

PEWTER MEDALS FOR VARIED PURPOSES

1) George II 'Sir Robert Walpole' Medallion

Pewter, 9.26 grams; 37.34 mm. 1742 A.D. Obverse: THE BRITISH GLORY REVIV D BY ADM L VERNON AND COMR BROWN, Full length figures of Admiral Vernon and Commodore Brown shaking hands, crown above and ship below. MAKE ROOM FOR SIR ROBERT, The devil, horned and bearded, leading Walpole by a rope around his neck, towards the gaping jaws of Hades. In exergue NO EXCISE. Ref: **Examples in Jetons, Medalets and Tokens of the British Isles Circa 1558 - 1830 Vol. 3 by Michael Mitchiner, Page 1731, Fig. 5057.** Edge loss, otherwise Very Fine and-Excessively.Rare.
Found-York.

Sir Robert Walpole was Prime Minister of England from 1721 to 1742, serving during the reigns of King George I and King George II. Walpole is generally considered the first Prime Minister of England (as this office developed over time into what it is today), and he also was the first to occupy the official residence at 10 Downing Street. Walpole's plan to replace the tariffs on wine and tobacco with an excise tax was defeated in 1733, largely because of widespread popular prejudice against excise taxes. An excise tax is an event related tax, such as sales tax (the event is the sale) or income tax (the event is earning income). An example of a non-excise tax is property tax; it is collected every year whether or not the property has changed hands. The opposition to this tax reform was such that seven years after the tax was defeated, the "NO EXCISE" theme was still featured on this variety of medal.



2) Whereas below it is clearly copper - the British Museum London show one as Pewter (white metal) in September 2009

Great Britain, Middlesex, Political and Social Series, Copper London Penny Trade Token 1800, obverse - man's head with possession written on a headband trying to swallow the world with devil in his head

gathering up wheat, **THE UNCHARITABLE MONOPOLIZER**, WILL STARVE THE POOR, TAKE NOT WHAT WAS MADE FOR ALL, MORE WAREHOUSE ROOM WHEAT IS BUT 22 SHILLING A BUSHEL, reverse open hands dropping coins, THE CHARITABLE HAND, COME ALL YE DISTRESSED, WELL DONE. (Said also to be made of Pewter depending what you read. There is also a later copy certainly made of white metal).



3) Queen Victoria '**Golden Jubilee**' Medallion. Pewter, 17.41 grams; 36.05 mm. A rare pewter medallion commemorating the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. On the obverse is her crowned, draped bust facing right, surrounded by a laureate and radiated border. On the reverse is a Central monogram over a cross, in each angle are her statistics, Born 1819, Crowned 1838, Married 1840, Reigned 50 years. Excessively Rare, we are unable to find a reference for this type of medallion. Pierced



4) The Devil Cromwell and the Fool Fairfax, a crudely executed medal struck in 1650, literally turns satire on its head. By rotating it 180 degrees, Oliver Cromwell, shown wearing a cap, becomes a horned devil with pointed ears, while on the other side his commander-in-chief, Thomas Fairfax, is transformed into a fool wearing a cap with bells. or suspension by a loyal supporter, (waiting for a picture)

5) FRENCH REVOLUTION

Dissemination of 'propaganda' during the French Revolution was very important: through prints, which publicised events quickly after they occurred and on medals, a permanent form of commemoration. These medals were intended to form part of a set (never completed) that recall crucial events in the Revolution. They show two highly symbolic moments from the early stages of the uprising that represented the triumph of the people over the repressive monarchy.

On the morning of 14 July 1789, a crowd advanced on the Bastille, the state prison. Their intention was to ask the governor to release the prisoners (there were only seven) and weapons in the building. The governor was evasive and the people stormed the fortress. The medal vividly captures the scene, showing the garrison firing onto the crowd pouring into the building over the broken drawbridge and the National Guard opening a breach in the wall. The revolutionary government subsequently demolished the Bastille, reinforcing the idea of overturning the old order and the beginning of the 'era of liberty'.

The second medal commemorates another popular protest of October 1789, after Louis XVI's failure to approve decrees passed by the National Assembly calling for the destruction of the 'feudal regime in its entirety'. An angry crowd descended onto the palace of Versailles, including a band of some 6,000 women, who brought the King to Paris. This is the scene on the medal, where we see Louis XVI in his carriage in the Place Louis XIV, cowering before the statue of his illustrious predecessor. The medal was originally issued with an inscription from a speech by Bailly to the King: 'Sire, I bring your majesty the keys of his own good town of Paris. They are the same which were presented to Henry IV, he had reconquered his people: here it is the people who reconquered their king'.

Due to the size and detail of these pieces, Andrieu (1761-1822) had to strike the medals on one side only, using a soft lead alloy coloured to resemble bronze. His participation in producing works for the revolutionaries was limited, as he laid low until the rise of Napoleon. His two 'revolutionary' medals show the significance of the overthrow of the old regime; even to produce medals was an assertion of freedom, as it had previously been a royal monopoly.



6) THE DEATH OF LORD NELSON



Death of Lord Nelson, pewter medal, 1805, by P. Wyon, bust of Lord Nelson on a plinth above a tomb inscribed, *GALLANT NELSON/ DIED IN THE/ HOUR OF VICTORY/ 21 OCTR. AD 1805/ TRAFALGAR*, rev. . Britannia seated weeping, Neptune drawing a veil over an urn inscribed HN, a plinth below inscribed, *BASTIA/ ABOUKIR/ COPENHAG. / IN LIFE VICTORIOUS IN DEATH TRIUMPHANT/ MDCCCV*, 51 mm (*BHM 579*). Minor marks, otherwise about extremely fine and rare in this condition