LBMA 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion Competition

In April, the LBMA announced that it was holding a competition for the design and production of a silver medallion to commemorate its foundation 25 years ago – in November 1987. A limited number of the medallions will be produced and presented to all guests attending the LBMA’s Silver Anniversary Dinner on 10 December 2012.

The competition was open to all Members, Associates and Good Delivery Refiners.

The specification for the medallion was for a packaged one troy ounce 999 or 999.9 silver commemorative medallion. The Management Committee agreed that entries had to incorporate the following features: the LBMA logo, the dates ‘1987-2012’ and any other features that candidates felt appropriate, for example, depictions of gold and silver, the responsibilities of the LBMA at famous London landmarks.

The deadline for entries was 29 June. 10 LBMA companies submitted entries, with a total of 15 designs received.* The designs of the obverse and reverse of each of the entries are shown here. The LBMA invited a distinguished panel of five judges to meet at the LBMA’s offices on 2 July to decide on the winning entry, which will be announced at the Silver Anniversary dinner.

*Valcambi submitted two entries, which were very similar, the difference being the frosting of the moon detail on the LBMA logo. This is the entry that is shown in the article.

The Judging Panel

Susan La Niece is the senior metallurgist in the Department of Conservation and Scientific Research at the British Museum, which has metal artefacts dating from all periods amongst its collections. The Museum’s laboratories are equipped for chemical analysis and metallurgical examination, to support the dual aims of preserving the collections and increasing understanding of the objects and past technologies. Her research interests include the history of the use of gold and the technologies of gilding and silvering from ancient times. She is author of the British Museum’s recent popular publication Gold.

Michael Hoare is the Chief Executive of the National Association of Goldsmiths, the trade association for the UK’s jewellery retailers, and his main concerns are the training, representation, and security of the sector. Information and communication are also high on his agenda, and he maintains a steady flow of opinion and pithy observation, particularly on ethical issues and the retail economy, via NAG’s magazine The Jeweller and numerous blogs. A graduate in Fine Art, he has worked in retail and retail trade associations for many years, and maintains that the NAG role is the first where he can combine his interest in public affairs with an appreciation of three-dimensional design.

Michael Allchin has been Chief Executive and Assay Master of The Birmingham Assay Office since January 1999 and has driven its successful diversification into new areas, all closely related to jewellery and precious metals. A Cambridge graduate, he has spent his career in the jewellery industry and has bought and sold for companies ranging from small private concerns to Signet Group Plc, where he was Buying Director for H. Samuel for 14 years. He has extensive experience and a sound understanding of the dynamics of the UK jewellery industry and as an attendee at the British Hallmarking Council and International Hallmarking Convention meetings, he also has through knowledge of legislation and global issues relating to jewellery. He is a Director of CBJD, The World Jewellery Confederation, and of the Responsible Jewellery Council. Both organisations are committed to an ethical jewellery industry and supply chain. Research at University of The Goldsmiths’ Company and sits on the Advisory Boards for the International Jewellery London exhibition, the Jewellery Innovation Centre at the Birmingham City University Jewellery School and the Jewellery and Allied Industries Training Council.

Chris Salmon joined the Bank of England in 1991. He spent the 1990s working on various issues related to the design and conduct of monetary policy, including during a secondment to the Treasury in 1996. He spent 2000-2002 at the International Monetary Fund before returning to the Bank. Between 2002 and 2006, he worked on IMF related issues, running the International Finance Division. From 2006 to 2009, he was the Governor’s Private Secretary: a period dominated by the financial crisis that began in August 2007. He spent the next two years running the Bank’s Sterling Markets Division, with responsibility for the Bank’s monetary and financial stability market operations, including the quantitative easing programme that was implemented during the period. He became Chief Cashier and Executive Director for Banking Services in April 2011.

Dick Melly is the Clerk of the Goldsmiths’ Company. Following a 33-year career in the Royal Navy as a Marine Engineer, he switched to this new role in 2006. With a proud heritage, the Goldsmiths’ Company remains relevant to its trade almost 700 years after it was founded. Today, the Goldsmiths’ Company operates the London Assay Office and supports a wide range of charitable causes. Most recently, the Company has made a significant investment in its trade with the opening of the Goldsmiths’ Centre in Clerkenwell, providing workshops, exhibition/conference spaces, a café and an educational/training institute.

In its 25 years of operation, the LBMA has established a reputation as an independent and objective facilitator of the gold and silver markets. Its hallmark is the LBMA Gold and Silver Price Setting Committees, which at meetings in London, determine the day, week and month-end price benchmarks for the London gold and silver markets.

The judges were presented with a high-quality gold and silver medal from the LBMA to thank them for their involvement in the competition. They were also invited to present a paper at the International Jewellery London exhibition, the Jewellery Innovation Centre at the Birmingham City University Jewellery School and the Jewellery and Allied Industries Training Council.