

Eighteenth century commemorative medallions of the Order of Saint Lazarus – further additions

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Abstract

Additional designs of eighteenth-century commemorative medallions of the Order of Saint Lazarus were identified in the numismatic collection of the *Musée Carnavalet* in Paris augmenting the series of commemorative medals minted by the Order.

Introduction

During the 17th and the 18th centuries, the Order of Saint Lazarus in France adopted the practice of issuing medallions to commemorate important events and issued a number of such medallions. A number of these have been previously catalogued.¹ The collection catalogue of the *Musée Carnavalet* in Paris lists a number of 18th-century medallions or jetons pertaining to the Ordre de Saint Lazare. Some of these have designs that have been previously described, but others represent new varieties.²

Jetons dated 1700-1701

The *Musée Carnavalet* appears to hold three copper jetons dated to the Grand Magistry of Philippe de Courcillon, Marquis de Dangeau [G. M. 1693 – 1720]. The designs of the three jetons and their presumed

¹ E. Cassar. A catalogue of 17-18th century commemorative medallions of the Order of St Lazarus. *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 3:149-160.

² *Les Musées de la Ville de Paris*.

<https://www.parismuseescollections.paris.fr/fr>. The jetons' details with their illustrations are being published with permission from Philippe Charnotet of the Département numismatique of the Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris.

design development have been previously described, though the examples described were minted in silver rather than copper.³



1700 – copper
Diameter 31mm
weight 8.36g



1701 – copper
Diameter 33mm
weight 5.74g



1701 – copper
Diameter 31mm
weight 8.53g

Jetons dated 1720-1721

The *Musée Carnavalet* appears to hold three jetons dated to the initial years of the Grand Magistry of Louis d'Orleans, Duc de Chartres [G. M. 1720 – 1752]. One design of a similar jeton minted in silver has been previously described. This, minted in silver, was described as depicting a knight-in-arms on a mounted horse in gallop facing right with a circularly placed legend reading ORDRE R. De N.D. DU MONT CARMEL

³ E. Cassar, *op. cit.*

ET DE S. LAZARE 1723. The reverse showed the crowned arms of the d'Orleans family superimposed on the eight-pointed cross and surrounded by the collar of the Order and a circularly placed legend reading LOUIS DUC D'ORLEANS GRAND MAITRE.⁴

The three new designs are minted in copper and are dated to 1721 and 1723. The difference between the three jetons and the previously described one lies in the date of minting and in the text around the arms of the d'Orleans family which reads variously as LOUIS DUC D'ORLEANS GRAND MAITRE or LOUIS D'ORLEANS DUC DE CHARTRES GRAND MAITRE. The engraver has not been identified.



1721 – copper
31 mm – 9.75 g



1721 – copper
31 mm – 8.73 g



1723 – copper
31 mm – 11.53 g

⁴ E. Cassar, *ibid.*

Jeton dated 1723-1752

The *Musée Carnavalet* appears to hold two jetons minted in silver dated to the later years of the Grand Magistry of Louis d'Orleans, Duc de Chartres [G. M. 1720 – 1752]. These forms have been previously described and identified to have been designed by Joseph Charles Roettiers [signed JCR] and Pierre Du Vivier [signed Duvivier] respectively.⁵



1720-52 – silver
31 mm – 9.9 g

1720-52 – copper
31 mm – 8.73 g

Jeton dated 1773

The *Musée Carnavalet* appears to hold one jeton minted in brass dated to the period of the Grand Magistry of Louis Stanislas Xavier de France, Comte de Provence [G. M. 1773 – 1824]. Other completely

⁵ E. Cassar, *ibid.*

different forms minted during the period of this Grand Master have been described. The obverse side shows the crowned arms of the Order placed centrally on the eight-pointed cross and encircled by the two collars of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Order of St Lazarus with a circularly placed legend reading ORDRE R. DE N.D. DR MONT CARMEL ET DE S. LAZARE J R 1773. The reverse side shows the centrally engraved arms of the Bourbon family encircled by the collar of the joint Orders and the text reading LOUIS STANIS XAVIER FILS DE FRANCE GRAND MAITRE. The engraver is not identified. Except for the inscribed Grand Master's name, this design is nearly identical to the commemorative medallion issued in 1757 commemorating the appointment of Louis de France, Duc de Berry, as previous Grand Master.



1773 – brass
31 mm – 9.51 g

Jeton dated 1773 commemorating appointment of the Mayor of Nantes

A 1721 medallion commemorating the appointment of Gérard Mellier as Mayor of Nantes, who had been admitted a knight of the Order of St Lazarus in 1720, has been previously described. This clearly identifies Mellier as a member of the Order of St Lazarus with the circular legend DE L MAIRE DE MRS MELLIER GENAL DES FINANCES CHEVER DE

L'ORDRE DE ST. LAZARE and the superimposition of the family Arms of Mellier on the eight-pointed cross and the collar of the Order.⁶

The Town Hall of NANTES was installed in 1565 after being created by François II in 1560 with the right to elect its aldermen. The first token strikes are attested by the texts from 1569. The first tokens do not bear the name of the mayor: they are aldermen tokens. A second period began in 1631 with the appearance of the mayor's name on the tokens. The coat-of-arms appeared in 1637. There are silver and copper tokens for this period. In the 18th century, most of the tokens were in silver. In 1787, the mayor received 140 silver tokens, and each alderman received 70, for a total of 700 annual tokens.⁷

The *Musée Carnavalet* appears to hold another jeton minted in copper dated to 1773 that appears to link a particular individual with the Order of St Lazarus. The obverse side shows the crowned Arms of the Order placed centrally on the eight-pointed cross and encircled by the two collars of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Order of St Lazarus with a circularly placed legend reading ORDRE R. DE N.D. DR MONT CARMEL ET DE S. LAZARE J R 1773. The reverse side shows the centrally engraved family arms held up by a rampant lion on each side, the encircled text reading PRODESSE PATRIAE MEA VOLUPTAS * 1772 * 1773. The engraver is not identified.

⁶ E. Cassar, *ibid.*

⁷ M. Fornier. Les Jetons de Bretagne. *Bulletin et Memoires de la Société d'emulation des Cotes du Nord* 1892, 30:1-78.



1773 – copper
30 mm – 8.06 g
Inv. No. NJ13180



1773 – copper/silver
29 mm

There is no clear reference to which family the Arms depicted belong to. However, these Arms and design of the jeton's face are identical to another jeton minted to commemorate the appointment of Pierre de la Ville de Chambardet as Mayor of Nantes.⁸ Pierre de la Ville, Seigneur de Chambardet, is not however listed in the list of admissions

⁸ Fornier, *ibid*, 59; *Jetons des Maires de Nantes (24 jetons)*.
<https://naoned.jimdofree.com/jetons-des-maires-de-nantes/>

to the Order of St Lazarus.⁹ He served as a colonel of the bourgeois militia and advisor to the King.¹⁰

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⁹ H.M. de Langle, J.L. Treouret de Kerstrat. *Les Ordres de Saint Lazare de Jerusalem & De Notre Dame du Mont Carmel aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siecles.* (Paris: Publications LMTK, 1992), +442pp.

¹⁰ Pierre de la Ville de Chambardet. *Wikipedia.* (U.S.A.: Wikimedia Foundation Inc, 2020),
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_de_la_Ville_de_Chambardet