

THE MEDAL



Autumn 1989

THE MEDAL

No. 15 Autumn 1989

This issue has been sponsored by
the International Association of Professional Numismatists

THE MEDAL is published by the
British Art Medal Trust in association
with FIDEM (the Fédération
Internationale de la Médaille).

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Information about subscriptions (£20
per annum) and membership of the
British Art Medal Society (£15 per
annum) is also available from the
above address.

ISSN 0263-7707

Typeset by

Galataprint

Park House

Albert Road

Wolverhampton

WV6 0AG

Printed by

Bookmag, Inverness

Front and back covers:

Leonda Finke: Virginia Woolf -

A Room of One's Own, 1989,

cast bronze, 94 x 79 mm. (See p.99)

(Photo: Bernard Palais)

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MEDALS ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATISTS

Beverley Thomas Curtis



I. F. Calico: *The Leonard Forrer Medal, first presented in gold to King Umberto of Italy in 1971.*

With sharpened sight pale Antiquaries pore,
The inscription value, but the rust adore,
This, the Blue varnish, that, the Green endears,
The sacred dust, of twice ten hundred years.

By the time Alexander Pope wrote about coins in this way, the history of scientific numismatic research was already a long one. The Renaissance gave nourishment to the study of ancient coins and was the starting point for the formation of the private cabinets of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and subsequently of large national collections such as that of the British Museum in the eighteenth and nineteenth. Doubtless there was a part in this activity for dealers in coins and medals from the earliest time, but whereas the learned societies which have concerned themselves with coins, the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries and, since 1836 the (Royal) Numismatic Society all have long histories of their own, little has been written about the history of the professional numismatist in the sense that this title is used by the International Association of Professional Numismatists to mean dealers in coins and medals. That they, too are 'friends of Numismatic Science' (to borrow a phrase from the foundation meeting of the Royal Numismatic Society) is a fact which is implied in the more formal title. Since the I.A.P.N. (or A.I.N.P. for Association Internationale des Numismates Professionnels) was founded as recently as 1951, as Europe began to emerge from the frugal

post-war years with faith in a brighter, more civilised future, its history to date is a short one.

At Geneva, between 11 and 14 May 1951, professional numismatists from twelve different countries gathered for the purpose of founding the I.A.P.N. The twenty-seven foundation members (including names from a tradition of coin and medal dealing going back at least as far as the nineteenth century, Cahn, Rosenberg, Bourgey, Ratto, Santamaria, Schulman, Spink and others) elected Leonard Steyning Forrer, son of the author of the *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, as its first president, and Xavier Calico of the Barcelona numismatists X & F Calico as vice-president. Both men did much in the formative years of the association, and upon the death of Forrer in 1969, the Association commissioned Fernando Calico to design a medal with the portrait of its founding president, a medal which the I.A.P.N. now offers from time to time to those people who have done a special service to numismatics (fig.1). Initially, one example was struck in gold, ten in silver, and 100 in bronze. Umberto II, King of Italy, who formed a remarkable collection of coins and medals, received a gold version upon inaugurating the 20th General Assembly of the Association in Estoril, in 1971.

I.A.P.N. membership, vested in firms and not in individuals, has grown steadily but is not lightly acquired; there are now more than one hundred members in twenty-two countries in the five continents. The objects of the Association are set out in

its membership book thus: 'The Association has as its objects the development of a healthy and prosperous numismatic trade conducted according to the highest standards of business ethics and commercial practice, the encouragement of scientific research and the propagation of numismatics; and the creation of lasting and friendly relations amongst professional numismatists throughout the world.'

The badge of the association was adopted soon after 1951, but its readily recognised symbol, the head of Pallas from the gold stater of Alexander the Great of Macedon, was not the first to be suggested. A design using a figure of Moneta with cornucopias from which coins spilled over was considered too voluptuous, and rather than an allegorical personification from a coin, a distinctive coin itself was chosen. Incidentally, the owl reverse of Athens was rejected because one member complained that in his country the owl was a bird of ill-omen, and prophesied that nothing good could come of an association under the tutelage of such a bird. In its finest form, the badge is a distinction, although in recent times, the more instant nature of much printing work has called for a line-drawing version which is utilitarian rather than aesthetically pleasing.

The Association has met annually for a General Assembly since its foundation, its congress usually coinciding with Whitsuntide. In more recent years, it has become the practice to commission a medal for distribution to the participants at the Assemblies, but the earliest memento was a key-ring produced for the 1952 Florence Assembly which used the Pallas coin as a centrepiece. It became usual for the hosts of the Assembly to provide such a souvenir in the form of a lapel badge after Amsterdam, 1956, when the windmill type was borrowed from an eighteenth century badge of the Amsterdam Millers' Guild. Later badges, which the journals of the Association record were given to distinguished visitors at Assemblies, drew inspiration from the gold medal of the Roman Emperor Constantius I by which he had marked the return of London to the Roman Empire in A.D. 296 (Lord Hamilton of Dalzell received this badge in gold after he had officially opened the 1964 London Assembly), a Croat of Mallorca, and a coin of the Knights of Malta. In honouring its own servants, the Association first devised a Diploma and gold Badge of Honour (fig.2), and now also bestows the title Member of Honour, in this case upon individuals and not firms.

The hosts of the 22nd General Assembly in Washington in 1973 were the first to have a medal struck for all the participants, and since 1977 at least, this has been an annual commission. The medal has been achieved in various ways, sometimes by adapting an existing design, sometimes by creating a new type in some way appropriate to the venue of the meeting. Into the latter category fall the medals prepared by the Spanish member firm of Xavier and Fernando Calico for the 30th anniversary Assembly at Puento Romano, Marbella, in 1981 (fig.3), and that for the 33rd Assembly held on a cruise ship



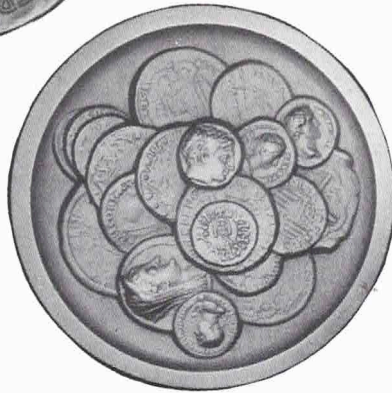
2. The I.A.P.N.'s gold Badge of Honour.



3. F. Calico: The 30th Assembly of the I.A.P.N., Marbella, 1981.

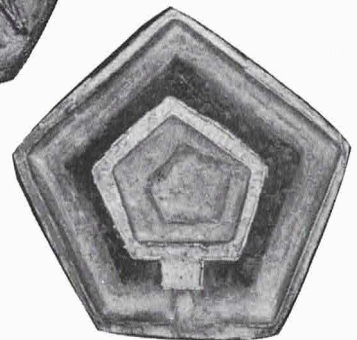
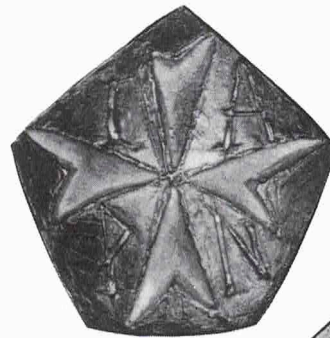


4. F. Calico: The 33rd Assembly, held on a cruise ship, 1984.



7. Hansen: The 34th Assembly, Oslo, 1985.

5. F. Calico: Xavier Calico, former president of the I.A.P.N., 1983. Published by X. & F. Calico, Barcelona.

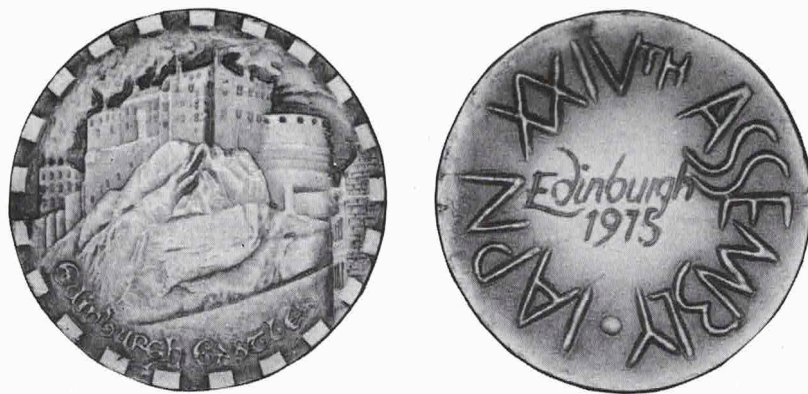


6. The 31st Assembly, Salzburg, 1982.

8. Osman: The 27th Assembly, Valetta, 1978.



9. Harrison: The 35th Assembly, Kent, 1986.



10. The 24th Assembly, Edinburgh, 1975.



11. Lovy: The 38th Assembly, 1989.

calling at the Greek Islands and Turkey in 1984 (fig.4). Upon the death of Xavier Calico in 1983, the first vice president of the Association and its *Président d'Honneur*, was honoured by his own firm with Fernando Calico's bronze commemorative medal (fig.5).

It goes without saying that coins are a recurring feature of the medals issued by the association of dealers. For the 1980 Assembly in Los Angeles, California, a commemorative silver dollar issued for the 1976 bicentenary of American Independence was counterstamped as a medal, and the Salzburg Assembly medal of 1982 has the lozenge shape of the Klippe coins, with Rudbertus and Virgilius on the obverse and an appropriate rendering into Latin on the reverse, XXXI CONVENTUS UNIVERSALIS SOCIETAS NUMMIS NEGOTIANTIIUM INTER OMNES GENTES DIVULGATAE SALISBURGI MCMLXXXII (fig.6). For the Oslo Assembly, a medal by the Mint engraver Øivind Hansen (fig.7) drew upon an original which had marked the visit of Frederick IV to the Norwegian mint and mines at Kongsberg, a visit which the participants in the Assembly repeated when they enjoyed a banquet deep in the silver mine as part of the social programme.

Original designs were chosen for three medals marking Assemblies hosted by British members of the Association, and two have already been described in *The Medal* (no.11 (Summer 1987), p.69). Louis Osman's five-sided medal with a representation of

the Valetta fort of St. Angelo was designed for the Malta Assembly of 1978 (fig.8), and the Kentish designer and silversmith Paul Harrison was asked to prepare the medal for the 1986 Weald of Kent Assembly (fig.9) which it was intended would be a relaxation in the Garden of England after the C.I.N. Congress in London which many of the participants had previously attended. The boldly simple lettering of the medal for Edinburgh, 1975, was applied by the Royal Mint to the reverse of a stock medal depicting Edinburgh Castle (fig.10). Other recent medals include the five-ounce silver medal by Lili Sheer and Adolfo Eidelstein for the Israel Assembly of 1987, the congress medal showing the seal of the town for Trieste, 1988, and P. Lovy's view of the bay of the Principality of Monaco viewed from Monte Carlo, well suited to the circular medal produced to a very high standard by the Monnaie de Paris for this year's Assembly (fig.11).

It is too soon to talk about the patina of twice ten hundred years when considering the medals with which the International Association of Professional Numismatists has been associated, whether upon the initiative of its individual members or through its own commissions as in the case of the Leonard Forrer Medal. Nonetheless, these medals serve to show that the I.A.P.N. plays its own part in encouraging the art of the medal in such a way that future antiquaries may well examine its works with sharpened sight.

SPONSORS OF THIS ISSUE

The I.A.P.N. brings together the leading professional numismatists of the world. As well as dealing in coins of all ages, tokens, numismatic literature and accessories, either by direct sale or through their fixed price lists or auction sales, many member firms handle commemorative and artistic medals of all periods, subjects and metals. A number of firms have specialists in this field on their staff, who are always willing to give advice and information to customers.

It is the privilege of these firms to have pass through their hands some remarkable works of art. It is a source of constant pleasure that such items continue to be freely available on the open market. Whatever his means, a collector can always find medals to satisfy his interest. The link between this branch of numismatics and the wider world of fine art and antiques is reinforced by the fact that M. Emile Bourgey, a founder I.A.P.N. member from Paris, and former president of the association is currently president of the Confédération Internationale des Négociants en Oeuvres d'Art, the umbrella organisation of fine art and antiques trade associations worldwide.

The medals illustrated on the following pages are a selection of the most rare and beautiful pieces sold at auction by our members in the past year or so. They are medals of various periods and styles, some in precious metal, others in humble tin. They are medals produced for various purposes — to laud, to commemorate monarchs or events, badges of office, insignia, prizes, decorative art and pocket pieces. There is even one which is either an early executive toy or a serious gadget — a perpetual calendar — depending on the needs of the owner. All these pieces and many, many more do not come from museum collections, but have passed and will continue to pass through the market place. Hundreds of medals are sold by our members every year, from top class rarities to modest but none the less interesting items. Very few of these are destined to museums, but are accessible on the open market at all price levels to private collectors.

The lucky buyers of items such as those illustrated are, for their lifetime, the custodians of great works of art for posterity. Such items can never truly be 'owned' by their purchasers.

Although it is inappropriate to illustrate books here, it should be remembered that a number of our members deal in new and antiquarian numismatic

literature. Indeed one member, George Kolbe of Crestline, California, trades in nothing else. In his 11 December 1988 auction at Swann Galleries in New York, held in conjunction with London member Spink and Son Ltd., he sold a very fine set of the superbly illustrated standard work on early German medals, Georg Habich's *Die deutschen Schaumünzen des XVI. Jahrhunderts*. The price realised was \$3,960.

The caption to each medal is followed by the I.A.P.N. dealer's name, the date of the auction and the price realised in local currency exclusive of buyer's premium - if any - and taxes. Any I.A.P.N. member will be happy to provide catalogues or quotations of items of interest in stock to collectors on request.

For a list of members and other information, please write to the Secretary: Mr. Jean-Paul Divo, Lowenstrasse 65, CH 8001 Zürich, Switzerland. Telephone: (01) 221 18 85; telefax: (01) 211 29 76

An article on the medals issued by the I.A.P.N. appears on p.56.

Edward Baldwin



Rome, a rare uniface posthumous portrait medal in bronze of Pope Pius V (1566-1572), possibly by Giocchino Francesco Travani (d.1675), engraver at the Vatican Mint. Struck in 1672 to mark the canonisation of Pius on the centenary of his death.

Clelio Varesi, Pavia, 21-22 April 1988, ITL. 2,000,000



2.



3.

2. France, a uniface bronze portrait medal of Henri II (1547-1559), by Germain Pilon. A superb life-like portrait of large diameter, 165 mm., the piece is pierced at the top, probably for wall suspension. This specimen is a contemporary cast of high quality and definition. Mazerolle 232.

Emile Bourgey, Paris 2-4 June 1988, FFR. 140,000.

3. Milan, a square portrait medal in bronze of Giangiacomo Trivulzio (1441-1518) by Cristoforo Caradossa Foppa (c.1452-1526/7). The reverse legend in nine lines refers to the capture of Alexandria, the defeat of Ludovico Maria Sforza and the capture of Novara. It also includes the date 1499, a rare example of a medal dated before 1500.

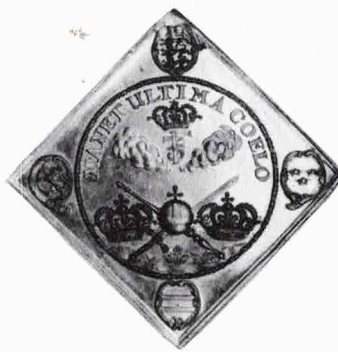
Frank Sternberg, Zürich, 14-15 November 1988, SFR. 16,000.



4.



5.



6.

4. Holy Roman Empire, a tin portrait medal of the Emperor Charles V (1519-1558), by Leone Leoni (1509-1590). It is unsigned and undated, but was cast to commemorate the Victory at Mühlberg in 1547. Armand, i, 162. Gerhard Hirsch nachf., München, 1988, DM. 2,100.

5. Bavaria, a cast gold 'Gnadenpfennig' or 'favour medal' of Ferdinand II of Bavaria (1557-1650), Archbishop and Elector of Cologne, attributed to either Alessandro Abondio (1580-1653?) or Paul Zeggin (active c.1623-c.1666). The medal is

held in a richly enamelled Baroque gold mount with a pendant pearl below, probably of later date. Cf. Habich ii, ill. p.529. Numismatik Lanz, München, DM 56,000.

6. Denmark, a gold medal commemorating the death of Frederik III in 1670. This piece is a fine example of a medal packed with information and symbols rather than pictorial representations. Galster 197. Oslo Mynthandel A/S, Oslo, 8 October 1988, NKR. 18,000.



7.



8.



9.

7. Bavaria, House of Wittelsbach, Albert V, der Grossmütige (1550-1579). A struck silver medal of 4 thalers weight, c.1576, by an unknown 'welschen Goltschmidt Gesellen'. Below the arms on the reverse can be seen a view of the city of München. The 34 shields around are those of Bavarian towns. Habich 3185.

Münzen und Medaillen A.G., Basel, 18-19 October 1988, SFR. 24,000.

8. Osnabrück, Bishop Karl von Lothringen (1698-1715). A gold portrait medal of 12 ducats, undated but before 1711. The reverse bears the cross of the Maltese Order of St. John held by two crowned eagles of Lorraine with the oval episcopal

arms superimposed. Below are crossed palm fronds. Karl was also Bishop of Olmütz. Apparently unpublished. Bank Leu, Zürich, October 1988, SFR. 6,250.

9. Strasburg, a unique gold medal with suspension loop presented to Baron Philippe Frédéric de Dietrich, the first Mayor of Strasburg, in 1791. It was Baron Dietrich who commissioned a marching song from Captain Rouget de Lisle, 'the Battle Song of the Rhine Army', which became the French national anthem, 'la Marseillaise'. The medal was made by Joseph Courtot (b.1760) at the request of the citizens of Strasburg. Hennin 305. Alain Weil, Paris, 5 December 1988, FFR. 33,500.



10.



11.



12.



10. Netherlands, a silver gilt cast and chased medal commemorating the Treaty of Münster and the Peace of Westphalia between Spain and the United Provinces in 1648. It was commissioned by the City Council of Amsterdam from Johannes Lutma (1585-1669). Van Loon, ii, 311. J. Schulman b.v., Amsterdam, 3 October 1988, GLD. 5250.

11. Russia, Peter the Great (1682-1725). A silver medal by Christian Wermuth (1661-1739) commemorating the capture of Azov and Perekop and the Tsar's first overseas tour. The reverse depicts Peter as St. George, the patron saint of Russia, fighting the dragon while the cities are bombarded in the background. Cf. Hermitage Coll. 15.

Kurpfälzische Münzhandlung, Mannheim, 15 December 1988, DM. 1,950.

12. *Calendarium Perpetuum*, a pocket perpetual calendar in silver of medallion form made in Germany (possibly Nürnberg) in 1802. It reads 'Gott lehre mich mein Tage zu zählen, das Böse zu lassen, das Gute zu wählen'. There are indications for the days of the week, sunrise and sunset, the number of day and night hours, date, month and sign of the zodiac. J. B. Westerhof, Sneek, Netherlands, 14 December 1987. GLD. 2450.



13.



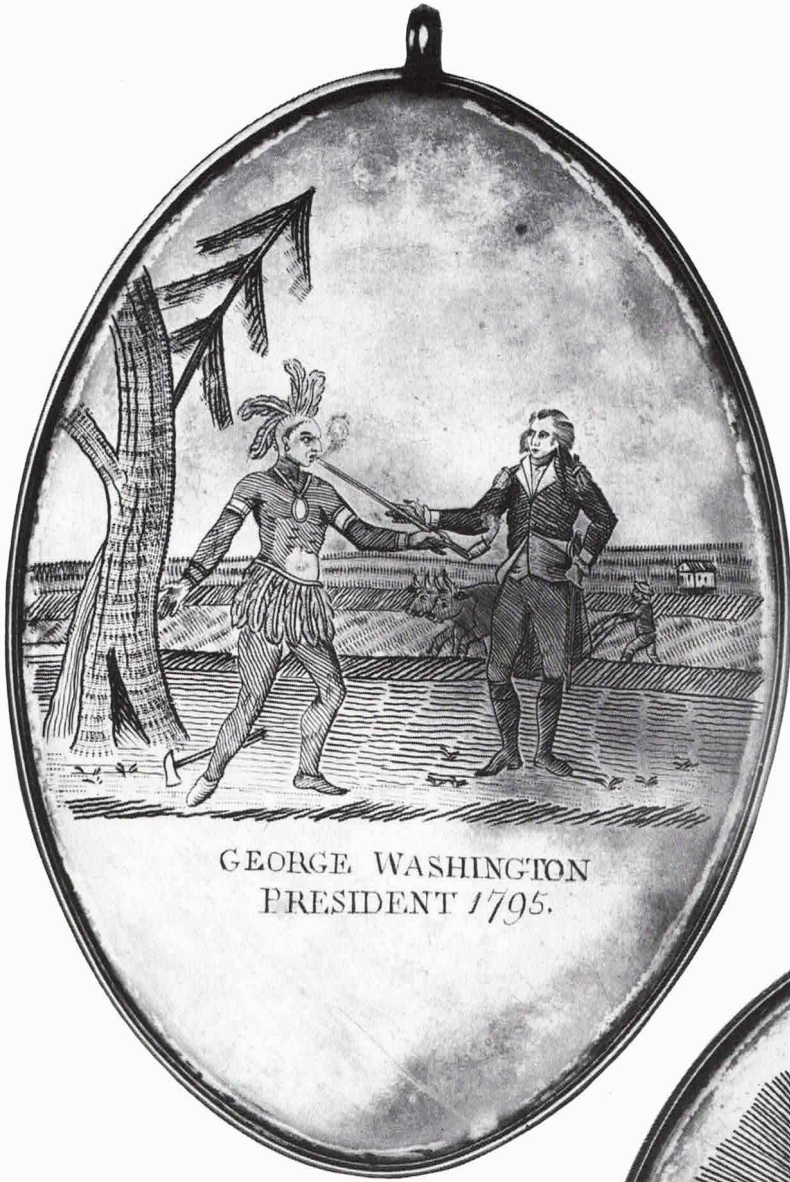
14.

13. A group of nine medals awarded to Admiral Sir William Goodenough, G.C.B., M.V.O., comprising: M.V.O. - designer unknown, made by Collingwood and Co.; China 1900 - G. W. Saulles and W. Wyon; 1914-1918 Star - W. H. J. Blakemore; British War Medal - W. McMillan; Victory Medal - W. McMillan; Coronation Medal 1911 - E. Bertram MacKenna; Jubilee Medal 1935 - W. Goscombe John; France, Croix de Guerre 1914-1917; Messina Earthquake Medal, 1809 - L. Giorgi. A. H. Baldwin and Sons Ltd., London, at Glendining, 25 November 1987, PDS.1,450.

14. United States of America, a silver John Tyler Indian Peace Medal of 1841, by Ferdinand Pettrich and John Reich. This is one of the rarest of a series of American medals struck for presentation to Indian chiefs on the successful conclusion of

peace treaties. These medals were intended to be worn by their recipients, and are sometimes to be seen in early photographs of Indian tribes. Julian IP22. Stack's, New York, 18 October 1988, DLR. 8250.

15. United States of America, another, and earlier example of an Indian peace medal. The Little Turtle, Mishikinakwa of the Ohio Miami medal, presented at the signing of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 is a glorious example of an individually engraved medal made by a silversmith. The piece is from the workshop of Joseph Richardson, Jr. of Philadelphia, and bears his maker's mark on the reverse. The obverse shows George Washington offering a pipe of peace to an Indian who has dropped his tomahawk. Prucha 33. Bowers and Merena, Inc., Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, 13-15 June 1988, DLR. 67,000.



GEORGE WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT 1795.





16. United States of America, a unique portrait medal of George Washington in silver by Charles Cushing Wright. The portrait is modelled after the bust by Houdon. Fuld/Baker E-96M.



Rare Coin Company of America, Willowbrook, Illinois, 14-18 July 1988, DLR. 4,800.

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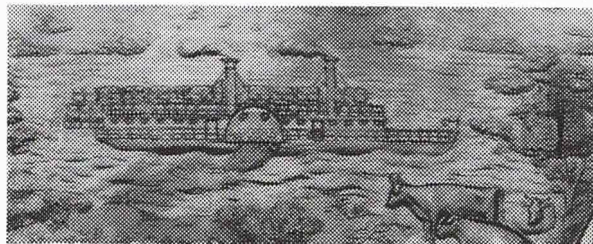
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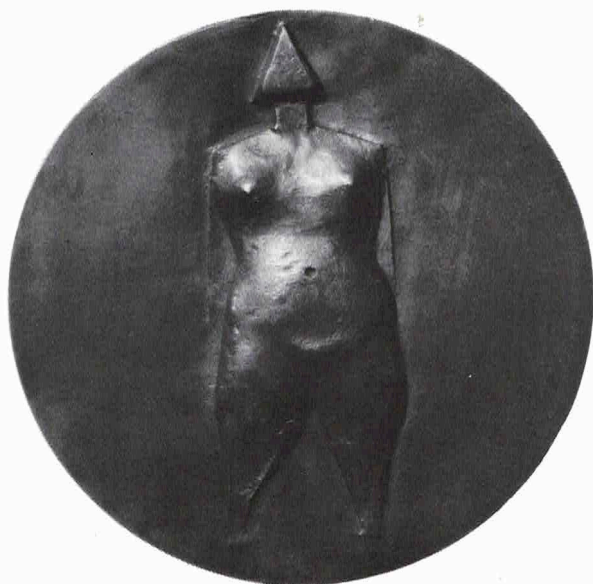
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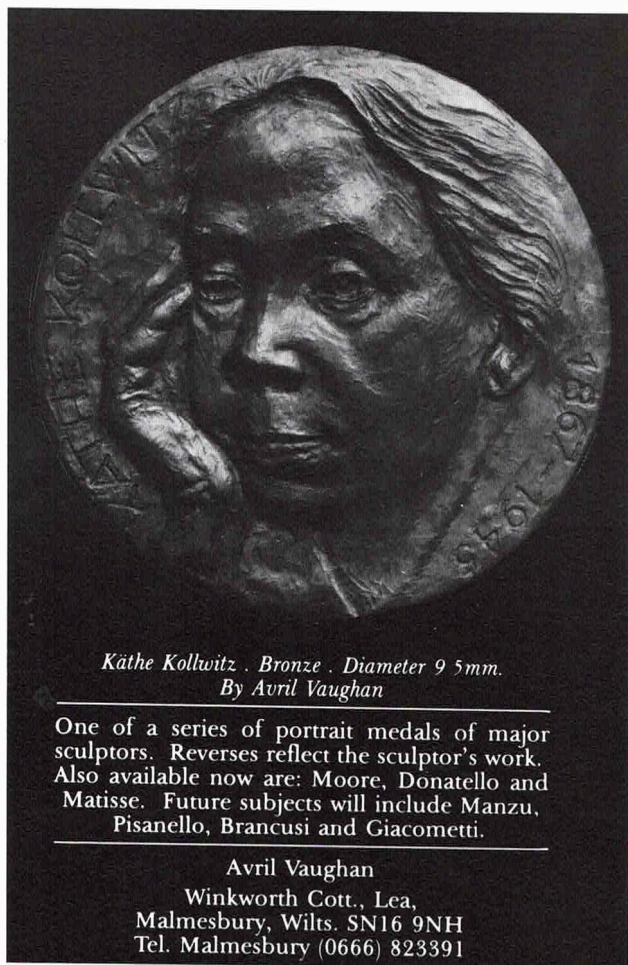
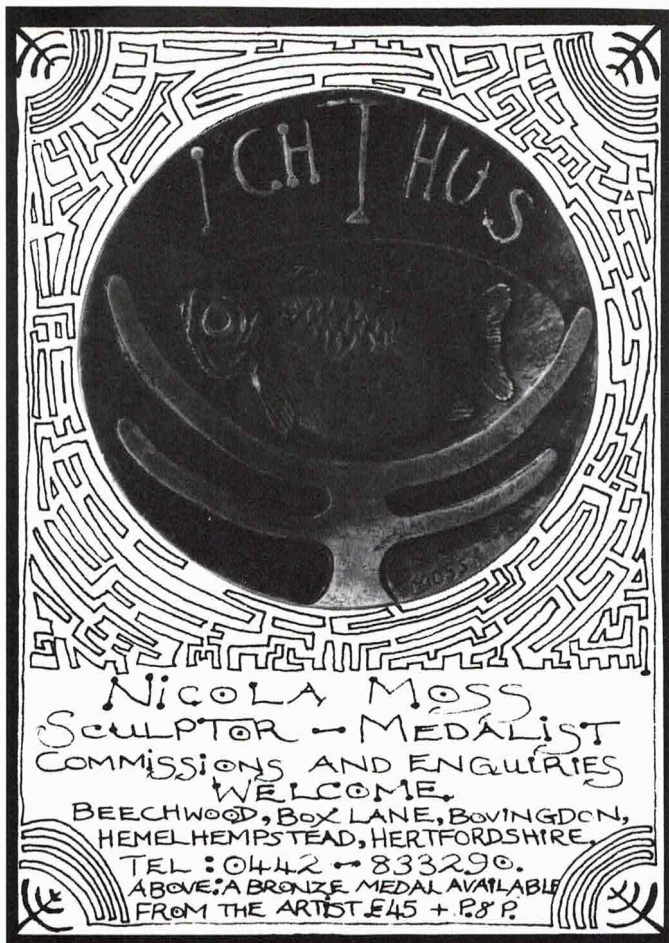
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