

... Medals ...

Origin of the Medal The earliest records we have of a medal being struck are mentioned in the Ancient Roman and Grecian History, when medals were struck in gold, silver and copper on occasions similar to those of to-day, on the coronation of a monarch or the achievement of some important victory. These are of odd and peculiar shapes, and it has been aptly put, "They are the mirrors which the men of the past delighted to hold up to every momentous event which have the magic power of retaining the images which they originally reflected."

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History of the Medal The modern medal was first produced during the fourteenth century; most countries possessing a succession of medals from the fifteenth century; in England, however, it was not until the reign of Henry VIII. and from Edward VI. there is an unbroken succession of coronation medals. The Scottish gold coronation medal of Charles I. being the first medal struck in Britain with a legend on the edge.

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Artistic Medals The most artistic medals have been struck in Italy, the reverse often bearing the cross keys and mitre, the obverse the head of the reigning monarch or pope. Some of these have a special value, having been designed by Raphael and Giulio Romano and engraved by Benvenuto Cellini, artists of world renown. Some of the finest works of art have been produced on the medal. A famous one struck during the Jubilee included the heads of all the members of the Royal Family, including her late Majesty, the size of this medal being about that of a ten cent piece, and was personally commented upon by our late Queen.