

Mystic Art in Medals

(Continued.)

Among other royal or noble notabilities who figure on Masonic medals, are Frederick Augustus of Prussia, Leopold of Belgium, Louis Philippe and Napoleon III. Several interesting pieces relate to the reign of the Commune in Paris. One of these has on its obverse a head of Liberty with the flowing curls escaping from the Phrygian cap and falling about her neck. The legend is, République Française. From the reverse this piece appears to be a Souvenir du 29 Avril 1871. The legend on the reverse is, Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité, Philantropie, Union, Forcic. On another piece the legend reads: The Delegates of the different Masonic lodges of Paris, started for Versailles in order to stop the spilling of blood, which they leave in horror on 12th April, 1871.

CURIOUS MEDALS OF ALL KINDS.

Mr. Poillon has in his collection the largest and the smallest Masonic medals ever struck. The largest measures 41 according to numismatic measurement. On the obverse is a burning altar between two pillars. Another conspicuous object in the design is a couchant lion in front of an acacia bush. In etorgne is a serpent devouring its tail. The legend is: Grand Orient de la Belgique. This obverse is the same as that on a somewhat smaller "trial piece," struck for the consideration of the brethren of the new Grand Lodge of Belgium. Prominent on the reverse are a triangle with the all-seeing eye and the inscription: Lumen de Lumine. Sceau du Grand Orient—(Light of Light. Seal of the Grand Orient of Belgium). This rare medal is of tin. The smallest Masonic piece is a French business taken three-eighths of an inch in size. It exists in gold, silver, aluminum, brass, copper and gilt. The oldest known Masonic medal was struck in commemoration of the foundation of a lodge in Florence by Lord Charles Sackville, Duke of Middlesex, in 1733. On the obverse is a bust of Lord Sackville. On the reverse is a figure of Harpocrates, the God of Silence, leaning upon a broken column, on his head a crown of lotus. A cornucopia is in his left hand. Various masonic emblems are at his feet. Only one specimen of this medal is known of. The oldest American Masonic medal extant is one presented by the Union Lodge of Danbury, Conn., to a son of a Dr. Babcock, a member of the lodge who died in 1794. On the obverse there is a dais approached by three steps. On the right is a pillar of the Ionic order, on the left a pillar of the Corinthian. The capitals are adorned with cubes. Three burning tapers, over which are the Bible, square and compasses, are on the dais. Above all is an All-seeing Eye within a semi-circle of rays and a triangle

with the letter G. Masonic working tools are to the right and left of the pillars. Above, on the right, are the moon and seven stars, on the left the sun, hour-glass and scythe.

(To be Continued.)

Chronicle.

BY R. R. BOBERT.

BAVARIA.—A new 3 pfening band has been issued similar to those of Germany.

CEYLON.—There are two new cards without surcharge, 5 cents blue, and 10 cents brown.

CUNDINAMARCA.—The European papers announce a new set of five values, with arms in an oval band and numerals in the lower corners. They are 5c. blue, 10c. vermilion, 20c. green, 50c. violet, 1 pero, red brown.

GIBRALTAR.—They now use the stamps of Bermuda with surcharge "Gibraltar" in black, ½d. green, 1d. rose, 2d. brown, (Color Chart, 106.) 2½d. blue, 4d. vermilion, 6d. violet, 1s. pale brown, also some of the post cards and envelopes of Natal, Malta, St. Vincent and Barbados.

LIBERIA.—A new series was issued in January, as follows: 1c. carmine, 2c. green, 3c. lilac, 4c. brown, 6c. gray, 8c. blue, 16c. orange, 32c. blue. The first five are of the same type and have larger figure of valbe in hexagon; the 8c. and 16c. have value on an oval, and the 32c. has view of a ship and rising sun with palm tree and plough in the foreground.

MOZAMBIQUE.—A new series has been issued resembling the stamps of Portugal 1870; the embossed head of the King is surrounded by an oval band inscribed 5 reis, black, 10 reis, green, 20 reis, carmine, 25 reis, lilac, 40 reis, brown, 50 reis, blue, 100 reis, orange.

NATAL.—The 3d. printed in gray has been surcharge in black "Two pence" with the original value obliterated.

NORFOLK, I.—The *Ph. Monthly* says that stamps are already printed in Sidney, N. S. W., and will be shortly issued.

PARAGUAY.—Der *Philatelist* notes a stamp said to have been issued last year; the 3 reals of 1870 surcharged in violet with figure "2."

PERISA.—The 5sh. green of 1882 and the 10c. carmine are surcharged respectively, "6" and "12" with the word "official" above, not for official purposes but for ordinary correspondence. The 50c. printed in gray, is surcharged for use as 1 toman. There is a band, 1 shahi, carmine on manilla, and two envelopes, 6 shahi, carmine on white and 12 shahi, violet on white, all with stamp resembling the 8 shahi of 1876, but with figures of value and "ch" in corners.

PHILIPPINE, I.—The 12½ paie blue, (Derecho Judicial) has been surcharged in red, "Habilitado-Correo-6 2-8 cens."

PORTUGUESE, INDIA.—This country has a new set like those noted above for Mozambique. They are 1½ reis black, 4½ reis brown, 6 reis green, 1 tanga carmine, 2 tangas blue, 4 tangas lilac, and 8 tangas orange.

PUTTIALLA.—One of our exchanges has met with the 4 annas surcharged in black and red.

REUNION, I.—It seems that the stamps lately reported are not genuine but were made in Paris. This is a provisional issue, however which was authorized by the authorities in the island last December, and which is as follows: The 40c. (eagle), 40c. (Liberty), 40c. (figures of Commerce), and 50c. (Napoleon laureated) are surcharged 5c. with capital "R" below, the 40c. (figures of Commerce) is similarly surcharged 10c., and the 40c. (eagle) 25c.

SANTANDER.—The German papers illustrate a new series, somewhat resembling the 1c. of Ecuador. The values and colors are not changed.

ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON.—The 35c., 75c. and 1 franc of 1877, and the 20c. of 1881 have been surcharged "O 5" with "S. P. M." below.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The 32c. is surcharged "Three Cents" in black, and there is a reply card 3 x 3c. blue on buff.

TOBAGO.—We have the 6d. surcharged "10 penny" in black.

TOLIMA.—We have seen the 5c. of 1879 printed in orange, and the 10c. of the same year in vermilion.

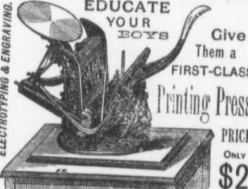
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