

A catalogue of 17-18th century Commemorative Medallions of the *Ordre de S. Lazare*

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Abstract

In conformity with the generally adopted practice of commemorating important events by minting dedicated medallions or jetons, the *Ordres de S. Lazare de Jerusalem et Notre-Dame du Mont-Carmel* during the late 17th century and throughout the 18th century minted several such medallions. These medallions generally commemorated the appointment of a new grand master of the united Orders. These medallions were not designed to be worn as jewellery, though some may have eventually been modified as such. The presentation will give a catalogue description of the medallions issued by the *Ordres Royale Militaire et Hospitalier de Notre Dame Du Mont-Carmel et de Saint-Lazare de Jerusalem* during the late 17th and throughout the 18th century.

Introduction

In the past, coins issued by governments often incorporated a commemorative element to serve as political propaganda celebrating a victorious military campaign against foreign powers. Examples of these date back to the Classical Period. In addition to legal tender coins, states sometimes issued commemorative medallions to celebrate a victory or important political event. During the 17th and the 18th century, non-governmental organizations adopted the practice of issuing medallions to commemorate important events. The Order of Saint Lazarus in France did likewise and issued a number of such medallions. These were not designed to be worn as jewelry, though some may have eventually been modified as such. What follows is a catalogue description of the medallions issued by the *Ordre Royale Militaire et Hospitalier de Notre Dame Du Mont-Carmel et de Saint-Lazare de Jerusalem* during the late 17th and throughout the 18th century.¹

¹ Charles Savona-Ventura. *The Sigillography and ommemorative artifacts [medallions, medals, stamps, plates] of the order of Saint Lazarus*. Malta: Office of the Grand Archivist & Historian – MHOSLJ, 2014, pp.17-25.

Commemorative medallion: 1672

The first recorded medallion commemorates the re-organization of the Order carried out by King Louis XIV. This re-organization was a significant one since it enriched the Order by amalgamating a number of benefices belonging to other Orders and allowed for its expansion.



1672 commemorative medallion

The medallion measured about 45.6mm diameter. The front side shows an armored knight mounted on a horse in gallop in the centre facing to the right. The circular top legend reads *ORDO MILIT S. LAZARI HIEROSOL RESTITUTUS* which means Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem restituted with a bottom legend reading *F. EGE ASSERTORE ET SUMMO DUCE MDCLXXII*. On the opposite side, the medallion shows the bust of King Louis XIV with a circular legend reading *LUDOVICUS MAGNUS REX CHRISTIANISSIMUS*. The engraver's name *J. Nilis* is inscribed below the King's bust.² Jacques Nilis was a medalist who worked in the last quarter of the seventeenth century. His name occurs in documents of the Paris mint archives from 1688 to 1693. This commemorative medallion appears to be a very early example of his work, though the earliest recorded commemorative medallion by Nilis was that *Victoria pacifera* dated 1659.³

² R. Feuardent. *Jetons et Méreaux depuis Louis IX jusqu'a la fin du Consulat de Bonaparte*. Paris: Rollin et Feuardent, 1904, p.120 – item 1597.

³ Leonard Forrer. *Biographical dictionary of medallists: coin, gem, and seal-engravers, mint-masters, &c., ancient and modern, with references to their works B.C. 500-A.D. 1900*. London: Spink & Son, 1902, vol. 4, pp.267-268.

Commemorative medallion – 1700 - 1701

Philippe de Courcillon, Marquis de Dangeau (*1638 †1720) was appointed Grand master to the united Orders on the 24th December 1693. His appointment was confirmed by Innocent XII through Papal Bull promulgated 3rd May 1695. His appointment was commemorated by the issue of a medallion. Three forms of this commemorative medallion exist. All measure about 31mm in diameter.



Obvers



Reverse

1700-01 Commemorative medallions to Philippe de Courcillon

The first version dated 1700 depicts a knight-in-arms mounted on a horse in gallop facing right with a bottom-placed legend reading ORD. MIL. DE N.D. DU MONT CARMEL. The reverse side shows the arms of the order superimposed on the eight-pointed cross surrounded by the two collars of the Order with a legend at the bottom reading ET DE S. LAZARE DE JERUSALEM * 1700.⁴ This was apparently considered unsuitable and was initially replaced in 1700 by a second version that differed from the first by replacing the figure of the knight-in-arms with a depiction showing coat of arms of de Courcillon family (2nd & 3rd quarter) alternating with

⁴ A. Blanchet & A. Dieudonné. *Manuel de Numismatique Francaise. Tome Troisième Médailles, Jetons, Méreaux*. Paris: Augusre Pichard, 1930, pp.425.

the arms of the Order (1st & 4th quarter) surrounded by the collar of the Order of St Lazarus and Our Lady of Mount Carmel and also the collar of the Order of St Michael. The circularly placed legend reads PHILIPPE DE COURCILLON DE DANGEAU GRAND MAISTRE. The reverse side was similar to that of the previous version.

Even this was considered unsuitable and was in 1701 replaced by a final third version that combined the elements of the 2 previous forms. The obverse face depicts a knight-in-arms mounted on a horse in gallop facing right with a circularly placed legend corrected to read ORDRE DE N.D. DU MONT CARMEL ET DU S. LAZARE MDCCI. The reverse side is identical to the obverse side of the second version medallion with the quartered arms of de Courcillon family alternating with the arms of the Order. The engraver is not identified.⁵

Commemorative medallion – 1723-1752

The Grand Master Philippe de Courcillon, Marquis de Dangeau died from smallpox on the 9th September 1720. He was succeeded by Louis d'Orleans, Duc de Chatres. The grand mastership of Louis d'Orleans was characterized by a number of medallions issued throughout his reign that lasted until his death in 1752. The first medallion issued in 1723 commemorated his appointment. This medallion, measuring 31mm in diameter was designed on the same format as that used in the last version issued for Grand Master Philippe de Courcillon in 1701. The obverse side thus showed a knight-in-arms on a mounted horse in gallop facing right and circularly placed legend reads ORDRE R. De N.D. DU MONT CARMEL et DE S. LAZARE 1723. The reverse side of the medallion showed the crowned arms of the d'Orleans family superimposed on the eight pointed cross and surrounded by the collar of the Order. A circularly placed legend

⁵ S.G. Morris. *The Insignia and Decorations of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem*. Scotland: MHOSLJ, 1986, p.3.

read LOUIS DUC D'ORLEANS GRAND MAITRE. The engraver is not identified.⁶

In the subsequent decades during the reign of Louis d'Orleans, a further three medallions were issued. These medallions measured 30.5mm diameter, showed the bust of King Louis XV with a circularly placed legend which reads LUD.XV.RE CHRISTIANISS. The King's image reflects his increasing age allowing the medallions to be placed in sequence. The reverse side shows the crowned arms of the d'Orleans family.⁷

The engravers of the last three medallions are identified by their respective signatures: the first was designed by FM (possibly François Marteau), the second one by JCR (Joseph Charles Joseph Charles Roëttiers), and the third by Du Vivier (Pierre Simon Benjamin Duvivier). François Joseph Marteau was a French goldsmith and medallist in Paris who signed his work as FM during the period 1720-1759.⁸ Joseph Charles Joseph Charles Roëttiers (*1691 †1779) came from a family of engravers. He obtained second prize for sculpture at the Académie Royale and was admitted a member of that association in 1717. After 1715, he assumed the title of *Graveur des medailles du Roi* and was appointed engraver-general to the Paris Mint on the 18th June 1727.⁹ Pierre Simon Benjamin Duvivier (*1729 †1819) also came from a family of engravers. He was elected Medalist to His Majesty and admitted a member of the Royal Academy of printing and sculpture. A number of his medals are mentioned in the Paris Mint Catalogue. Pierre Simon Benjamin Duvivier signed his medals variously as *B. Duviv.*, *Duviv.*, *D.V.*, *B. Duvivier f.*, *Duvivier f.*, *Duv. F.*, *D.v.f.*, etc.¹⁰

⁶ Feuardent, *op. cit.*, pp.120-121 – item 1598; Blanchet & Dieudonné, *op. cit.*, pp.272,425; D.J.J. Leppard. *Historical gleanings from 18th century French jetons*. U.S.A.: Office of the Grand Archivist & Historian, 2003, p.4.

⁷ Feuardent, *op. cit.*, p.121 – item 1599.

⁸ Forrer, *op. cit.*, vol. 3, pp.516, 587-588

⁹ Forrer, *op. cit.*, vol. 5, pp.178-182.

¹⁰ Forrer, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, pp.484-488.



Obverse

Reverse

1723-52 Commemorative medallions to Louis d'Orleans, Duc de Chatres

Commemorative medallion – 1757

Louis d'Orleans, Duc de Chatres was succeeded in 1757 as grand master by Louis de France, Duc de Berry. A medallion, measuring 30mm diameter, commemorating the appointment of Louis de Berry was minted that same year. The obverse side showed the crowned arms of the Order placed centrally on the eight pointed cross and encircled by the two collars of the order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Order of St Lazarus. A circularly placed legend read *ORDRE R. DE N.D. DU MONT CARMEL ET S. LAZARE J R . 1757*. The reverse side shows a centrally engraved crowned arms of the Bourbon family placed on the eight-pointed cross and encircled by the two collars of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Order of St Lazarus. The circular placed legend reads *LOUIS DUC DE BERY FILS DE FRANCE GRAND MAITRE*. The engraver is not identified.¹¹

¹¹ Blanchet & Dieudonné, *op. cit.*, p.272.



1757 Commemorative medallion to Louis de France, Duc de Berry

Commemorative medallions – 1773-1824

Louis de France, Duc de Berry became King Louis XVI of France and Navarre in 1773. He was succeeded as grand master of the Order of Saint Lazarus by his brother Louis Stanislaus Xavier de France, Comte de Provence. A commemorative medallion was minted for the occasion.



1773 Commemorative medallion to Louis Stanislaus Xavier de Provence

Measuring 34mm diameter, the octagonal-shaped medallion shows the crowned quartered arms of the Bourbon family (quarter 1st & 4th) alternating with the arms of the Order (quarter 2nd & 3rd) superimposed on the eight-pointed cross surrounded by the collar of the joint Orders within a mantle on the obverse side. A legend placed superiorly in a scroll read ATAVIS ET ARMIS. The reverse side depicts a centrally placed legend reading LOU STA XA DILS DE FRANCE MONSIEUR FRERE DU ROY GRAND MTRE DES ORD ROIX MILRES ET HOSPS DE ST LAZARE DE JERUSM ET DE

NTRE DAME DU MONT CARMEL 1773. The engraver is not identified.¹² A specimen of this medallion has been modified to be worn as a pendant.¹³

A second commemorative medallion was minted during the reign of Louis Stanislaus Xavier. The circular medallion measuring 29mm diameter showed the crowned arms of the Bourbon family superimposed on the eight pointed cross and surrounded by the collar of the joint Orders and two other collars placed centrally. A circular arranged text reads MAISON DE MGR LE COMTE DE PROVENCE. The reverse side showed the bust of Louis Stanislaus Xavier facing left with an undefined signature below. The circularly placed legend read L. STAN. XAV. DE FRANCE COMTE DE PROVENCE. The engraver's name B. Duviv (Pierre Simon Benjamin Duvivier) is inscribed below the grand master's bust.



1773-1824 Commemorative medallion to Louis Stanislaus Xavier de Provence

Another, as yet unidentified, medallion may have been minted during the reign of Louis Stanislaus Xavier. This has been described as depicting the arms of the Bourbon family surrounded by the collar of the Order of Holy Spirit and the legend reading LOUIS. STANIS. XAVIER. FILS DE FRANCE. GRAND MAITRE. The reverse has been described as showing the arms of the Order placed on the eight-pointed cross surrounded by the

¹² Feuardent, *op. cit.*, 121 – items 1600, 1600^a; Blanchet & Dieudonné, *op. cit.*, p.272; Morris, *op. cit.*, p.4; Leppard, *op. cit.*, p.5.

¹³ In the holdings of Chev. Charles Savona-Ventura.

collar of the Order. The legend reads ORDRE R. DE N.D. DU MONT.CARMEL ET DE S. LAZARE,. J.R. 1773.¹⁴

Conclusions

In accordance with the practice during the Baroque Age, the *Ordre Royale Militaire et Hospitalier de Notre Dame Du Mont-Carmel et de Saint-Lazare de Jerusalem* celebrated its notable events in history by commissioning the minting of medallions, a practice that lasted right through the 18th century. Another relevant medallion was minted in 1721 medallion to commemorate the appointment of Gérard Mellier (*1647 †1729) as Mayor of Nantes during 1720-1730. He was admitted to the Order in 1720.



1721 Commemorative medallion to Gérard Mellier

The medallion measuring 28.3mm diameter shows the arms of Mellier superimposed on the eight-pointed cross and surrounded by the collar of the Order. The circularly-placed legend reads NOSTR FLORBIT AMORE 1721. The reverse side shows the crowned arms of the village of Nates surrounded by cordage. The circularly placed legend reads DE L MAIRE DE MRS MELLIER GENAL DES FINANCES CHEVER DE L'ORDRE DE ST. LAZARE.¹⁵ The practice of minting commemorative medallions by the Order was abandoned during the 19th century and re-established during the earlier part of the 20th century with the medallion commemorating the tenth

¹⁴ Feuardent, *op. cit.*, p.121 – item 1601.

¹⁵ Leppard, *op. cit.*, p.3

anniversary of the appointment of Charles Oztenberger-Detaille as Superintendent of the Order.¹⁶



1939 Commemorative medal to Charles Oztenberger-Detaille

After 1972, the practice of issuing commemorative medals specifically designed for wearing was adopted. This did lead to what was considered a “Christmas tree effect” and the wearing of commemorative medals was regulated so “*that commemorative pilgrimage medals are not worn, except on the pilgrimage that they commemorate*”.¹⁷

¹⁶ *La Vie Chevaleresque*. October 1939 No 24/25: p.169. The published short note includes a photo of the two faces and states: *Une Médaille - La Manufacture Royale appartenant a S. Exe. Le Balli Beeger a édité, a l'occasion du dixième anniversaire de l'élévation de S. Exv. le comte Otzenberger-Detaille a la charge de Surintendant général de l'Ordre de Saint-Lazare de Jerusalem, une fort médaille. Nos sommes heureux de pouvoir les deux faces de cette médaille et nos en félicitons les éditeurs*

¹⁷ Charles Savona-Ventura. *Commemorative Medals of the Order of Saint Lazarus*. In: Richard Payatt, Michael Ross, Charles Savona-Ventura (eds.). *The Handbook of the Order of Saint Lazarus – The insignia, decorations, commemorative medals, uniforms, and heraldry of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in the twenty-first century* (pp.155-167). Malta: Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands – MHOSLI, 2017.

Appendix – 20th century commemorative medallions



1975 - Congress of the Order held in Finland



1993 – 20th anniversary of the St. Lazarus Volunteers (Austria)



2003 – Visit to Greece made by the Duke of Brissac



2014 – 20th anniversary of the setting up of the Grand Priory of Greece



2017 – Pilgrimage to Monreale Cathedral, Sicily