

Fattorini

Artist-craftsmen
since 1827

Medals

Creating a lasting impression



The inset, above, shows a silver medallion made for the Royal Academy of arts and based on the Tondo of Michelangelo in its possession; designed by Arnold Machin OBE RA.

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The Living Art of the Medallist

A medal is in its essence very beautiful, so lasting, and made to be treasured even if it isn't made of a precious metal – that it is a testament to the medium that artists continue to rise to its challenges today.

In what other art medium can today's works be compared so directly with those of five hundred or even two thousand five hundred

years ago, and still resonate with beauty and freshness as if they were made today.

Medals by their nature tell a story, whether as a celebration of a person's life, to mark a special event, or to make a satirical point. The story is portrayed in a cast or struck metal by the designer using the obverse, reverse and sometimes the edge.

Often the obverse and the reverse compliment each other, sometimes they play in opposition – either way a good medal designer will use both its sides, and often the edge to bring their patron's story to life.

Right: Die engraver Ron Copeland applying finishing touches to the die prior to striking the medals

Patrons have always understood the power of the medal whether the state, the church, academia, the cities, the great exhibitions of the 19th century, and more recently commerce and sport. Today every field of endeavour has its own award; as groups in the arts or sport seek a sponsor. Never have the skills and imagination of the artist been so tested.

We illustrate here a recent medal made, not for an award, but to celebrate and commemorate a conference of a great corporation. The medal's obverse powerfully symbolises the purpose of the company depicting Heracles slaying

the Hydra – to symbolise the fight to overcome disease.

The high relief medal has a freedom, even a 'softness', compared to the brilliance and discipline of the minted coin medal.

Thomas Fattorini produces medals in gold, silver, bronze and other metals, and in many finishes. We work with many of the most distinguished medallic artists if required; medals may also be designed by our very experienced design team in-house.

Please discuss your requirements – we gladly supply estimates without obligation.



The glaxo 'Chairman's Conference' medal (Hawaii, 1992) : Heracles slaying the Hydra. The sculptor is Ian Rank-Broadley (seen above at work on this medal), an associate of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and a Fellow of the Society of Numismatic Artists and Designers.

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