

Sovereign Prince of the Empire. He was made a page to the Prince at the age of 12 and having (of his own free will) apply'd himself from the very begining to designing and drawing, he succeeded therein wonderfully. As designing is the road to painting, sculpture and engraving he made himself equally conversant with these three arts and being naturally ingenious, he invented several very usefull machines for coining the medals he designed and engraved. The King (Louis XIII) being informed of his talents sent for him to Paris and retained him to engrave both coins and medals.

Shortly afterwards the office of Director General of the mint being vacant by the death of René Olivier, he was appointed to the position. About this time he designed the seal of the French Academy which consisted only of the portrait of the Cardinal Richelieu, but so perfect was it and wrought with so much art, that it passes for one of the finest ever made.

Cardinal Richelieu on seeing it for the first time is credited with saying "That immortalizes the man". Louis XIII having resolved to make a general alteration of the silver and gold coinage of his realm the Sieur Varin was given the entire direction of this reform (which took place in the lower gallery of the Louvre) and he was also intrusted with the engraving of all the dies for the intended new coinage. Upon this new employment being given to him the King created two new offices specially for him, one Director General of the Coins of France, and Engraver General of Dies. This new coinage was so superlatively beautiful that they are still retained by a great many French numismatists among their medals and in fact they compare more than favorably with the most valuable medals known. Wherever they were circulated they were looked upon with great admiration and even the Mahomadans who of all nations pay the least attention to art were so delighted with the beauty of the smallest pieces that they made of them ornaments with they fastened to their richest articles of dress. He also made about this time some trial pieces of 8 to 10 Pistoles which still take rank in France among the finest medals.

Every coin that was struck during the Kings minority was also designed by Varin as well as all the dies being engraved by his own hand. In addition he also designed all the medals of Louis XIII, the Queen Mother Ann of Austria, of the King after his minority his