

curately as possible the dress and customs of the time of their issue. Evelyn, again, in his "discourse of Medals," insists on the importance, from an ethnological point of view, of accuracy in portraiture and types of race, and urges that medals should be truthful in these respects. Whether or not it is possible always fulfill these conditions, it is, at least, as important that a medal should in some way represent the style of art of the period in which it is struck. In a certain degree coins come under the category of medals, almost as much as those which are struck especially for a commemorative purpose ; and in this sense the designs for the coins of our own day have been much criticized.

The oldest known English medal bears date 1480, and is the work of an Italian artist ; but in the reign of Henry VIII., medals were still uncommon in this country. An interesting paper on this subject by the Deputy Master of the Mint, in his annual report, states that several examples of medals struck in the reign of Queen Mary are extant, one of the best of which is one of the Queen herself, by Trezzo. This medal represents the Queen, looking to the left, with a close fitting head-dress reaching down to her ears, and almost hiding her hair. Her features are coarse, and there is a very determined expression in her mouth. The words "Maria I. Reg. Angl. Franc. et Hib. X." are in the margin. The medal, an autotype of which is given among others in the report alluded to, shows great power and artistic skill ; it is bold in execution, and the detail is not too "niggling."

"According to Pinkerton ('Essay on Medals,' London, 1870), no medals appear in any country in Europe, till the Fifteenth Century, with the exception of the gold medals of David II., issued in Scotland between 1330 and 1370 ; but as early as 1439, mention is made of a gold medal of the Council of Florence, and from that time the art continued to flourish in Italy. The medals of this period were modelled in wax and cast in fine sand, and were afterwards in some