

# NUMISMATIC PROGRAMME 2015



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



**BANK OF GREECE**  
EUROSYSTEM

BANK OF GREECE  
EUROSYSTEM



PRINTING WORKS  
DEPARTMENT

€10 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK CULTURE — PHILOSOPHERS — ARCHIMEDES»

ARCHIMEDES

Archimedes was born in 287 BC in Syracuse, Sicily, where he lived most of his life and died in 212 BC during the city's capture by the Romans. It is very likely that young Archimedes studied in Alexandria, Egypt, the centre of learning for the Greek world. He is remembered as the greatest mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor and astronomer of his time. According to the famous anecdote, when Archimedes figured out the physical law of buoyancy ("Archimedes' principle") while in his bath, such was his excitement that he forgot to dress and took to the street naked, shouting "eureka". He pushed the boundaries in a number of fields, primarily in mathematics with his method for accurately approximating the value of  $\pi$  ("Archimedes' constant"), but also in engineering with his law of the lever and in hydraulics with his major breakthroughs. He is credited with numerous inventions, such as the hydraulic screw pump (known as the Archimedes' screw) and the compound pulley. He also famously used his ingenuity to help defend his city against the Romans, building a number of innovative defensive devices to destroy their warships.



**€10 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK CULTURE — PHILOSOPHERS — ARCHIMEDES»**

**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €10  
Diameter: 40 mm  
Weight: 34.10 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: silver 92.5% (Ag)  
Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity  
Maximum issue: 1,500 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €52.85 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos  
Launch of sales: 31/03/2015

€10 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK CULTURE — ANCIENT COMEDY — ARISTOPHANES»

**ARISTOPHANES (c. 445-386 BC)**

Aristophanes was the greatest Greek comic playwright of the 5th century BC and eleven of his comedies have survived complete. Comedy in the days of Aristophanes, flourishing in a context of free speech in democratic Athens, was strongly political. In his works, Aristophanes criticised the failings of his city, speaking out against the war (*Acharnians*, *Peace*, *Lysistrata*) and deriding his fellow citizens for their flaws (*Wasps*, *Birds*). He also caricatured prominent figures of his time (Socrates in *Clouds*, Euripides in *Thesmophoriazusae* and Cleon in *Knights*) and even reflected on a poet's role in society (*Frogs*). The works of Aristophanes, bold, caustic and yet remarkably discerning, ring true to this day, as shown by the frequent stagings of his plays by contemporary theatre companies.



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«GREEK CULTURE — ANCIENT COMEDY — ARISTOPHANES»**

**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €10  
Diameter: 40 mm  
Weight: 34.10 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: silver 92.5% (Ag)  
Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity  
Maximum issue: 1,500 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €52.85 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos  
Launch of sales: 22/06/2015



**€6 (MINI) SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«2015 — INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT AND LIGHT-BASED TECHNOLOGIES»**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT AND  
LIGHT-BASED TECHNOLOGIES**

By decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 2015 has been proclaimed “International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies”. Advances in the science and technology of light, from everyday applications in lighting and energy to laser devices, digital sensors and fibre optics, are vital for medicine, information and communications, agriculture, astronomy, archaeology, art and culture, as well as many other aspects of human life. 2015 coincides with the anniversaries of a series of important milestones in the history of the science of light, including the electromagnetic theory of light propagation proposed by Maxwell in 1865 and Einstein’s theory of the photoelectric effect in 1905.





**€6 (MINI) SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«2015 — INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT AND LIGHT-BASED TECHNOLOGIES»**



**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €6  
Diameter: 28.50 mm  
Weight: 10 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: silver 92.5% (Ag)  
Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity  
Maximum issue: 1,000 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €32.50 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: M. Antonatou  
Launch of sales: 22/09/2015

**BLISTER PACK DEDICATED TO: «GREEK TOURISM — EPIRUS»  
CONTAINING A SET OF ALL EIGHT DENOMINATIONS OF GREEK EURO COINS**



**EPIRUS**

Epirus, the north-westernmost region of Greece, is flanked to the west by the Ionian Sea and to the east by the Pindos mountain range. For the ancient Greeks, Epirus had great religious importance on account of the Dodona Oracle. Milestones in the region's later history include the Hellenistic kingdom of Pyrrhus and the late-Byzantine Despotate of Epirus, while during Ottoman rule Epirus was associated with the Greek struggle for freedom, with sites of heroic self-sacrifice at Koungi and Zalongo. After Greek independence, several Epirote benefactors (Arsakis, Tositsas, Zappas, Sinas, Averof) contributed generously to the construction of the newly founded Greek state, which Epirus became part of in two phases (the Arta district was ceded to Greece in 1881 and the rest of Epirus after the Balkan Wars of 1912-13). It was in the Epirus highlands that the Greek army waged its epic battles against the Italian invader in 1940-41. Today Epirus attracts visitors for its stunning natural scenery (Vikos gorge), seaside resorts (Parga, Syvota), traditional settlements (Ioannina, Metsovo, Zagorochoria) and rich folk tradition in music, silver and gold craftsmanship and stone masonry.



**BLISTER PACK DEDICATED TO: «GREEK TOURISM — EPIRUS»  
CONTAINING A SET OF ALL EIGHT DENOMINATIONS OF GREEK EURO COINS**



**Technical specifications:**

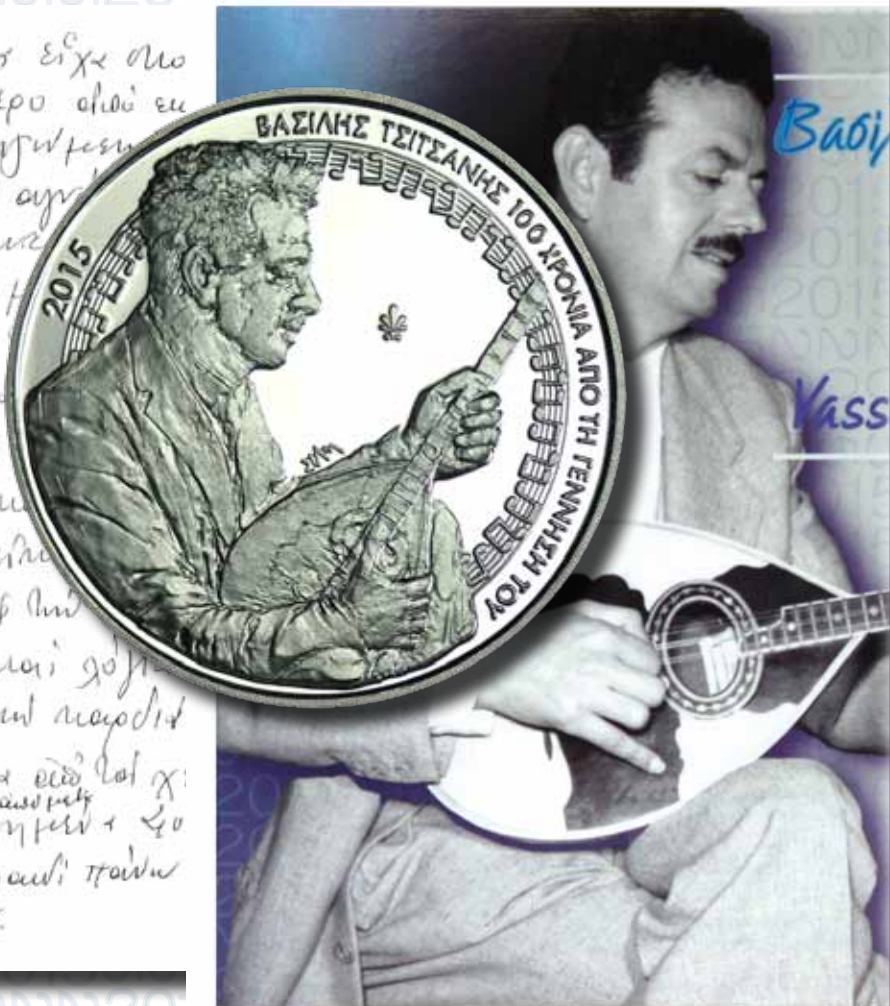
Packaging: blister set  
Maximum issue: 15,000 pieces  
Minting quality: brilliant uncirculated  
Price: €13.01 plus V.A.T.  
Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki  
Launch of sales: 22/06/2015





**BLISTER SET WITH €5 COLLECTOR COIN COMMEMORATING  
«100 YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF VASSILIS TSITSANIS»**

Ὁταν βίβλος εἶχε μο  
 νάτι μογι' ἔρο αὐοῖ ἐν  
 ἔσ' ἄν' ὠροῦντ' ἐν  
 ἄσσορα δὲ ἀγρ  
 δὲ μὲν. Πᾶσι  
 φωνεῖται ἡ  
 ἔρραυτ' ἵδ  
 ἀνέρις, ἵδ  
 αἰδανὸς, ἵδ  
 δὲ, ἔρραυτ' α  
 ἵδ' ἡ ἴνυαί  
 ἔντ' ἔρραυτ' ἵδ' ἄν  
 Μουσῆσ' αὐοῖ γοῖ  
 φωνῆ, αἰδ' ἄν' ὠροῦντ'  
 αὐοῖ ὠροῦντ' αἰδ' ἄν' ὠροῦντ'  
 μὲν ἡ ἴνυαί  
 ἔρραυτ' αἰδ' ἄν' ὠροῦντ'  
 αὐοῖ ὠροῦντ' αἰδ' ἄν' ὠροῦντ'



**VASSILIS TSITSANIS (1915-1984)**

Vassilis Tsitsanis, a leading composer, songwriter, bouzouki virtuoso and singer, was born in Trikala in 1915. He was to become one of the greatest representatives of a style of Greek popular song known as *laïko*. With hundreds of songs to his credit, he gained popularity throughout Greece thanks to his recordings and to memorable performances at music taverns like *Harama* in Kaisariani, where he never failed to enthral his audience with “magical nights”, the title of one of his more famous songs.

Tsitsanis brought the *laïko* song style, associated till then with urban outcasts, into the mainstream, innovating its form and interpretation. He also elevated the previously banned bouzouki to a prominent position within the *laïko* band, combining it with western European instruments such as the accordion. In 1980, on an initiative of UNESCO, a double album entitled “Harama” was released, featuring a collection of his classics and solo bouzouki improvisations. The French edition of the album earned Tsitsanis a posthumous award from the Charles Cros Music Academy in 1985.

The songs of Tsitsanis have appealed to generations of Greeks for their genuine expression of the suffering and aspirations of the common people. As Tsitsanis himself said, “I put what I feel into words and music, and give it life and wings with my bouzouki and baglamas. The lyrics and notes are the expressions of my soul. They are my very life, the life of all people with its sorrows and joys.”



**BLISTER SET WITH €5 COLLECTOR COIN COMMEMORATING  
«100 YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF VASSILIS TSITSANIS»**



**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €5  
Diameter: 30.50 mm  
Weight: 18.8 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: alloy of copper, zinc, nickel  
Packaging: blister set  
Maximum issue: 7,500 pieces  
Minting quality: circulation  
Price: €6.50 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos  
Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki  
Launch of sales: 13/11/2015

€2 NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«75 YEARS IN MEMORIAM OF SPYROS LOUIS»



75 YEARS IN MEMORIAM OF SPYROS LOUIS

Spyros Louis (1873-1940), a water carrier from Marousi, a suburb of Athens, was the winner of the first Olympic marathon when the Olympic Games were revived in Athens in 1896. His triumphant entry into the Panathenaic Stadium was cheered by 80,000 spectators.



**€2 NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«75 YEARS IN MEMORIAM OF SPYROS LOUIS»**



**Technical specifications:**

- Denomination: €2
- Diameter: 25.75 mm
- Weight: 8.50 gr
- Thickness: 2.20 mm
- Edge: fine milled/edge lettering
- Ring material: copper nickel
- Inner material: nickel brass
- Minting quality: circulation
- Maximum issue of coins in rolls: 741,000 pieces
- Price: €50
- Maximum issue of coins in blister packaging: 7,500 pieces
- Price: €4.07 plus V.A.T.
- Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos
- Launch of sales: 23/12/2015

**€2 COMMON CIRCULATION COIN COMMEMORATING  
THE «30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN FLAG»**



**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN  
FLAG**

The European flag was officially established in 1985, by decision of the leaders of the ten Member States of the then EEC, based on a design adopted by another European organisation, the Council of Europe, for its own use. The flag consists of twelve golden stars in a circle on a blue background. The stars symbolise the ideals of solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe, while the circle is a symbol of unity. The number of stars does not denote the number of member countries, but the number twelve traditionally represents a perfect circle.



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Ring material: copper nickel

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Minting quality: circulation

• Maximum issue of coins in rolls: 741,000 pieces

Price: €50

• Maximum issue of coins in blister packaging: 7,500 pieces

Price: €4.07 plus V.A.T.

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Launch of sales: 23/12/2015

**€200 GOLD COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK CULTURE — PHILOSOPHERS — ARCHIMEDES»**



**ARCHIMEDES**

Archimedes was born in 287 BC in Syracuse, Sicily, where he lived most of his life and died in 212 BC during the city's capture by the Romans. It is very likely that young Archimedes studied in Alexandria, Egypt, the centre of learning for the Greek world. He is remembered as the greatest mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor and astronomer of his time. According to the famous anecdote, when Archimedes figured out the physical law of buoyancy ("Archimedes' principle") while in his bath, such was his excitement that he forgot to dress and took to the street naked, shouting "eureka". He pushed the boundaries in a number of fields, primarily in mathematics with his method for accurately approximating the value of  $\pi$  ("Archimedes' constant"), but also in engineering with his law of the lever and in hydraulics with his major breakthroughs. He is credited with numerous inventions, such as the hydraulic screw pump (known as the Archimedes' screw) and the compound pulley. He also famously used his ingenuity to help defend his city against the Romans, building a number of innovative defensive devices to destroy their warships.



**€200 GOLD COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK CULTURE — PHILOSOPHERS — ARCHIMEDES»**

**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €200  
Diameter: 22.10 mm  
Weight: 7.98 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: gold 916‰ (Au), silver 53‰ (Ag)  
Packaging: wooden box with  
certificate of authenticity  
Maximum issue: 750 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €365.86 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos  
Launch of sales: 23/04/2015



€100 MINI GOLD PLUS COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK MYTHOLOGY — THE OLYMPIAN GODS — HERA»

**HERA**

Hera was the supreme goddess of the Olympian pantheon, the wife of Zeus and the mother of Ares, Hephaestus and other gods. She was worshipped as the protectress of marriage (*Hera Teleia*), but also as a virgin (*Parthenos*) and as the queen of gods (*Vasileia*). Portrayed in mythology as majestic and beautiful, Hera was notoriously jealous of Zeus and vengeful towards the numerous women he seduced, amongst them Leto, Io and Semele, and their offspring, most notably Hercules. Festivals in honour of Hera were held in many cities in Ancient Greece, especially at Olympia, where the “Heraia” consisted of footraces for maidens. Major centres of the cult of Hera in antiquity were Argos, Samos and Corinth (the sanctuary of Perachora). Today, the lighting of the Olympic Flame takes place during a ceremony before the Temple of Hera (the *Heraion*) in Olympia.



**€100 MINI GOLD PLUS COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«GREEK MYTHOLOGY — THE OLYMPIAN GODS — HERA»**

**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €100  
Diameter: 17.50 mm  
Weight: 3.89 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: gold 99.99% (Au)  
Packaging: wooden box with  
certificate of authenticity  
Maximum issue: 1,000 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €162.60 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: M. Antonatou  
Launch of sales: 22/09/2015

€50 MINI GOLD COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«CULTURAL HERITAGE — DELPHI»



**DELPHI**

Delphi, a centre for the worship of Apollo in the foothills of Mount Parnassus, was one of the most venerable sanctuaries in ancient Greece. Thanks to its famed oracle and the ambiguous prophecies delivered by the Pythia, Delphi had great religious and political importance for both the ancient Greeks, who considered it the “navel of the earth”, and the ancient world at large. Delphi was the venue of the pan-Hellenic Pythian Games, second in prestige only to the Olympics. The spirituality of the site was amplified by exhortations coined by the ancient Greek sages (“Know thyself”, “Nothing in excess”), inscribed on the Temple of Apollo’s entrance. The splendour of Delphi was revived in modern times with the Delphic Festivals of 1927 and 1930 organised by poet Angelos Sikelianos and the current activities of the European Cultural Centre of Delphi.



**€50 MINI GOLD COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«CULTURAL HERITAGE — DELPHI»**



**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €50  
Diameter: 14 mm  
Weight: 1 gr  
Edge: plain  
Metal: gold 99.99% (Au)  
Packaging: wooden box with  
certificate of authenticity  
Maximum issue: 1,000 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €60.98 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: M. Antonatou  
Launch of sales: 31/08/2015

**€2 NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN DEDICATED TO:  
«75 YEARS IN MEMORIAM OF SPYROS LOUIS»**



**75 YEARS IN MEMORIAM OF SPYROS LOUIS**

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**Technical specifications:**

Denomination: €2  
Diameter: 25.75 mm  
Weight: 8.50 gr  
Thickness: 2.20 mm  
Edge: fine milled/edge lettering  
Ring material: copper nickel  
Inner material: nickel brass  
Maximum coin issue: 1,500 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €13.01 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos  
Launch of sales: 23/12/2015

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Denomination: €2  
Diameter: 25.75 mm  
Weight: 8.50 gr  
Thickness: 2.20 mm  
Edge: fine milled/edge lettering  
Ring material: copper nickel  
Inner material: nickel brass  
Maximum coin issue: 1,500 pieces  
Minting quality: proof  
Price: €13.01 plus V.A.T.  
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos  
Launch of sales: 23/12/2015



## 2015 EURO PROOF COIN SET



### Technical specifications:

Maximum coin issue: 2,000 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Price: €60.97 plus V.A.T.

Packaging: wooden box with certificate of authenticity

Launch of sales: 15/12/2015



**This PRESENTATION will be periodically updated as the design and production of numismatic products in progress are finalised.**

**For further information on Greece's Numismatic Programme, please visit the websites of the Ministry of Finance at [www.minfin.gr](http://www.minfin.gr) and the Bank of Greece at [www.bankofgreece.gr](http://www.bankofgreece.gr)**

**If you wish to subscribe to the Newsletter on our numismatic products, please send an e-mail to [d25@glk.gr](mailto:d25@glk.gr) stating your request.**

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**<http://www.bankofgreece.gr/Pages/en/Euro/Notes-coins/Collectors/default.aspx>**