

ROYAL MINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special Meeting to be held on Tower Hill at 11.30 am
Monday 5th July

Agenda

ITEM I Designs for Jubilee crown pieces for Guernsey, Jersey
 St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha and others.

ITEM II Other Business.

It is hoped under this item to be able to show a possible alternative design for the reverse of the Jubilee medal. Many members were unhappy about Mr. David Wynne's design recently circulated by post, and as Mr. Wynne is now abroad and time is short, Mr. Will Carter has very kindly undertaken to submit an alternative. He hopes to be able to bring this to the meeting.

Jubilee Crowns for the Commonwealth

The Royal Mint has been asked to design crowns for a number of smaller countries in the Commonwealth. These coins will be intended primarily for the collectors' market, in which it would be advantageous if they were presented as a set.

Mr. William Gardner was accordingly invited to suggest a format into which all the designs might fit, and to produce finished designs for the four countries that have so far given firm instructions. Photographs of Mr. Gardner's proposals are attached.

The obverse, which features Mr. Arnold Machin's portrait of The Queen, is intended to be common to all the coins. Mr. Gardner has commented:-

the superscription avoids unbalance with the inclusion of a cross (compared to the reverse of the 1952 coinage).

the border of crosses and lys on the obverse as well as on the reverse would link the two sides visually. (For technical reasons this border would have to be kept small and shallow).

At Mr. Machin's request the superscriptive alphabet would be made slightly less bold.

On the reverse Mr. Gardner commented as follows:-

Jersey. Heraldry of mace backed by arms combined with foliage decoration from the two staple products of potato and tomato. The wreath could readily include the flowers of these plants and I think should do so.

Guernsey. The design includes virtually all of Castle Cornet (as requested by Guernsey).

An alternative idea of an ariel view of the Castle will be available in pencil sketch form at the meeting.

St. Helena. The design has presented particular difficulties. It was evolved from pictures in the Commonwealth Institute Library of the tortoise "Jonothan" and the Governor's House at Jamestown.

Tristan da Cunha. An island longboat. In the light of advice from the National Maritime Museum it will be necessary to modify the design as the stroke is shown rowing on the wrong side. The boat could alternatively be shown under sail. (The National Maritium Museum have supplied rig and sail plans and advised on the way the boat is sailed.)

At the request of Tristan da Cunha an alternative design is being prepared in sketch form featuring the Royal Yatch Britannia whose visit was a memorable event in the Island's history.

Designs are expected to be required in due course also for Hong Kong and Gibraltar, and possibly the Seychelles and Bermuda.

Alphabet for use in obverse and reverse
superscriptions of Commonwealth Crown series.

A. As originally submitted.

B. Modified at Mr Arnold Macdon's request.

A.
SILVER JUBILEE

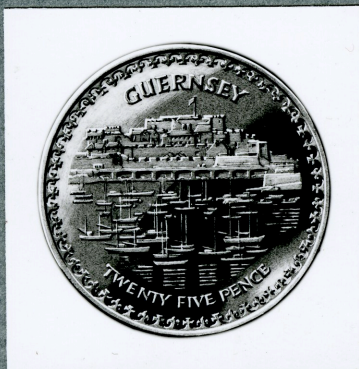
B.
SILVER JUBILEE
(slightly less bold)

mmf.
176

JUBILEE CROWN PIECES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH



Common obverse



Guernsey



Jersey



St Helena



Tristan da Cunha

ROYAL MINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE DESIGN OF COINS, MEDALS, SEALS AND DECORATIONS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD AT THE ROYAL MINT
ON MONDAY 5TH JULY 1976

Present: Mr. J.R. Christie (Chairman)
Sir John Betjeman, C.B.E.
Mr. W. Carter
Sir Hugh Casson
Mr. M. Gray, C.B.E.
Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, K.C.V.O.
Mr. J. Porteous
Sir Anthony Wagner, K.C.V.O.
Mr. A.J. Dowling, O.B.E., D.F.C. (Secretary)
Mr. G.P. Dyer (Assistant Secretary)

The President and Dr. Sutherland were unable to attend.

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ITEM 1 - JUBILEE CROWN PIECES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

The Committee examined sketches by Mr. William Gardner for a series of Jubilee crown pieces to be issued by some of the smaller countries in the Commonwealth. The sketches included a common obverse, featuring Mr. Arnold Machin's portrait of The Queen, and reverse designs for Guernsey, Jersey, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha.

Members were critical of the inclusion of the words SILVER JUBILEE on the proposed obverse. Mr. Porteous in particular felt strongly that the words were more in keeping with a cheap souvenir than with a commemorative coin and suggested that the use of the two dates 1952 and 1977 on the obverse might be a more appropriate way of referring to the Jubilee. The Committee agreed that an inscription such as QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND together with the dates 1952 and 1977 would be preferable.

The Committee was not enthusiastic about any of the reverse designs. Mr. Gardner's "picture postcard" approach was not liked and it was generally felt that the designs would be much improved if they were simplified and a greater degree of formalisation introduced.

Castle Cornet was accepted as a suitable subject for the Guernsey crown, though on the whole members were inclined to feel that an aerial view of the

castle might be more satisfactory. A local castle was also thought likely to be preferable to the mace and arms on the Jersey crown. Carter expressed strong reservations about the heraldic accuracy of the design and pointed out that the mace was in no way peculiar to Jersey.

The design for St. Helena was considered too busy. Mr. Carter preferred the tortoise to the Governor's House and Mr. Porteous wondered if the tortoise might not be shown on its own. Generally the Committee agreed that the design would be better if there were only one dominant feature. Mr. Gardner's long-boat design for Tristan da Cunha was also criticised. Sir Hugh Casson thought it might be improved by the inclusion of a sail and the removal of some of the waves. An alternative design showing the Royal Yacht Britannia was preferred by Sir John Betjeman and Sir Robin Mackworth-Young.

The proposed common border of crosses and lys was thought to be a very interesting suggestion. It was felt, however, to be unsuitable for the type of design intended for this particular series of crown pieces and the Committee suggested that it should be reserved for use in the future with more heraldic designs.

The Deputy Master undertook to circulate fresh designs, amended in the light of the Committee's comments.

ITEM 2 - SILVER JUBILEE MEDAL

The Committee examined a plaster model of Mr. David Wynne's design for the reverse of the Silver Jubilee Medal, photographs of which had been circulated before the meeting.

Members agreed that the design was much improved from the sketch seen at the previous meeting. The presence of the butterfly was disliked, however, and there were still reservations about the way in which the inscription was arranged within the wreath. It was agreed that the model should be altered to omit the letters TH from the line 6TH FEBRUARY and that sketches should be prepared showing possible alternative wording.

A sketch by Mr. Will Carter showing an inscription with the crown but without the wreath was liked by Sir Hugh Casson and Carter. The general feeling, however, was that the design might be considered a little austere for the occasion.