



ELECTROTYPES

OF

COINS and MEDALS

SEALS, GEMS & SMALL WORKS OF ART

Made by

CHARLES JOSEPH READY.

The famous maker of the best Electrotypes ever produced, and for forty years maker of Electrotypes for the British Museum, for which he made the present coin and medal exhibition.

Offered for Sale by

B. A. SEABY LTD.,

Numismatists,

65, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

THE "READY" COLLECTION OF ELECTROTYPES.

THIS collection consists of electrotype copies of ancient and modern coins, medals, seals, gems, etc., and gives the history of the world in metal.

The specimens are in copper or covered with silver or gold, according to the originals. Some have the obverse and reverse joined, the whole forming a complete counterfeit coin (or double electrotype); others are in halves, so that the obverse and reverse can be shown at the same time—most of these have already been sold.

All the specimens in the Exhibition Room of the British Museum (with the exception of a few recent additions) were made by the late Mr. Charles Joseph Ready, who worked under the following exceptional conditions.

His father, Mr. Robert Cooper Ready, a man of about fifty years of age, who had spent his life in the antiquarian world, joined the staff of the British Museum in the late sixties. He had great skill in the use of wax and plasters and was given all facilities by the Museum authorities to take impressions of works of art, especially of coins, medals, seals and gems. Later on, associated with him at the Museum, was a son who had the same privileges and equal skill; furthermore, another son was a dealer in antiquities; and during the last half-century these three men, all unusually expert with plastic substances, had unrivalled opportunities of securing first-hand impressions of rarities.

A third son, Charles Joseph Ready, was the craftsman who stayed at home and converted the first impressions into metal copies. As a worker in metal he can

have had few equals; the British Museum exhibition alone can be cited as evidence of the high degree of his skill; and it is even questionable if another craftsman of his worth will reveal himself. At the present time electrotypes of the same excellence are unprocurable.

Apart from the extraordinary ability of the worker, it is absolutely certain that his favoured position for carrying on his work will never be occupied by another, for the ease of access to the originals will be lacking. In effect he had three men, each exceptionally placed, constantly engaged in supplying him with subjects for reproduction, and he thus built up a very large and comprehensive collection of electrotypes.

These two circumstances, skill and opportunity, are sufficient to make the collection unique, and even *if* the same combination were again obtainable it would require many, many years to produce similar results, for it must be borne in mind that each piece is carefully hand-made and finished, and that mass production does not come into the question. The collection contains copies (often in duplicate or triplicate) of most of the important coins in the British Museum and of many which that institution does not possess.

About half of the collection, containing at least one example of all the halves, has already been disposed of and should make the most wonderful coin exhibit in the world. We now offer the remainder individually and in groups.

Section A.

Coins of the Ancients

The exhibition in the British Museum of the coinage of the world before the time of Christ, consists of a selection of 792 coins made by Mr. Barclay V. Head, in

1880, and fully described by him and illustrated in the "Guide to the Principal Gold and Silver Coins of the Ancients," published by the Trustees of the British Museum.



Distater of Thurium, B.C. 400-350

Extracts from the author's preface:—"This series gives . . . a view of the finest and most interesting Greek coins in the National Collection." "In the choice and classification of the coins . . . I have throughout endeavoured to keep simultaneously in view the historic, artistic, and strictly numismatic interest of the coins selected."

Many of the originals are exceedingly rare and worth £50 to £1,500 each.



Tetradrachm of Naxos, B.C. 461-413

- (I.) A complete set in halves (i.e., obverse and reverse of 792 coins, making 1,584 pieces); this is especially for display purposes, showing obverse and reverse at the same time, and would make an ideal exhibit for any museum, university or school. Copy of B.M. Guide included. £150
- (II.) A complete set of counterfeits or joined electrotypes, 792 coins. Copy of B.M. Guide included. £125

- (III.) Half of a complete set, as the last, but only 396 coins.
Copy of B.M. Guide included. **£70**
- (IV.) Small set, in halves or joined, only 100 coins **£15**
- (V.) " " " " 50 coins **£7 10s**
- (VI.) " " " " 20 coins **£3**
- (VII.) " " " " 10 coins **£1 10s**
- (VIII.) Individual electrotypes from the "Coins of the Ancients" series can be supplied at from **1s. 6d.** to **£1 1s.** each. If you will state plate number and number of the coin in which you are interested, we will quote you a price for it, if we have an odd specimen of that particular piece.



Tetradrachm of Catana, B.C. 415-404

N.B.—When ordering IV., V., VI., VII. or VIII., please state whether you require electrotypes in halves or joined specimens.

Section B.

Other Greek Coins

For over fifty years nearly every interesting Greek coin that came to the British Museum passed through the hands of one of the Readys to have a wax impression made of it. These impressions were always passed on to Charles Ready. We have for disposal 1,500 counterfeit or joined electrotypes of Greek coins, other than those of the "Coins of the Ancients," which are copies of rare and beautiful coins in the British Museum and other public and private collections.

- (IX.) We can offer these pieces at **2s. 6d.** to **£1 1s.** each, and shall be pleased to quote for particular specimens or for particular towns or districts.



Dekadrachm of Syracuse, B.C. 412-400.
By the famous artist, Kinon.

- (X.) **Syracuse Medallions.**—We have a few electrotypes of these beautiful coins (the originals are worth from £150 to £1,500), which we can supply at **15s.** to **30s.** each.



The "Demaretia," B.C. 479

- (XI.) "**History of the Coinage of Syracuse**," by Barclay V. Head, 1874, with 15 plates. Head, in this work, describes 202 or 203 coins, and we can offer a set of electrotypes in halves of 200 of them (i.e., 400 pieces), which would make a wonderful exhibition of the coins of Syracuse, which are always acknowledged as the finest of all Greek coins, and show the range of Greek art from the Archaic period to almost Roman times. A unique opportunity to obtain a unique exhibition of beautiful coins. **£50**

Section C.

Roman Coins

- (XII.) A representative collection of electrotypes of the gold and silver of the Roman Republic; 180 of the 255 coins exhibited in the British Museum. **£32 10s**
- (XIII.) 40 electrotypes, forming a representative collection of Roman gold coins, including some very rare and interesting specimens. **£10 10s**



Aurei of Aelius and Pompey

- (XIV.) In 1908 and 1911 two remarkable finds of Roman Imperial gold coins, numbering 208, were made at Corbridge-on-Tyne, in Northumberland, and were illustrated in the "Numismatic Chronicle." We can now offer electrotypes of 204 of these coins, which would make an exhibition of great local interest. **£30**
- (XV.) Electrotypes of the famous Justinian I. gold medallion (3.35 inches or 85 mm. in diameter). A photographic reproduction is the frontispiece of the "Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum." Vol. I., from which we take the following note: "The only specimen of this medallion that had ever come to light was found in 1751 at Caesarea in Cappadocia. It passed into the French Collection, but was melted down by the thieves who plundered the coin-cabinet in 1831. A mould, fortunately, taken from the original some time before this date, has been preserved in the British Museum, and from this electrotypes were made for the French and English Collections." **£10 10s**

Section D.

Coinage of Great Britain and Ireland

We have a large number of electrotypes in halves of Anglo-Saxon, English, Scottish and Irish coins, mostly described and many illustrated in Grueber's "Handbook of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland in the British Museum."



Gold Penny of Henry III.

- (XVI.) A representative collection of the above series, consisting of electrotypes in halves of 400 coins (i.e., 800 pieces), which would make a very fine exhibit for any museum. **£100**
N.B.—We could perhaps increase the number of coins at a proportionate cost if so desired.
- (XVII.) A representative collection of the above series, consisting of electrotypes in halves of 100 coins. **£25**
- (XVIII.) Individual electrotypes of English, Scottish and Irish coins from **5s.** to **10s.** each.
- (XIX.) Electrotype of the unique Charles I. pattern gold five-broad piece, commonly known as the Juxon medal, as it is said to have been presented to Bishop Juxon on the scaffold by King Charles immediately before his execution. **£1 1s**
- (XX.) Electrotype in two pieces of the pattern silver crown of Henry VIII. (Ruding pl. VIII., No. 1). The original is a unique piece. **£1 1s**
- (XXI.) Electrotype of a portion of a unique pattern sovereign of Queen Elizabeth, who ordered its destruction because the portrait represented her as too old and ugly. **15s**
- (XXII.) Electrotype of a William IV. pattern crown, 1831. **15s**

Section E.

Italian Renaissance Medals

We have a large number of electrotypes of the very beautiful Italian Renaissance Medals, chiefly from British Museum specimens, and numbered according to the "Guide to the Italian Medals exhibited in the British Museum."



- (XXIII.) A representative collection of 50 electrotypes of Renaissance Medals in halves for making a very fine exhibition; many of these are quite large. **£20**
- (XXIV.) A representative collection of 15, as above. **£7**
- (XXV.) Electrotypes of individual medals (when ordering, if possible, quote the B.M. Guide), from **7s 6d** to **21s** each.

Section F.

Seals

In addition to coins and medals the "Ready" Collection contains electrotypes of 3,959 seals (in some

cases replicas in relief, but mostly in matrix form), comprising :—

Royal and official British seals from the earliest times.

Seals of bishops, religious houses, etc.

Equestrian seals, 12th and early 13th centuries.

Town and borough seals of all dates.

Private seals, with arms and devices from the 13th century.

All through the collection is a sprinkling of foreign seals of the same description.

About 1,200 run from 2½ to 6 ins. in diameter, the remainder tapering downwards to ½ in.



For over half-a-century the Readys were much occupied in restoring seals in the British Museum and various Cathedrals, Museums, and other depositories of muniments, and took thousands of impressions therefrom. This collection is beyond doubt unique, and could not be duplicated. **It would be of the very highest value for purposes of historical study and would also make the very finest exhibition of seals in the world.** It is so uncommon that it is difficult to place a price on it, we are therefore leaving it unpriced, and are open to consider an offer for it as a whole. Should we not succeed in selling it as a whole, we shall be prepared later on to split it up and sell individual specimens.

Section G.

Gems



Beside the foregoing. Ready made an amazing collection of about 1,000 electrotypes of cut gems, intaglios, cameos and signet seals, mostly of Ancient Greece and Rome, all of more or less well-known pieces. **These would make a unique exhibition, or would be invaluable to a School of Art that specialises in this branch of art.** £72 10s

Section H.

Electrotypes of small works of art, about 100, £12 10s.

Further particulars may be had from, or the goods viewed at the premises of:—

B. A. SEABY, LTD.

Numismatists,

65, GREAT PORTLAND STREET,
LONDON, W.1

Telephone : LANGHAM 3677.

Cables : NUMISMATIC, LONDON.