

# The MCA Advisor

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Abscheulichste Inerhörte Execution  
An wehland dem Durchleuchtig: und Großmächtigsten  
Karl Stuart,

König in Groß: Britannien, Frankreich und Irland &c vorgangen in London vor der Residents Whithall / dienstag  
den 30. Janua: 9. Februa: Anno 1649. Nachmittag zwischen 2. und 3. ohren.



A. How a German Became King of England B. Two English Medals C. A Medal for a Medal

. C.R.V.N. 1649



# How A German Became King Of England:

## A Medalllic History Of Religious Conflicts In Britain

by  
Benjamin Weiss

**H**e was born in Hanover, Germany, and could hardly speak a word of English. So how in the world could George Louis, Elector of Hanover, become king of England?<sup>1</sup>

To answer this question we must review briefly the role religion played in selecting the British monarchs, in particular how the competition between Catholics and Protestants shaped the history of Great Britain. As has been done in the past, in publications on the use of medals as instruments for studying religious and racial bigotry (Jones, 1982; Jones, 1983; Weiss, 2008; Attwood, 2009; Attwood and Powell, 2010; Weiss, 2011; Harding, 2011; Weiss, 2014; Weiss, 2015), we will use historical and commemorative medals, issued contemporaneously with the events portrayed, as vehicles and primary sources of information to explore these religious intrigues.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT CONFLICT

The dispute between Catholics and Protestants for control of the monarchy started in earnest in England during the reign of Henry VIII and continued for more than a century. At the time of Henry's birth in 1491, the Protestant Reformation had not yet begun, having been launched in Germany by Martin Luther in 1517 and having later spread throughout Europe by John Calvin and other early Protestant Reformers. Although he never visited England, Calvin's ministry and writings had a powerful impact on the course of the English Reformation.

A medal by Sebastian Dadler, one of the foremost seventeenth century engravers, commemorating the centennial of John Calvin's return to Geneva in 1541, following his exile from his native country of France, is shown in figure 1. On the obverse is a bust of Calvin, the translated inscription reading, "John



Figure 1.

Centennial of John Calvin's Return to Geneva

by Sebastian Dadler, Germany, 1641, Silver struck medal, 55 mm

Ref: Wiecek 109; Goppel 77; Forrer I, 321; Clain-Stefanelli, 1974, p. 226; Maué 46; Weiss, BW363 (Image from Weiss Collection)

Calvin from Noyen in the Picardy, Pastor of the Church of Geneva." On the reverse is Fame blowing on a trumpet holding an open book. The right leg rests on a plinth. The inscription around translates as, "Teaching and Virtue Make Men Shine Even after Death."

### HENRY VIII AND THE TUDOR DYNASTY

Henry, like most Christians at that time, was raised as an observant Roman Catholic and in 1509 married the Spanish princess, Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon, also Catholics.

Catherine bore Henry a daughter, Mary Tudor, who would ordinarily be next in line to inherit the throne had she not had the fatal "flaw" of being a female at a time when there was no established precedent for a woman to accede to the English monarchy. Because Catherine could not conceive the son that Henry craved for his heir, Henry determined to divorce her. The Pope, however, forbade the divorce. Henry broke with the church in Rome, divorced Catherine and married Anne Boleyn. As a result, the Pope excommunicated Henry, prompting Parliament to pass laws proclaiming

the sovereignty of England and making Henry 'the only supreme head of the Church of England,' a momentous event that ushered in the English Reformation.

The establishment of Henry as head of the Church of England was commemorated in 1545 by the issuance of a gold medal, thought to be the first medal made in Britain (Figure 2). The legend in Latin around the edge of the obverse is divided by royal emblems and translates as, "Henry VIII, King of England, France<sup>2</sup> and Ireland, Defender of the Faith<sup>3</sup>, and under Christ, the Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England and Ireland." On the reverse can be seen the same message in Hebrew and Greek, the other two languages of the Bible, thereby providing religious legitimacy to Henry as head of the Church of England.

Like Catherine, Henry's second wife Anne Boleyn also failed to bear him a son. Although they did have a daughter, the future Elizabeth I, Elizabeth's monarchy did not begin for more than a decade, long after Henry executed Anne on trumped-up charges of sexual indiscretions, and married Jane Seymour.

Jane Seymour gave Henry a son, Edward, who was raised a devout Protestant and





Figure 2.  
Henry VIII, 'Defender of the Faith,' as Head of the Church of England  
by Henry Basse, England, 1545, Gold struck medal, 54 mm  
Ref: Eimer 26a; MI i, 47/44; Evelyn 88, IV  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

who inherited the crown at Henry's death. However, Edward died of tuberculosis at the age of sixteen years after willing the crown to Northumberland's daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Gray, in a failed attempt to exclude his Catholic half-sister, Mary Tudor, from the monarchy. As Edward did not marry and had no issue, in 1553 Mary Tudor became Queen of England, France and Ireland, as Mary I. Mary ascended to the throne because although male primogeniture had been the practice in England, it was not the law; i.e., women were not explicitly barred from inheriting the crown in England, as they were in France at that time.

Mary I, a devoted Catholic, married Philip II of Spain, a union that was opposed by those who objected to her marrying a Catholic. Mary determined to reestablish papal authority and restore Catholicism to England. She revived heresy laws and ordered the murder of many citizens who had converted to Protestantism, earning her the appellation 'Bloody Mary.'

A gold medal of Mary, engraved by the Milanese medallist Jacopo da Trezzo, is shown in figure 3. On the obverse one can see a half-length figure of Mary Tudor, bedecked in jewels, the legend reading "Maria I, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith." Despite her persecution of Protestants during her reign, the medal's



reverse shows Mary personified as Peace, near scales implying Justice. The legend translates as, "Sight to the Blind, Peace to the Timid."

Mary Tudor was succeeded to the throne by Elizabeth I, the daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth reestablished Protestantism and in 1559 passed the Act of Supremacy, which revived the anti-papal statutes of Henry VIII and declared Elizabeth supreme Governor of the Church. Plots to murder Elizabeth and replace her with a Catholic — namely, Mary, Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart), the daughter of King James V of Scotland — resulted in Mary's eventual execution.

A pivotal event in Elizabeth's reign was England's defeat of the Spanish Armada, Catholic Spain's mighty maritime fleet, for which a medal was issued in 1588 (Figure 4). This medal was made at a time at which Elizabeth's and England's power was particularly strong — after the death of some of Elizabeth's Catholic enemies, including Mary, Queen of Scots, and following the neutralization of Catholic France and the Vatican.

The medal, shown in figure 4, depicts a bust of Elizabeth, full face, bedecked in jewels and holding a scepter and orb. The legend translates as, "No Other Circle in the Whole World More Rich." The reverse shows a tree uninjured by lightning and wind, with sea monsters below, the legend reading, "Not Even Dangers Affect it."

## THE STUART DYNASTY

As Elizabeth had no offspring, the next in line to the throne was James I (James VI of Scotland), the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her second husband, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, making James the first of the Stuart dynasty. Both Mary and Darnley were great-grandchildren of Henry VII of England through Margaret Tudor, the older sister of Henry VIII. Although Mary and her husband were Roman Catholics, there is some controversy about James' beliefs, the consensus being that James was not only Protestant but actually opposed the Pope and wrote vehemently against Roman Catholicism.



Figure 3.  
Mary Tudor State of England  
by Jacopo da Trezzo, England,  
Gold cast medal, 69 mm  
Ref: MI i, 72/20; Eimer 33; Scher 54  
(Image courtesy of Morton and Eden)





Figure 4. Elizabeth I — Dangers Averted: Defeat of the Spanish Armada by Nicholas Hilliard, England 1588, Gold cast medal, 53 mm x 61 mm  
Ref: Eimer 61Aa; MI i, 154/130  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

## The Gunpowder Plot

Because of his purported anti-Catholic views, a group of enraged English Catholics, including Guy Fawkes, shown here in a contemporary engraving (Figure 5), attempted to assassinate James and his family by blowing up the House of Lords. The plot, which has become known as the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, failed. This led to renewed reprisals against Catholics and the execution of Guy Fawkes for his role in this conspiracy.

The failed Gunpowder Plot and the expulsion of the Jesuits from Holland was commemorated in Protestant Holland in 1605 by the issuance of a medal shown in figure 6. The snake on the obverse, situated among lilies and roses, represent the intrigues of the conspirators as



Figure 5. The Gunpowder Plot  
Unattributed engraving of Guy Fawkes and fellow conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot, 1605  
(Mary Evans Picture Library)

being from France and England (the lily, the symbol for France and the rose for England). The legend on the reverse, around the Hebrew Jehovah, "Thus, the Keeper of James Has Not Slept," is taken from Psalms, "He That Keepeth Thee Will Not Sleep," again using Scriptures to magnify its impact.



Figure 6.  
The Gunpowder Plot by Unknown artist.  
Netherlands, 1605, Silver struck medal, 30 mm.  
Ref: Eimer 86; MI i, 196/19; van Loon II, 22;  
Med. Hist, 30/7  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

The historical importance of the Gunpowder Plot is evidenced by the fact that Guy Fawkes Day was celebrated over a century later as Pope Day in colonial Boston, with parades and burned effigies of the pope, and it is still observed in some towns in Britain with parties, fireworks and exploding gunpowder.

A medal of James I, likely a naval reward medal, is shown in figure 7. On the obverse is a three-quarters bust of James, with the usual inscription: *James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland*. The design on the reverse inscribed, *May it Stay Safe Among the Waves*, is thought to symbolize the state of the nation after the disturbances



Figure 7. James I, Naval Reward  
Executed by an unknown artist, England, c.1620,  
Silver cast medal, 42mm x 49 mm  
Ref: Eimer 101A; MI i, 233/96.  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

caused by the Protestant Reformation. It is noteworthy that James, being king of both England and Scotland (as King James I of England and King James VI of Scotland), combined the two thrones for the first time. As such, he was head of both the Church of England and Church of Scotland.





Figure 8. Execution of Charles I  
by Unknown artist, ca.1649, oil on canvas  
(Image from National Galleries Scotland)

In the New World, James may be remembered as the monarch who, in 1607, established the first permanent English community in the Americas, the Jamestown settlement in the Colony of Virginia. Globally, James is perhaps best known as having sponsored the translation of the Bible for the Church of England that was to bear his name, the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible. Begun in 1604 and completed in 1611, this version of the Bible became the most widely printed book in history.

James died in 1625 and was succeeded by his son Charles. When Charles married Henrietta Maria, the Catholic sister of Louis XIII of France, it raised renewed fears of a Catholic succession to the throne among the Puritan leaders in Parliament. Charles had other disagreements with Parliament as well, such as his insistence on the 'divine right of kings' and his attempts to impose Anglican Liturgy on Scotland. These latter events triggered the Bishops' Wars, which, in turn, served as a prelude to the English Civil Wars.

### The English Civil Wars

These and other clashes with Parliament precipitated the English Civil Wars led by those in Parliament (Roundheads) who sought a constitutional monarchy to replace the absolutist monarchy sought by Charles I and his followers (Cavaliers or Royalists).

Oliver Cromwell, who entered the English Civil War on the side of the Roundheads, emerged as the military and political leader of the rebels and established the



Figure 9.  
Charles I Memorial  
by Heinrich Reitz, Saxony, 1649,  
Silver cast medal, 75 mm  
Ref: Eimer 159; MI i, 350/209; Platt and Platt I, 259  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Commonwealth of England. As a 'commoner' he was designated, not as King, but as "Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland." He was a Puritan who strongly believed in what he called 'liberty of conscience,' and accordingly had a generally tolerant view toward other Protestant groups. Cromwell prevailed over the Royalists, Charles surrendered, was tried for treason, and in 1649 was beheaded as a tyrant and public enemy to his people. His son, the future Charles II, escaped into exile.

Figure 8 shows a contemporary painting of the execution of Charles I in front of the Banquet Hall. It is thought to be based on eye-witness accounts and contemporary engravings. The inset pictures on the left show Charles as he appeared at his trial, and below, Charles walking to the scaffold. Those on the right show the moments immediately after the execution: the axeman holds up Charles's severed head while spectators hurry to dip their handkerchiefs in royal blood. The central image, with the swooning woman, hints at a parallel with the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. (Description taken from nationalgalleries.org)

More than a dozen medals were issued to memorialize the gruesome death of Charles I, some from England and some from continental Europe.



Figure 10. Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector by Thomas Simon, England, 1653, Silver struck medal, 39 mm  
Ref: Eimer 188a; MI i, 409/45; van Loon II, 367 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

One such medal, executed in Saxony by Heinrich Reitz, the younger, bemoans his execution (Figure 9). The obverse shows conjoined busts of King Charles and his wife Queen Henrietta Maria. On the reverse can be seen Charles' severed head, crown and scepter lying beneath a seven-headed monster, symbolizing the intensity of the animosity of Charles' enemies who urged his beheading. The legend around reads, "Alas, what a madness this is of the rabble!," expressing the dismay of Charles' supporters for what the 'rabble' has done. (The seven-headed monster may derive from the wild beast with seven heads, which represents the worldwide political system, as introduced in Revelation 13:1).

## Commonwealth Period

Many medals were issued to commemorate the rule of Oliver Cromwell during the Commonwealth Period, one of which is shown in figure 10. It was executed by Thomas Simon to commemorate Cromwell's elevation to the Protectorate. The obverse inscription around his bust reads, "Oliver, by the Grace of God, Protector of the Republics of England, Scotland and Ireland." The reverse shows a lion supporting the shield of the Protectorate, the shield bearing the Cross of St. George, Cross of St. Andrew and an Irish harp. The legend repeats a not uncommon sentiment, "Peace is Sought by War."

Another medal, issued in Holland, specifically to note the 'commoner' ancestry of Oliver Cromwell, is shown in figure 11. On the obverse Cromwell is seen being crowned between two soldiers. A cartouche, below, is inscribed "Oliver Cromwell, Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland 1658." The reverse shows the Neapolitan, Tommaso Aniello (Masaniello), being crowned between two sailors. A cartouche, below, is inscribed "Masaniello, Fisherman and King of Naples 1647."

This medal was inspired by the rise to prominence of these two commoners, something considered remarkable in the 17th century: Oliver Cromwell and Tommaso Aniello.



Figure 11. Oliver Cromwell and Masaniello by O. (Wouter) Müller: England/ Italy, 1658, Silver cast medal, 70 mm  
Ref: M.I. i, 432/78; Eimer 198; Jones, "Art of the Medal," 51/110; Med. Hist. Engl. 64/10; Weiss, BW178 (Image from Weiss Collection)





Figure 12.  
Embarkation of Charles II  
and His Court at Scheveningen on  
His Restoration to England  
by Pieter van Abeele, Dutch/England, 1660,  
Silver cast medal, 70 mm  
Ref: Med III, i, 455/44; Van Loon II 462; Eimer  
210; Scher (1997), 33/20; Weiss, BW410  
(Image from Weiss Collection)

Tommaso Aniello, called Masaniello, was a fisherman, turned Neapolitan revolutionist, who led a revolt of the lower classes. The reverse of this medal compares Masaniello's revolt with that of Cromwell's in England, which like that of Cromwell's, was short lived. Of further interest, is the artist's rendition of the two figures, who are depicted as having a striking physical resemblance.

Cromwell's rule ended with the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 in the person of Charles II, the son of Charles I.

### Restoration of the Monarchy

Following the death of Cromwell in 1658, the demand for the restoration of royalty increased. Charles II, son of Charles I, invaded London and forced Parliament to dissolve. In order to regain the monarchy, Charles issued the Declaration of Breda, in which he promised religious toleration and amnesty for his enemies. Parliament agreed to the Declaration, and in 1660 Charles left Scheveningen, a port city in Holland, and triumphantly returned to England, as is shown in the medal by the Dutch artist Pieter van Abeele (Figure 12). Like others by this medallist, this medal is made of two embossed plates, chased and united by a broad rim.

On the obverse is a bust of Charles, full facing, with his usual titles. The reverse depicts his fleet under sail; above, Fame with a trumpet and scroll inscribed, SOLI DEO GLORIA (To God Alone the Glory). Below, a shell inscribed in script, *S[yne]. M[ajesteyt]. is uit Hollant van Scheveling agfevaren naer fyn Coninryken A[nn]. 1660 Juni 2.*

(His Majesty Departed from Holland by Scheveningen to His Own Kingdom, in the year 1660, 2 June). The reverse legend, IN NOMINE MEO EXALTABITUR CORNU EIUS. PSAL[mo]. 89 (In My Name Shall His Horn Be Exalted; Psalms 89:240) uses a passage from the Bible to lend religious strength to his return to England and his restoration to the throne.



Figure 13.  
Engraving of a pilloried Titus Oates  
(Wikipedia)

The crowning of Charles II in 1660 as King of Great Britain, France and Ireland formally ushered in the Restoration of the Monarchy in England. His reign was marked by great societal tragedies, such as the Great Plague of London in 1665 and The Great Fire of London in 1666<sup>4</sup>, as well as by protracted political and religious unrest. Not the least of these was the continuation of the long-standing Catholic-Protestant hostilities.

In an effort to preserve royal power, Charles antagonized many in the largely Protestant community by accepting secret subsidies from his cousin, Louis XIV of France, the Sun King, in exchange for promoting Roman Catholicism. To this end, in 1672, Charles issued a Royal Declaration of Indulgence, which attempted to introduce religious freedom for Catholics and Protestant dissenters. The English Parliament was not so inclined and forced him to withdraw it. Perhaps to dissuade Charles' further attempts at religious toleration, accusations were raised that Catholics were scheming to kill the king; one of the more notorious of these slanders became known as the Popish Plot.

### The Popish Plot

In 1678, Titus Oates, a renegade Anglican priest, fabricated the so-called Popish Plot, falsely accusing a group of Catholics, particularly Jesuits, of conspiring to massacre Protestants. He also asserted that they planned to assassinate King Charles II and replace him with his Roman Catholic brother James. As a result of his accusations, a number of Catholics were tried and executed.



Oates was ultimately accused of manufacturing this tale, and after a lengthy trial, he was found guilty of perjury. A contemporary engraving (Figure 13) shows the punishment meted out to Titus Oates for this crime.

Several forms of propaganda were issued during this period to support Oates' calumny, including the commemorative medal illustrated in figure 14. The obverse of this medal shows a janiform head, composed of a Jesuit (a Roman Catholic order of priests), wearing a biretta, and a monk, wearing a cowl, with the legend asking, "Why So Fickle." The five faces on the reverse represent members of King Charles' cabinet, who were sometimes referred to as the CABAL, an acronym for their names (Lord Clifford, Lord Ashley, Duke of Buckingham, Lord Arlington and the Duke of Lauderdale (Eimer), and a word still used today to mean 'a secret political clique or faction'. The legend reads "Birds of a Feather Flock Together." (Janiform refers to the Roman god Janus, who had two faces looking in opposite directions: to the future and the past.)

The case of Titus Oates became more perplexing and anti-Catholic fervor increased still further when the English magistrate Sir Edmundbury Godfrey was found dead. Godfrey was an Anglican charged to hear the deposition of Oates, and during the hearing appeared to question the validity of Oates' testimony. Shortly thereafter, Godfrey was found impaled on his own sword. Further examination revealed marks on his neck, suggesting he was strangled by his own cravat. It was believed the apparent suicide was concocted and the general sentiment held was that he was murdered by Catholics.

A medal issued at that period (Figure 15) shows, on the obverse, two hands strangling Godfrey with his own cravat, the legend reading, "Edmundbury Godfrey, by his Death Re-Established the State." The reverse depicts someone strangling a prostrate Godfrey, the murderer being blessed by the Pope who is holding a document labeled BVLLO (referring to a Papal Bull, a decree issued by a Pope of the Catholic Church; it is named after the lead seal (bulla) that was appended to the end



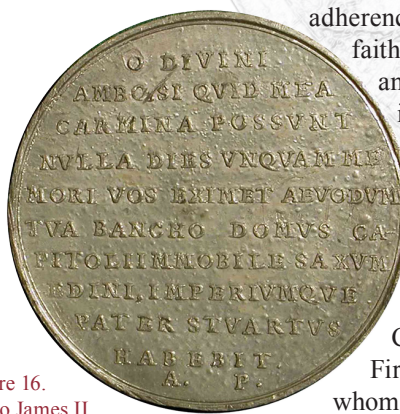
Figure 14.  
Popish Plot by  
George Bower, England, 1678,  
Silver struck medal, 36 mm  
Ref: Eimer 260a; MI i, 579/252  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 15.  
Murder of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey  
by George Bower, England, 1678,  
Silver struck medal, 39 mm  
Ref: Eimer 257a; MI i, 577/247  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 16.  
Tribute to James II  
and Queen Mary  
by George Bower, England,  
1685, Lead cast medal, 54 mm  
Ref: M.I. i, 612/21; Weiss,  
BW16; Unlisted in Eimer  
(Image from Weiss Collection)



of the decree in order to authenticate it). The legend translates as, "Such Could Religion Do." On the edge of the medal (not visible) is an inscription that reads, "The Christian Atlas Sustains the Faith with a Broken Neck," which Medallie Illustrations interprets as: Godfrey is compared to Atlas, who required his whole vigor and strength to sustain the world, while Godfrey sustained the true faith with a broken neck.

## James II and the Catholic 'Problem'

On the death of Charles II in 1685, his brother James II ascended to the monarchy. James' religious proclivities were more complicated than those of Charles. Several years before James' accession to the throne, he had married Anne Hyde, a Protestant who bore him two daughters — later these two would become monarchs in their own right as Anne, Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland, and Mary II, who shared the monarchy with her husband William III of England. When James' wife Anne Hyde died, he remarried, this time to the devoutly Catholic Mary Beatrice (Mary of Modena) (Figure 16).

The medal shows on the obverse the conjoined busts of James II and Mary of Modena. The reverse inscription repeats a poem by Archibald Pitcairn, a physician, who was a loyal adherent of the Stuarts. This medal is composed of two pieces of lead, both cast, and according to the description in Medallie Illustrations (MI i, 612/21), may be unique.

Unlike Charles, James II, while supporting religious tolerance, maintained a strong adherence to the Roman Catholic faith, but his zealous piety and his determination to impress Catholicism on his subjects was to prove his downfall. For within days of James' accession, Protestants were rallying around the illegitimate son of Charles II, James Scott, First Duke of Monmouth, whom they believed should be king. The so-called Monmouth

Rebellion was easily quashed and Monmouth was beheaded, as shown in a contemporary drawing on a playing card (Figure 17) and by the issuance of a medal (Figure 18).





Figure 17.  
Execution of Duke of Monmouth  
on Tower Hill Playing Card, 1685  
(wikipedia)

A silver medal by the Flemish medallist Regnier Arondeaux, memorializing the deaths of Monmouth and his co-conspirator Archibald Campbell, the Earl of Argyle, is shown in figure 18.

On it one can see on the obverse James dressed as a Roman general. He is resting on a pedestal surmounted with scepters and emblazoned with a royal shield. The legend reads, "Let us Defend our Alters and Scepters." On the reverse are the severed heads of Monmouth and Argyle, resting on two blocks; their decapitated bodies are at the feet of Justice, suggesting that their beheading was an act of justice. Troops flee in the distance.

Continuing his religious campaign, James had Catholics promoted to high-status positions and appointed the 'Bloody Assizes' to execute, torture or enslave Protestant rebels, thereby ending the Monmouth Rebellion.

A critical turning point in the reign of James II came in 1687, when James issued the Declaration of Indulgence, which granted religious tolerance to Catholics and non-conformists. Several prominent bishops in the clergy objected to such religious forbearance and refused to support James, acts for which Bishop Sancroft and seven of his fellow bishops were imprisoned in the Tower of London (see Weiss, 2011). In



Figure 18.  
Death of Dukes of Monmouth and Argyle  
by Regnier Arondeaux, England, 1685, Silver struck medal, 61 mm  
Ref: Eimer 281; MI, i, 615/27; van Loon III, 307  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

response, many turned against the King, with the Protestant Parliament aligning themselves with James' Protestant daughter Mary (Mary was the daughter of James' first wife Anne Hyde, a Protestant who raised her daughter in the same faith), and her husband William of Orange, also a Protestant.

In the same year that James imprisoned Archbishop Sancroft and the seven bishops, Mary of Modena gave birth to a son, James Francis Edward Stuart, later dubbed 'The Elder Pretender'.



Figure 19. Betrothal of William II of Orange and  
Princess Royal, Mary Henrietta Stuart  
Oil on canvas by Anthony van Dyck, 1641  
(image from Wikipedia)

This was to complicate James' position even further, for the mainly Protestant populace in England now feared that a Catholic dynasty would be established. They therefore encouraged the overthrow of James and, in 1689, invited the Protestant couple, William III of Orange and his wife Mary (later King William III and Queen Mary II) to depose James and assume the monarchy, in what became known as the Glorious Revolution (see Weiss, 2014).

### The Glorious Revolution

The hereditary justification for the accession of William and Mary to the throne of England derives from their parents. In 1641, William II of Orange, a Dutch Republic Stadtholder, married the Princess Royal, Mary Henrietta Stuart, the eldest daughter of Charles I of England. At the time of their marriage, William was 15 and Mary just 10 years of age (Figure 19).

A medal by the German engraver Johann Blum, celebrating this marriage, is presented in figure 20. The obverse shows the young couple holding hands. Cherubs, beneath rays emanating from a dove of the Holy Ghost, are holding wreaths of myrtle. A scene with a palace is in the distance. The reverse depicts William in the form of Pallas, attended by an archangel with a sword. He tramples upon Bellona, Goddess of War, and receives an olive branch from Mary in the character of Peace, accompanied by Cupid and Ceres, Goddess of Plenty.





Figure 20.

Marriage of Princess Mary to William of Orange  
by Johann Blum, England, 1641, Silver struck medal, 72 mm  
Ref: Eimer 137; MI i, 287/100; v. Loon II, 251; Scher 15; Weiss, BW817  
(Image from Weiss Collection)

In 1650, Princess Mary gave birth to a son, William III of Orange (the future King William III of England). Depicted in figure 21 is a medal by the Dutch medallist Pieter van Abeele of Mary and her son. On the obverse is a bust of Mary on a field decorated with roses and thistles, the legend reading "Mary, by the Grace of God, Princess of Great Britain, Dowager of Orange etc." On the reverse is a three-quarters bust of William, as a child of four years of age, wearing a hat decorated with jewelry and ostrich feathers; the bust is surrounded by a broad wreath of oranges. Below, on a ribbon, is written, "William III, by the Grace of God, Prince of Orange, etc,

in the Year 1654.") This William married another Mary, the daughter of James II of England. It was this latter couple who were invited by prominent Protestant figures in England to replace Mary's father James II as sovereigns of Great Britain.

In 1688, William III of Orange, encouraged by a union of English Parliamentarians and backed by a 15,000 man army, landed at Torbay, a port on the east coast of Great Britain, along the English Channel.

William's landing at Torbay was memorialized by the issuance of several

medals, one of the more intriguing of which, from the iconographic standpoint, is shown in figure 22.

On the obverse William is depicted as a Roman Emperor, who is seen stomping on the serpent of Discord. Britannia is shown wearing a triple crown, representing the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. On the armorial shield of Britain is an orange tree (representing William of Orange) entwined with roses (Tudor rose) and thistles (the floral emblem of Scotland). In the distance are King James and Father Petre in flight, with Petre carrying the young Prince James Stuart, who



Figure 21.

Princess Mary and Prince William (III) of Orange  
by Pieter van Abeele, Netherlands, 1654, Silver cast medal, 65 mm  
Ref: Eimer 192; MI i, 417/55; v. Loon II 375; Scher 18; Weiss, BW813  
(Image from Weiss Collection)



is playing with a windmill. The legend translates as: "God our Protector, Justice our Companion."

On the reverse, boats are landing troops near a harbor, with a fleet of ships in the distance. The legend, as translated "Against the Child of Perdition," along with that in the exergue "The Naval Expedition for the Liberty of England, 1688," express the sentiment that England is liberated from Catholicism.

The interesting and complex symbolism of this medal puts into focus the major issues of the period. It is described in *Medallic Illustrations* (MI i, 639/65) as follows: "This medal commemorated the landing of William of Orange asserting that his expedition was undertaken... probably against the Pope, who was popularly looked upon as Antichrist, called by St. Paul the Son of Perdition. The object of the invitation to William was to defend England from James's attempt to establish Popery, and its attendant, arbitrary power. James was believed to have acted by the advice of Father Petre, his confessor; and the young Prince was reported to be the son of a miller, and he is, therefore, represented with a small mill as a toy."

In order to buttress the argument that the young Prince James was not the true heir to the throne, King James's enemies developed an elaborate theory that a live newborn from another mother had been slipped into Mary of Modena's bed in a warming pan to replace her own stillborn child and was presented as the male heir to the throne, a contrived story that became

to be known as the Warming Pan Plot. The medal's representation of Prince James as the son of a miller plays into this suggestion that the son of James II and Mary of Modena was

a changeling and, therefore, not the rightful heir to the throne.

The landing of William with his troops at Torbay led soon afterwards, in 1690, to his decisive victory at the Battle of the Boyne at a site near Dublin in predominantly Catholic Ireland, where James had gathered his forces. This battle was recorded by numerous medals, one of which, by the Dutch medalist Jan Luder, demonstrates how a single medal can reveal the essence of the battle (Figure 23).

As may be seen, the obverse depicts a bust of William with the legend already bearing his titles as king of Great Britain, France and Ireland. The reverse shows the triumphant equestrian figure of William about to cross the River Boyne. Fleeing in the background with their troops are figures labeled Jacob (James II) and Lausun (Antoine Nompar de Caumont, duc de Lauzun, the French commander). On the ground lay William's commander, Marshal Friedrich Schomberg (a Huguenot who was compelled to leave France in 1685 because of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV) and George Walker (an English soldier and Anglican priest), both of whom died in the battle. The legend, around, translates as, "He Appeared and Disbursed Them;" the exergue reads, "Ireland Freed, 1690."

The defeat of James' supporters in the Battle of the Boyne prompted James to flee Ireland for France (Figure 24), where he remained in exile until

his death in 1701.

Apparently, James fled to France while his Irish allies were being massacred



Figure 22.  
Landing of William  
of Orange at Torbay  
by Regnier Arondeaux, England, 1688,  
Silver struck medal, 49 mm  
Ref: Eimer 298; MI i, 639/65; Milford Haven 1919, 77; van Loon,  
III 355 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 23.  
Battle of the Boyne  
By Jan Luder, The  
Netherlands, 1690.  
Silver struck medal, 57 mm  
Ref: Eimer 327; MI I, 715/134; van loon IV, 5  
(Image from Baldwin; courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 24. A Lost Cause: Flight of King James II after the  
Battle of the Boyne  
by Andrew Carrick Gow. Oil on canvas.





**Figure 25.**  
Flight of Prince James  
by Jan Smeltzing?, Dutch, 1688, Silver struck medal, 59 mm  
Ref: Eimer 299; MI i, 644/73; van Loon, III. 367  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

by William III's forces, earning James the unflattering nickname 'Seamus a' chaca,' which translates as 'James the be-shitten,' or 'James the shit' in current vernacular (from thestuartkings.tumblr.com)

A medal describing the flight of James II is shown in figure 25. This piece, thought to be struck in Holland by the Dutch medallist Jan Smeltzing, serves as another example of how simple, but clever devices on a medal can tell a powerful and complicated story. The obverse shows Britannia, adorned with roses and thistles, welcoming Minerva, goddess of wisdom, who is holding the shield of William III of Orange. In the foreground is a crowned shield with a column decorated with a head of the Lion of England and surmounted by the Cap of Liberty. Ships are seen in the background, and above are beams from heaven. The Latin legend translates as, "Great Britain Delivered, Restored, and Supported by the Naval Expedition of the Dutch."

On the reverse is seen an eagle casting out a bird from her nest, with two eaglets remaining. William's fleet is in the distance. The imagery combined with the legend, INDIGNUM EIICIT (It Ejects the Unworthy One) connotes that the discarded bird is a gosling, representing the young Prince James Stuart, who, as mentioned earlier, was rumored to be a changeling; the two eaglets still in the nest symbolize the two remaining daughters of James II, the future monarchs Mary and Anne. The wreath of roses and oranges that form the border

represent England and the Netherlands, as the Tudor rose is the Heraldic emblem of England, and the oranges, the Dutch House of Orange-Nassau.

With the arrival of William and the hasty departure of James, Parliament was now free to welcome William and his wife Mary as co-sovereigns of England. As a condition for his ascendancy to the monarchy, William agreed to obey the Declaration of Rights (later called the Bill of Rights), which among other things



**Figure 26.**  
Coronation of William and Mary at Amsterdam  
by unknown medallist; England/Netherlands, 1689, Silver cast medal, 61 mm  
Ref: Eimer 309A; MI i, 678/54; v. Loon III, 390; Weiss, BW811  
(Image from Weiss Collection)

assured the English people he would not become a Roman Catholic. The coronation of William and Mary was celebrated both in the Netherlands and in England by the issuance of several coronation medals. One of these, produced in the couple's home country of the Netherlands, is shown in figure 26. The silver cast medal, by an unknown

artist, shows on the obverse William and Mary seated, each holding a scepter and orb. On the reverse are three figures representing the captain, lieutenant and ensign of the City Guard of Amsterdam, with the armorial shield of the city, above. The Dutch inscription on the reverse translates as: "In Remembrance That on the Day of the Coronation the Guard Was Kept by the Company of Mr. Bernard Muikens" (Captain Muikens commanded the City Guard).

Another piece, issued in the year of their coronation by the English medallist George Bower, more explicitly refers to the couple's religion as important to their ascendancy to the monarchy (Figure 27). On the obverse are conjoined busts of William and Mary, with the inscription including the phrase, "Defenders of the Faith."

The reverse shows a statue of William III in Roman garb, holding a model of a church. He is standing on a pedestal inscribed, "More Durable than Brass." On either side of the pedestal are figures of Time and History; over him are rays from heaven, with the legend providing an echo with the refrain, "He

Comes Down from the Lofty Heaven." An edge inscription, which appears on some versions of this medal, refers more definitively to this shining couple replacing the 'Catholic tyrant' James, as it states, "While this Double Constellation Shines, Dark Tyranny Flees."

Even after the coronation, the Jacobites





Figure 27.  
William and Mary, Restorers of the Anglican Church  
by George Bower, England 1689, Silver cast medal, 50 mm  
Ref: Eimer 307b; MI i, 658/18; van Loon III, 383  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

still fought to regain the crown for James, until in 1690 William dealt them a decisive blow with his victory at the Battle of the Boyne, an event that is considered of such importance it is still celebrated in the unionist community of Northern Ireland.

### The Act of Settlement<sup>5</sup>

Despite their defeats, the descendants of James II continued their quest to regain the crown for a Catholic. To prevent this from happening, in 1701, as William and Mary were without heirs, Parliament passed the Act of Settlement. This act had the effect of assuring, through legislation, that only Protestants could succeed to the English throne, thereby maintaining the continuous and perpetual Protestant dominance of the monarchy. (For more on the Act of Settlement, see Endnote 5).

In that same year as the Act of Settlement was made into law, James II died in exile, the last Stuart monarch in the direct male line (Queen Anne being the last Stuart monarch). Mary of Modena fled to France with her son, James Francis Edward Stuart, and worked tirelessly to advance his claims to the English throne.

In 1702, after the deaths of Mary II and William III, the monarchy was assumed by Anne, the second daughter of James, Duke of York (later King James II), and Anne Hyde. Although her father was a Roman Catholic, Anne was reared an Anglican at the insistence of her uncle, King Charles II. Despite the fact that she was a female, Anne inherited the crown, her birthright and religion trumping her

disadvantage of being a woman.

Anne married Prince George of Denmark (Figure 28) but, although she had many pregnancies, she died without any surviving children. The long line of Stuarts ended, and the succession to the monarchy in England was thrown into disarray.

With the passage of the Act of Settlement, the long and fitful battle between the Catholics and Protestants for domination of the monarchy came to a resolution in favor of the Protestants. Although by law the new monarch must be a Protestant, after Anne's death the succession of a Protestant heir to the throne was not obvious and, as one might predict, it did not occur without considerable opposition from the Catholic community.

To summarize, here were the 'problems': Although Queen Anne was raised a Protestant, her father James II was a Catholic, and as Anne died without issue, there was no obvious successor. The next in line from the hereditary standpoint might well have been James Francis Edward Stuart (later called by his supporters James (III), the Elder Pretender), the son of James II and his second wife, Mary of Modena, also a devout Catholic. Since James Francis Edward Stuart was also a Catholic, a Protestant heir must be found, and was, but only through a rather convoluted route

and not without considerable opposition. The search for an heir to the English throne resulted in the finding that the closest blood relatives of Anne, more than 50 in all, were either female or Catholic. The search continued until finally a male Protestant relative was uncovered: distant indeed, and foreign no less, but a male Protestant nevertheless.

### ENDNOTES

1. That a foreigner (defined here as someone born outside the British Isles) should become the monarch of England was not unique to this period. It had happened before and would happen again. In Britain's early history there was Canute the Great (1016-1035), born in Denmark, the son of Forkbeard of Denmark. Canute later also ruled the kingdoms of Denmark and Norway. William I (The Conqueror) (1066-1087) was born in France. A descendant of Viking raiders, William conquered England in the famous Battle of Hastings, becoming the first of the House of Normandy. Stephen of Blois (1135-1154), though the grandson of William I, was born in France. Henry II was also born in France. He married Eleanor of Aquitaine and established the House of



Figure 28.  
Anne and Prince George of Denmark by John Croker,  
England, 1702,  
Silver struck medal, 42 mm  
Struck from two obverse dies  
Ref: M.I. ii, 233/14; Milford Haven, 1919,118;  
Van Loon IV-346; Eimer 392; Weiss, BW329  
(Image from Weiss Collection)

Plantagenet. Richard II (1377-1399) was born in Bordeaux, Duchy of Aquitaine. Edward IV (1461-1483), the first of the House of York, was born in Rouen, Normandy. He was the son of Richard, Duke of York, who was involved in the War of the Roses, a dynastic battle between supporters of the two rival branches of the House of Plantagenet, the Houses of Lancaster and York. William



III (1689- 1702), was born at the Hague, the Netherlands. He ruled England jointly with his wife as William and Mary following what has become known as the Glorious Revolution. A medallion

Gratia' (abbreviated D.G. or Dei. Gra.), Latin for 'By the Grace of God,' which is present in almost all of the medals of British monarchs, suggest that it was God who chose and anointed monarchs, and

related to the signing of the Declaration of Independence is shown below. On the obverse is a high relief, Jean-Antoine Houdon-style bust of George Washington, and on the reverse is a scene taken from



*Figure Y*  
**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**  
 by Charles Cushing Wright, USA, ca 1880  
 Bronze (copper electrotpe) medal, 92 mm.  
 Ref: Baker 53F; Jaeger and Bowers 77/66; Musante CCW-80A;  
 Weiss BW383 (Image from Weiss Collection)

history of this period has been published (Weiss, 2014). Besides George I, the main subject of this discourse, his son George II (1727-1760) was also born at Hanover, Germany. Although Queen Victoria married Albert, a descendant of the German dynasty of Saxe- Coburg and Gotha, Albert never became monarch. In 1927, during the First World War with Germany, they changed their name to Windsor, beginning the current House of Windsor.

2. The reason the words 'King of France' are inscribed on the medals of English monarchs, including that of Henry VIII, dates back to 1340, during the reign of Edward III. Early in the 100 years' war, Edward led several campaigns in France, won a great naval battle in which he destroyed essentially all the French navy, and claimed the title of King of France. This designation, which was included in the titulature and heraldry of all English monarchs from that point on, continued until 1801.

3. The expressions 'Defender of the Faith,' as shown on this medal, and 'Dia

that they ruled in His name and with His blessing (in Christian parlance, 'By His Grace').

The concept of 'the divine right of kings' was to play an important role in the religious conflicts in Britain and in the several attempts to depose monarchs, such as the Catholic James II. During the Glorious Revolution of 1789 this doctrine virtually disappeared from English politics.

The notion of 'the divine right of kings' also conferred upon the monarch the ability to impart onto coins and medals the power to heal, leading to the production of 'Touch Pieces'.

Opposition to this principle of divine rights was clearly in evidence when Thomas Jefferson, in formulating the American Declaration of Independence, wrote that "all men are created equal." A medal by Charles Cushing Wright

John Trumbull's picture of the Committee



*Figure x.*  
**The Great Plague of London**  
 By unknown artist, 1665 (Image from Wikipedia)





Figure xx.  
**The Great Fire of London**  
 by Lieve Verschuier, Dutch, 1666, Oil on canvas, Museum of  
 Fine Arts, Budapest

of Five, led by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, making their report of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress of 1776.

4. During the reign of Charles II, an epidemic of the bubonic plague visited London (Figure x). Known in history as The Great Plague of London, it lasted from 1665 to 1666 and was responsible for the deaths of some 100,000 people, almost one-quarter of London's population.

This monumental tragedy was followed soon afterwards in 1666 by the Great Fire of London, a conflagration that all but eradicated the medieval city of London (Figure xx). The seventeenth century painting below shows the Tower of London on the right and London Bridge on the left, with St. Paul's Cathedral in the distance.

As this painting shows, among the many beautiful buildings destroyed in the fire was St Paul's Cathedral. This magnificent edifice was later to be rebuilt from designs of the highly acclaimed English architect Sir Christopher Wren. A medal of Wren's masterpiece was struck in 1849 by the Belgian medallist Jacques Wiener (Figure xxx). This medal is one of a marvelous series of 50 pieces by Wiener entitled "Medals of the Most Remarkable Edifices of Europe," representing the principal monuments of Europe at that time. As with the others of this series, the medal of St Paul's Cathedral depicts the exterior of the cathedral on the obverse and a detailed,

remarkable three-dimensional view of the interior on the reverse. The lengthy legend in the exergue summarizes its history, including the Great Fire of 1666: FOUNDED VII CENTURY. BURNT XI CENTURY. REBUILT IN STONE XII AND XIII CENTURY. AGAIN BURNT 1666. REBUILT IN ITS PRESENT STATE



Figure xxx.  
**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL IN LONDON**  
 by Jacques Wiener, England, 1849,  
 Bronze struck medal, 59 mm  
 Ref: Van Hoydonck 49; Eidlitz 182/1075; Reinecke 34;  
 Weiss BW244 (Image from Weiss Collection)

1675-1710. ARCHIT. CHRIST. WREN.

5. Act of Settlement: The Act of Settlement, passed by Parliament in 1701 (Figure xxxx), listed several conditions that must be fulfilled before one could ascend

to the throne of the Kingdom of England. The major ones were: 1) that there would be male-preference primogeniture, i.e., that males would precede females in line of succession; 2) it prevented a "papist" (Roman Catholic) from inheriting the English throne; and 3) it removed those who had married Roman Catholics from the line of succession.

As excerpted, the Act of Settlement states: "And whereas it hath [been] found by Experience that it is inconsistent with the Safety ... of this ... [Kingdom] to be governed by a Popish Prince or by any King or Queene marrying a Papist ..." That all and every person and persons that is ...or shall profess the popish religion, or shall marry a Papist, shall be excluded and be for ever [uncapable] to inherit ... the Crowne ... of this Realme ... and the said Crowne ... shall ... descend to ... Protestants as should have inherited ... the same in case the said person or persons so reconciled ... or Marrying as aforesaid ... were naturally dead."

According to these provisions, on the death of Queen Anne, the next in line to inherit the throne would be George Louis, Elector of Hanover, he being the first male, Protestant descendent through his mother Sophia, Electress of Hanover, who was the granddaughter of King James I of England through her mother, Elizabeth of Bohemia.

The Act of Settlement applied not only to England and Ireland but, as a result of the Act of Union between England and Scotland, passed in 1707, applied to Scotland as well. Indeed, following British colonization, these laws were put into effect in all other Commonwealth realms.

As stated in Wikipedia: The treaties that created the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1707 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801 specifically applied these provisions to the new British throne. Article II of the Acts of Union 1707 stated that the "Succession of the Monarchy" is settled by the Act of Settlement 1701, and the ban of "Papists" from inheriting the throne was to continue according to that Act. Article 2 of Acts of Union 1801, again maintained that the succession rules in place in the new United Kingdom of Great Britain and



Ireland should be “continued limited and settled in the same manner.”

These provisions remained as settled law in Great Britain for more than 300 years, until modified by recently passed acts, the major one by the Succession to the Crown Act, which was brought into force in March, 2015. The act removed the stipulation that males would precede their elder sisters from the line of succession and no longer disqualifies a person from succeeding to the Crown if they marry a Roman Catholic.

The Succession of the Crown Act retains, however, the provision of the Act of Settlement requiring the monarch to be a Protestant. Thus, the discriminatory practices preventing atheists and all the other non-Protestant religions, including Catholics, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, etc., etc., from acceding to the British monarchy still applies.



Figure xxxx.  
Facsimile of the Act of Settlement sent to Electress Sophia of Hanover  
(Wikipedia)

Finally, one is tempted to compare the religious attitudes of England during this period with those of Islam today. As was so aptly recognized in an article from BBC History Magazine (Vol 12, no 8, p22, 2011;The Tudors), “.. Islam today in certain eastern communities, not only prescrib[es] ritual observance and required behavior but also provid[es] a matrix of thought and ideas. Religion in 16th-century England was similarly embedded in society and similarly formative. The axiom was ‘one nation one faith’ and hence controversy. Which faith? Tolerance was not an option. Today it would

be monstrous to burn someone because of their view. The Tudors thought otherwise; the disagreement was over who to burn.”

## HOW A GERMAN BECAME KING OF ENGLAND

### Part 2: HANOVERIAN DYNASTY INCITES JACOBITE REBELLIONS

#### Introduction to Part 2:

And so it came to pass that George Louis, Elector of Hanover, Germany, though more than 50th in line to the English throne, but being the first in line of those who were a male Protestant, became George I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

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A complete bibliography will be given at the end of Part II in the May/June issue.  
BIBLIOGRAPHY



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben has done it all: educated all the way up to Ph.D., professor at The Medical College of Pennsylvania, over 300 articles and two books published on all manner of scientific topics. In a parallel track of accomplishment in numismatics, Ben has assembled a world class collection of historical medals, weaving the same into an eloquent website, all the while publishing articles on his avocation and maintaining an outstanding website for the Medal Collectors of America. Yes, this Class “A” Achiever needs to relax from time to time, which he does with woodworking – see the lovely medal cabinet at left, which is but one fruit of his labors.