mountain.

Mints around the world are producing coins and tokens in unusual shapes and sizes. In keeping with this trend, the Mint of Poland created for the island nation of Niue a unique 54 x 49 x 21mm silver coin in the shape of a volcano. Struck of 6 ounces of .999 silver, the 2016 \$30 Mount Vesuvius proof is an exceptional example of contemporary coinage.

Mount Vesuvius is one of two active volcanoes in Europe, and one of the five oldest and most dangerous in the world. Located in the Gulf of Naples, Italy, the famous fissure is well-known for destroying the Roman



▲ Mount Vesuvius looms over Naples, Italy. This innovative 3-D design embodies the enigmatic peak.

Not Actual Size

cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in A.D. 79. On March 18, 1944, it flared up for two weeks, becoming the only volcano to erupt in the last 100 years on the European mainland. The coin's elaborate design and shape reflect the turbulent history of the ancient city of Pompeii and the magma-sputtering mountain that towers above it.

The Mint of Poland is one of a number of government facilities worldwide that produces collector coins for other countries. The reverse presents an aerial view of the peak, and its slope is ornately decorated with Roman mosaic motifs and images of Bacchian rites from the Villa of the Mysteries in Pompeii. Countries in the British Commonwealth, like Niue, are required to depict the reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, on their coins, and the obverse bears her image.

Only 600 of these coins will be minted, each displayed in a custom-made box. Upon request, the coin can be produced with an antique finish. To learn more, visit www.en.mennica.pl.

PHOTOS: ISTOCKPHOTO/ANTONIO GRAVANTE & MINT OF POLAND (COIN)