

Additions to the catalogue of commemorative medals

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Abstract

Additional designs of commemorative medals and medallions of the Order of Saint Lazarus have been identified augmenting the series of previously described commemorative numismatic items minted by the Order.

Keywords

Order of St Lazarus, commemorative medals

Introduction

The minting of commemorative medals and medallions serves to illustrate the important events of any country or institution. The commemorative medals of the Order minted after 1973 have been previously catalogued in the Order's publication *Handbook of the Order of Saint Lazarus*.¹ A catalogue of commemorative medallions and jetons has been also previously catalogued.² There have since come to light other commemorative medals and medallions pertaining to the Order, one medal dating to an earlier period of the Order's modern history. In addition, the Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archives in Malta hold other related items in the form of metal and paper embossing dies.

¹ Richard Payatt, Michael Ross and Charles Savona-Ventura, *The Handbook of the Order of Saint Lazarus* (Malta: Sancti Lazari Ordinis Academia Internationalis, 2017), 155-167. A second addition, published in 2019, had two other commemorative medal additions to the original list.

² Elizabeth Cassar, 'A catalogue of 17-18th century commemorative medallions of the Ordre de S. Lazare', *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 3 (2019), 149-160; Elizabeth Cassar, 'Eighteenth century commemorative medallions of the Order of Saint Lazarus – further additions', *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 4 (2021), 149-160.

1935 – Medal to commemorate the appointment of Don Francesco de Bourbon 4th Duke of Seville as Grand Master of the Order.



Diameter: 30 mm circular; *metal:* bronze. *Obverse:* Shows the left-facing profile bust of Don Francesco de Bourbon in military uniform wearing the grand collar chain of the Order in the center surrounded by a circular row of text reading 'FRANCISCUS BORBONIUS DUX SEVILLAE AET IIII'.

Reverse: Shows the coat-of-arms of the grandmaster quartered with the cross of the Order superimposed on the eight-pointed cross all placed on a mantle superimposed by the Eastern crown. This is encircled by circular text reading 'ORD MILIT AC HOSPIT S LAZARI HSOLYM MAGN MAG 1935'.

Ribbon: green.

*Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection
[donated by Comte d'Evora & Leander Koerber
MSc CompOLJ]*

1998 – Prague: International Reunion Meeting [Paris Obedience] held in Prague, Czech Republic in 1998.



Diameter: 33 mm circular; *metal:* bronze – large medal and miniature versions.

Obverse: Centre shows the green eight-pointed cross of the Order circled by an outer inscription '+ REUNION PRAHA + 1998' and an inner inscription reading 'ATAVIS ET ARMIS'.

Reverse: Centre shows the green eight-pointed cross of the Order circled by an inscription reading 'MILITARIS HOSPITALIS ORDO ST. LAZARI IN JERUSALEM'.

Ribbon: Dark green edged with two black stripes.

Offered for sale on e-bay

1998 – Prague: International Reunion Meeting [Malta Obedience] held in Prague, Czech Republic in 1998.³



Diameter: 33 mm circular; *metal:* bronze – large medal and miniature versions.

Obverse: Centre shows the Coat-of-Arms of Prague in a shield over which is the date 1998 circled by inscription reading 'INTERNATIONAL REUNION PRAGA BOHEMIA'.

Reverse: Centre shows the eight-pointed cross circled with the words 'ORDO MILIT ET HOSPIT SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI' over embossed silhouette of Prague castle at the bottom.

Ribbon: Dark blue edged with white and red stripes.

Offered for sale on e-bay

2004 – Blois: International Reunion Meeting [Paris-Orléans Obedience] held in Blois, France in 2004.



Diameter: 35 mm circular; *metal:* bronze.

Obverse: Centre shows a quartered shield the cross of the Order and the coat-if-arms of the Comte d'Evreux (the father of Prince Charles-Philippe d'Orléans) circled by inscription reading 'REUNION INTERNATIONALE - BLOIS'.

Reverse: Centre shows the eight-pointed cross circled with the words 'ORDO MILIT ET HOSPIT SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI - MMIV'.

Ribbon: Green edged with blue stripes.

*Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection
[donated by Comte d'Evora]*

³ Listed but not described in the first 2017 edition of *The Handbook of the Order of Saint Lazarus*. Republished with permission of the publisher.

2006 – Prague: International Reunion Meeting [Paris-Orléans Obedience] held in Prague, Czech Republic in 2006.



Diameter: 35 mm circular; metal: silver.

*Obverse: Centre shows a crowned lion holding a heraldic shield with the cross of the Order circled by inscription reading 'REUNION INTERNATIONAL * PRAGA MMVI'.*

Reverse: Centre shows a hatched purple eight-pointed cross circled with the words 'ORDO MILIT ET HOSPIT S LAZARI HIEROSOL'.

Ribbon: Green with a central red-white stripe.

*Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection
[donated by Comte d'Evora]*

2009 – Ebroa: Chapter General [Orléans Obedience] held in Évora, Portugal in 2009.



Diameter: 35 mm circular; metal: bronze.

Designer: Comte d'Evora

*Obverse: Centre shows five cross-placed shields showing five roundels with four towers between the cross beams circled by inscription reading 'CAPITULUM GENERALE * EBORA * PENTECOSTEN MMIX'.*

Reverse: Centre shows the eight-pointed cross with four fleur des lys in the cross beams circled with the words 'ORDO MILITARIS & HOSPITALARIS S. LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI'.

Ribbon: White with narrow stripes of green – red/blue, blue-yellow-blue, blue-red, and green.

*Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection
[donated by Comte d'Evora]*

2012 – Berlin: Reunification of the German Grand Bailiwick and the Grand Priory. The union was formally achieved on the 1st January 2012 by Grand Magistral Decree 01/12.⁴



Diameter: 33 mm circular; *metal:* silver.

Obverse: Centre shows the Brandenburg Gate with the eight-pointed cross below circled by inscription reading ‘UNIFICATION GRAND BAILIWICK OF GERMANY BERLIN 2012’.

Reverse: Centre shows the eight-pointed cross circled by a scroll with the words ‘ORDO MILIT ET HOSPIT SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMNITANI’.

Ribbon: White and red of width 25mm.



Chev. Andreas Rademachers collection

2015 – Germany: Medal to commemorate the setting up on the Hereditary Commandery of Rurich in June 2015.



Diameter: 33 mm circular; *metal:* silver.

Obverse: Centre shows the family coat-of-arms of the first hereditary commander Reichsgraf (Imperial Count) Benedikt Eckbrecht von Dürckheim-Montmartin circled by inscription reading ‘COMMENDA HERIDITARIA RVRIACVM NONIS IVNIS MMXV’.

Reverse: Centre shows the Infant Jesus of Prague in relief circled with the words ‘GRATIOSVS IESVLVS PRAGENSIS CASTELLVM RVRIACVM. UT OMNES VNVM SINT’.

Ribbon: Matt green with black-white middle stripe.



Chev. Andreas Rademachers collection

⁴ Listed but not described in the first 2017 edition of *The Handbook of the Order of Saint Lazarus*.

1975 – Commemorative medallion [no details available].



Diameter: 66 x 53 mm; *Metal:* silver (x100 minted); bronze (x400).

Obverse: Shows the image of Saint Lazarus arising from his tomb with a circular text reading "† S SANCTI LAZARI CORBOILI NSIS".

Reverse: blank.

Edge inscription: 1975 N° VII/C.

Offered for sale on e-bay

1979 – Brauweiler: Establishment of the Hereditary Commandery of the Rhineland [Malta Obedience] on the 28th April 1979.



Metal: silver. *Obverse:* Shows a knight on a galloping horse superimposed on the Cologne Cathedral with circular text reading: '28 APRIL 1979 * KOMMENDE RHEINLAND'.

Reverse: The coat-of-arms of the 47th grand master of the Order.

Depicted on cover page of *Lazarus Ritter – Deutschland* (1979)

**1990s – America: Medallion of the Grand Priory of America –
Commandery of Malta : Malta Obedience branch of the Order.**



Metal: bronze. *Obverse:* Shows the eight-pointed cross with circular text reading: 'ORDO HEROSOLYMITANI MILITARIS ET HOSPITALARIS SANCTI LAZARI'. *Reverse:* A central eight-pointed cross with a circular test reading "COMMANDERY OF MALTA, USA * GRAND PRIORY OF AMERICA".

**2014 – Greece: Medallion pertaining to the Corfu collection 1994-2014
and Chev. Dr. Petros K. Vittouris GCLJ-J 1994-2008.**



Diameter: 60 mm; silver

Obverse: Centre showing a shield with the coat-of-arms of Greece in 1st quarter, the double-headed eagle insignia of the Greek Orthodox church in the 2nd quarter, a crested helmeted image in the 3rd quarter and the vergina sun in the 4th quarter overlying the eight-pointed cross of the Order encircled by inscription reading 'ΣΤΡΑΤΗΩΤΙΚΟ ΚΑΙ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΟ ΤΑΤΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ - ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΗ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ - ΕΠΙΤΟΜΗ ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΣ 1994-2014'. *Reverse:* The Family coat-of-arms of Petros Vittouris overlying the eight-pointed cross of the Order encircled by inscription reading 'ΙΠΠΟΤΗΣ ΔΡ ΠΕΤΡΟΣ Κ. ΒΙΤΤΟΥΡΗΣ GCLJ-J ΙΑΡΥΤΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΑΡΧΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΑΠΟΣ ΤΟΛΗΣ - ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ 1994 - ΑΘΗΝΑ 2008'.

H.E. Chev. Savona-Ventura collection

2017 – Medallion to commemorate the Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Monreale



Diameter: 45 mm circular; metal: silver.

Designer: H.E. Chev. Charles Savona-Ventura

Obverse: Centre shows a bust of King St. Louis facing his family coat-of-arms and the eight-pointed cross of the Order in central circle and the text S. LVDOVICUS DEI GRATIA FRANCORUM REX ORDINIS S. LAZARI PROTECTOR above and MONREALE 2017 below.

Reverse: Centre shows the eight-pointed cross circled by alternating eight fleur de lys and eight eight-pointed cross and above with the words ORDO MILITARIS ET HOSPITALARIS SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI.

*Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection
[donated by the Grand Priory of the Maltese Is.]*

2024 – Medallion to commemorate the Pauline Pilgrimage to the St. Paul's Grotto in Rabat, Malta on the 9th February 2024



Diameter: 45 mm circular; metal: nickel coloured with enamel.

Designer: Kristian Savona-Ventura

*Obverse: Centre shows a central the Apostle Paul holding a sword and book with four small green eight-pointed crosses in background arranged in a stained-glass image format. Circular tyrext reads PAVLVS TARSENSIS * IESV CHRISTI APOSTOLVS * PEREGRINATIO MELITENSIS MMXXIV *.*

*Reverse: Centre shows the green eight-pointed cross overlying a coloured stained-glass background with a circular text reading ORDO MILITARIS ET HOSPITALARIS SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI * ATAVIS ET ARMIS *.*

*Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection
[donated by the Grand Priory of the Maltese Is.]*

Metal embossing dies to produce central lozenges for insignia

Origin: In March 2020, a pair of metal embossing dies were offered for sale on the eBay website by Christophe Guimaraes from Montluçon, Auvergne (France).⁵ The artefact was subsequently purchased by the International Academy for the Order of Saint Lazarus and deposited in the Artefactual Collection forming part of the Torri ta' Lanzun Archives in Malta.

Dating: There is nothing on the artefacts that can confirm their age or period of use. The seller had labelled them as pertaining to the period 1816-1913, but the date had been arbitrary assigned.⁶ An attempt has been made to compare the image produced by the embossing die to known dated specimens of medals and breast stars belonging to the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. The closest match appears to date to the periods 1871-1913 (produced by the Italian-based jewellers Cravanzola Guardino)⁷ and 1902-1937 (jewellers unidentified).⁸ The embossing dies are also quite similar to the diagrams of the breast star and medal produced after 1934 depicted diagrammatically in the Order's journal *La Vie Chevaleresque*.⁹ The jewellers responsible for these French-produced insignia have not been identified. Later, post-1960s, French-produced medal or breast star central medallion tended to

⁵ eBay item: #193370420507. Item specifics: Sous-type – Ordre; Pays, Organisation – France; Objet modifié – Non; Pays de fabrication – France; Période – 1816-1913. Ordre de Saint Lazare et Notre Dame du Mont Carmel "ATAVIS ET ARMIS". Rare matrices en acier centres avers et revers, pour croix de commandeur. Diamètre matrice 47mm, centre 23X20 mm. poids : 700 grammes.

⁶ Email correspondence with seller Christophe Guimaraes dated 8 March 2020.

⁷ C. Savona-Ventura, 'The fons honorum of the Order of Saint Lazarus: 1800-1910', *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 3 (2019), 65-90.

⁸ Dr. Georg Ludwigstorff [expeert]. *Dorotheum Auctions*. Palais Dorotheum, Dorotheergasse 17, 1010 Vienna (Austria), accessed 10.01.2023. Vide:

◦ www.dorotheum.com/de/l/1347256/

◦ www.dorotheum.com/de/l/1347250/

◦ www.dorotheum.com/de/l/1347253/

◦ www.dorotheum.com/de/l/1347244/

◦ www.dorotheum.com/de/l/1347247/

⁹ Charles Otzenberger-Detaille, 'Les insignes de l'Ordre de saint-Lazare de Jérusalem', *La Vie Chevaleresque*, 6, (1934), 110-111.

be circular in shape rather than elliptical [Paris Obedience]. The elliptical form was retained for English-produced insignia [Malta Obedience].¹⁰



Description: The two objects each have a total diameter of 47 mm and weighed 700 grams. Both are formed in the shape of a cone base with the upper elliptically shaped diameter measuring 23x20 mm. Both embossing dies have the text 'COMMANDEUR DE S^T LAZAR' imprinted along the outer part of the cone. This labelling confirms their original French origins. The central elliptically shaped imprints for the two embossing dies are different with one showing the inverted image of the raising of Saint Lazarus encircled by the inverted text '* ATAVIS ET ARMIS *' and a beaded border; the second showing the image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel encircled by a double beaded border. The offset letter T in the text appears to serve to help with correct alignment when striking the imprint. The back of each of the embossing dies shows no particular characteristics.

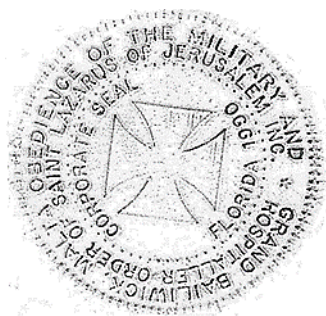
Paper embossing die to certify documents

Origin: This die was deposited in the Artifactual collection at Torri ta' Lanzun by Chev. Roger Carlton Sherman along with the Archives relating to Grand Bailiwick of the United States of the Malta Obedience prior to its absorption by the Grand Priory.

¹⁰ Stuart G. Morris of Balgonie. *The Insignia and Decorations of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem* (Scotland: MHOSLJ, 1986).

Dating: This paper embossing die was used in the early 1990s by the Grand Bailiwick of the United States of America – Malta Obedience branch of the Order. The setting up of the Grand Bailiwick of the United States became necessary following the 1986 Oxford Chapter General where the majority of the members of the Grand Priory of the United States of America transferred their allegiance to the Paris Obedience. The setting up of the Grand Bailiwick was opposed by the Grand Priory who instituted court litigation. This led to the Grand Bailiwick registering itself as an incorporation in the State of Tennessee on the 7th September 1989. A copy of the registration certification is held by the Torri ta' Lanzun Archives.¹¹

Description: The circular metal embossing die measures 50 mm in diameter. The die has a central cross formee encircled by three separate texts. The innermost reversed text reads 'CORPORATE SEAL FLORIDA 1990;' the outer text in two consecutive circles reads 'GRAND BAILIWICK MALTA OBEDIENCE OF THE MILITARY AND * HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM INC'. The embossing die is also further supplemented by a hand-held IDEAL® Model M embossing press.



Positive stamped image



Embossing press with die in place

¹¹ Archives relating to U.S. jurisdiction: U.S.A. B:96 - Correspondence 1988-1998 – The reinstatement of the Malta Obedience in the U.S.: Documents and Photographs important to the history of the introduction of the Malta Obedience of the Order in the U.S. (Malta: Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archives, 1989).

Dedicated early 1990s insignia for use by members of the Grand Bailiwick of the United States of America – Malta Obedience branch of the Order.

Background: The court litigation instituted by the Grand Priory of America – Paris Obedience against the Grand Bailiwick – Malta Obedience required the latter to redesign its insignia. The medal was subsequently purchased by the International Academy for the Order of Saint Lazarus and deposited in the Artefactual Collection forming part of the Torri ta' Lanzun Archives in Malta.



Obverse side

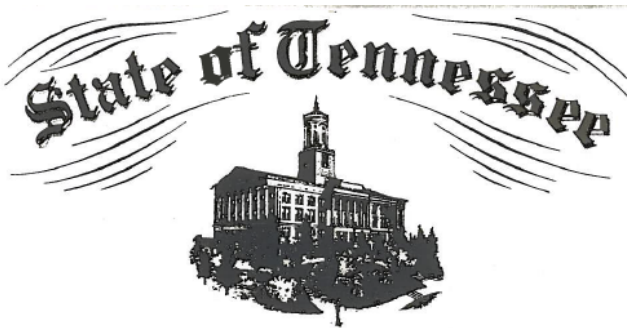


Reverse side

Knight insignia – Grand Bailiwick of U.S.A. – Malta Obedience

Torri ta' Lanzun MHOSLJ Archival collection

Description: On both sides, an eight-pointed cross of green enamel edged with white with a star shaped burst between the limbs of the cross. In the centre an oval medallion showing a bust profile of Saint Lazarus encircled by the words 'ATAVIS ET ARMIS *'. On the obverse side, the coat-of-arms of the Spiritual Protector of the Order H.B. Patriarch Maximos V Hakim [serving 1967-2000].



Department of State

Whereas, it appears from the application of The Military and Hospitaller
Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, located and doing business at
21 First Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
and if a corporation, the state of incorporation is Madrid, Spain that the Applicant has adopted
as a mark for Charitable services to the sick and needy, educational and medical
charitable service.
in Class 100 which mark was first used anywhere on December 1, 1987 and was first used
in Tennessee on July 5, 1989 and is now in use in Tennessee, and which use is evidenced
by the reproduction of the mark attached hereto:



Now Therefore, the said mark is hereby registered _____ effective the
7th day of September, 19 89 for a term of ten years.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereto affixed my
signature and the Great Seal of the State, at Nashville,
this 7th day of September in the year
of our Lord nineteen hundred eighty-nine

Hentry Crowell
Secretary of State
by *Ruth Cooksey*

Conclusion

The published catalogues of commemorative numismatic items pertaining to and illustrating the modern history of the Order of St Lazarus are far from complete. The author would certainly welcome further information about the items detailed here or about new unrecorded items.¹²

¹² The author can be contacted by email at *ecassar33@gmail.com*