Medals and coins honoring Sir Isaac Newton: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Medals and coins honoring Sir Isaac Newton

Dates (inclusive): 1667-1951

Bulk dates: 1730-1800

Collection Number: mssBabsonMedals

Extent: 39 items in 3 boxes.

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Abstract: The Medals and coins honoring Sir Isaac Newton collection contains various medallions, medals and coins, some in plaster replica which chiefly depict Isaac Newton.

Language: English.

Note: Finding aid last updated on April 5, 2018.

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Preferred Citation


Provenance

On long term-loan from Babson College's Grace K. Babson Collection of the Works of Sir Isaac Newton, November 2006

Access

The collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please contact Reader Services.

Access to the material is restricted. Available with curator approval. Extended retrieval and delivery time required

Biographical Note

Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) was an English astronomer, mathematician, theologian and natural philosopher. Newton was appointed Warden of the Royal Mint in 1696, and later became Master of the Mint in 1699, a post which he held until his death in 1727. During his tenure, he oversaw the Great Recoinage of the nation's silver currency.

Scope and Content

Collection of medals and coins commemorating Sir Isaac Newton's achievements at the Royal Mint and scientific endeavors. The collection contains various medals, medallions and coins (some in plaster replica) depicting posthumous tributes to Newton issued by the Royal Mint, Wedgwood and other private sources, chiefly between 1730 and 1800. It also includes a plaster replica of a medal honoring William Stukeley (1687-1765), Newton's first biographer, and coinage representing Newton's tenure at the Mint.

• Forms part of Babson College's Grace K. Babson Collection of the Works of Sir Isaac Newton on long term-loan to the Huntington

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three boxes primarily by size. Box 3 contains smaller portrait medals and coins. The original housing for the coins and smaller medals, including any notes and numbering from the Babson collection, have been preserved in mylar enclosures alongside the items.

Technical Details

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects

Medals and coins honoring Sir Isaac Newton: Finding Aid
Portraits medallions. 1780-1951?
   Physical Description: 11 items
   Access Information
   RESTRICTED. Fragile. Available with curator approval. May require special handling instructions and extended retrieval and delivery time.

1-5, 8-10 Plaster cast replicas from original Wedgwood molds of eight Newton medallions 1951?
   Physical Description: 8 items
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 519.679.
   • 2. Bust facing left, with short hair. 4.3 x 3.5 cm.
   • 3. Small head, said to be from ring.
   • 4. Head facing right, short hair, falling comet. 5.3 x 4.5 cm.
   • 5. Replica of John Crocker’s silver medal. Ob. Bust to right “Isaacvs Newtonvus” Rev. a seated figure, winged head, holding a tablet with a plan of the solar system. 5.3 cm.
   • 8. Bust facing right, with short hair. Comet falling. Like blue and white jasper piece. 7.5x6 cm.
   • 9. Bust facing right, with short hair. In oval frame. 7.9 x 6.4 cm.
   Gift of the Wedgwood Pottery and Mrs. Robert D. Chellis, May 1951.

6 Wedgwood, Josiah. Original black basalt portrait medallion of John Locke. Facing left. Marked 1790
   Physical Description: 8 x 6 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 519.617

7 Wedgwood, Josiah. Original portrait medallion of Newton, white on blue, facing right, short hair, comet rising. approximately 1800.
   Physical Description: 10 x 7.5 cm
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 604

11 Wedgwood, Josiah. Original portrait medallion of Newton, black basalt, facing right, short hair, comet falling. approximately 1800.
   Physical Description: 10 x 7.5 cm
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 605
Box 2

Portrait medallions. 1765?-1927.

Physical Description: 6 items

Access Information

RESTRICTED. Fragile. Available with curator approval. May require special handling instructions and extended retrieval and delivery time.

1 Pewter medallion of Newton. Bust to right, with comet falling. approximately 1800?

Physical Description: 10.8 x 8.7 cm

Note

Babson Catalog No. 587

2 Royal Mint. Silver portrait medal of Sir Isaac Newton. Ob. Royal Arms and dates of Newton's service as Warder and Master of the Mint 1927.

Physical Description: 11 cm. in 13 x 15 cm. case.

Note

Not in printed Babson catalogs.

Issued in 1927 in commemoration of the anniversary of Newton's death.


Physical Description: 8.6 cm.

Note


4 Group of 3 small intaglio portrait medallions. approximately 1775-1800.

Physical Description: 3 items

List of small intaglios

• 1. Tassi, James, 1735-1799. Intaglio bust of Newton, facing left, with long hair. Cut in paste. 2.4 x 2 cm. Formerly belonged to Lady Margaret Huggins, wife of Sir William Huggins. Babson Catalog No. 519.683

• 2. Wedgwood, Josiah. Intaglio basalt oval medallion portrait of Isaac Newton, Bust with profile facing left, natural hair. Rev. bust of Seneca (4 B.C.?—65 A.D.), profile facing left. 1.9 x 1.6 cm. Approximately 1780-1790 Babson Catalog No. 519.651

• 3. Wedgwood, Josiah. Small round basalt intaglio head of Isaac Newton, facing left, with falling comet at right. 1.3 cm.Babson Catalog No. 519.701

5 Royal Mint. Bronze portrait medal of Sir Isaac Newton. Ob. Royal Arms and dates of Newton's service as Warder and Master of the Mint. 1927

Physical Description: 11 cm. in 13 x 15 cm. case

Note

Not in printed Babson catalogs.

Issued in 1927 in commemoration of the anniversary of Newton's death.


Physical Description: 8.6 cm.

Note

Babson Catalog No. 588
Portrait medallions and coins. 1667-1824?

Physical Description: 22 items

Access Information

RESTRICTED. Fragile. Available with curator approval. May require special handling instructions and extended retrieval and delivery time.


   Physical Description: 5.1 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 578


   Physical Description: 5.1 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 579

3 Plaster replica of obverse of Croker medal portrait of Isaac Newton. After 1731?

   Physical Description: 5.1 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 580
   Gift of Grantham Museum.


   Physical Description: 5.2 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 581


   Physical Description: 4.7 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 582
   Issued periodically to distinguished astronomers. This was issued to Carl Rümker (1788-1862) in 1824.


   Physical Description: 4.2 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 583
Physical Description: 4.2 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 584

Physical Description: 2 items, 4.3 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 585

Physical Description: 4.1 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 586

Physical Description: 3 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 589
With milled edges. One of group of five.

Physical Description: 3 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 589
With milled edges. Two out of a group of five.

Physical Description: 3 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 589
With unmilled edges. "Payable in Hull and in London" inscribed on edges. Two of a group of five.

Physical Description: 2.2 cm.
Note
Babson Catalog No. 590
   Physical Description: 2 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 591

   Physical Description: 2 coins, 2.2 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 592

   Physical Description: 2 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 593

   Physical Description: 1.8 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 594
   Gift of Grantham Museum.

   Physical Description: 2.5 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 595

   Physical Description: 2.5 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 596

   Physical Description: 2.5 cm.
   Note
   Babson Catalog No. 597