

## Does that medal say '\$10' on it?

Medals aren't supposed to have denominations, but one slipped through the cracks two years ago.

In 1987 the Royal Canadian Mint struck about 1,000 medals with a \$10 denomination. The medals honor Elvis Presley and were struck under private contract for a Toronto businessman.

When the man, Mike Makri, first contacted the mint, he was thinking in terms of producing "coins," and coins, of course, should have denominations. So it was agreed that the medals would carry a \$10 denomination.

The matter was cleared by the RCM legal department, and production began. But while the first shipment was being prepared, another RCM official had second thoughts, and the die with



When Royal Canadian Mint officials had second thoughts about striking a private medal with a denomination, the result was two varieties for the issue.

the \$10 denomination was destroyed.

Makri sold all but a handful of the denominated medals for 69 U.S. dollars each. He then placed an order for 10,000 more medals, this time without the denomination.

A second series was produced in 1988 and a third in 1989. Mintages for each date were 2,000 silver versions and 5,000

bronze versions. A fourth series, designed by former U.S. Mint chief engraver Frank Gasparro, was in the works.

The scarce denominated version was being offered by one dealer for \$115. RCM officials said it was the first medal with a denomination they have ever struck, and it will also be the last.

## New Issues



### Australia, proof gold Nuggets

1989 proof versions of Australia's gold Nugget bullion coin. New design features a red kangaroo, replacing designs depicting 12 famous Australian gold-nugget discoveries, which were used the previous three years. New design by Stuart Devlin. Available in one-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce, 10th-ounce, and 20th-ounce sizes. GoldCorp Australia, P.O. Box 711, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326.

Gold Sovereign 1489-1989." Obverse also bears a "U" set within a circle, located at the base of the coin, below King Edward's chair. Both sides designed by Bernard Sindall. \$795. British Royal Mint, P.O. Box 2570, Woodside, N.Y. 11377-9864.



### Marshall Islands, moon-landing coin

Silver (one troy ounce, .999 fine) proof \$60 coin commemorating the first moon landing. One in a series of 24 coins honoring milestones in space exploration. Obverse: Neil Armstrong saluting the American flag on the moon's surface with the Eagle landing module and Earth in the background. Reverse: Republic of Marshall Islands seal. 38.61 millimeters. Mintage limit: 25,000. \$50. Republic of the Marshall Islands Coin Fulfillment Center, 1 Unicover Center, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82008-1989.

crowned arms of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, date, caduceus mintmark of Utrecht, and mintmaster Chris Van Draanen's bow-and-arrow mark. Reverse: knight standing in a full suit of armor, sword unsheathed at his side and with a crowned provincial shield at his feet; legend "Mon. Nov. Arg. Pro. Confoe. Belg. Trai." is short for "Moneta Nova Argentae Provinciarum Confoederatarum Belgarum Traiectum" ("New Silver Coin of the Provinces of the United Netherlands"). \$32.75 plus \$2.75 for insured shipping and handling. Dutch Mint, North American Office, P.O. Box 1057, Clifton, N.J. 07014.

### San Marino, 1989 mint sets

Contains the 1,000 (silver), 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, five, two, and one lira. Mintage limit: 50,000 sets. Price: 27,000 lira per set. Payment should be made by banker's check or draft, or by international postal money order. Azienda Autonoma di Stato Filatelica e Numismatica, Republic of San Marino.



### Great Britain, brilliant-uncirculated gold £5

BU version of the coin commemorating the 600th anniversary of the British gold sovereign. Proof versions were available only as part of a four-coin proof set, the North American allocation of which sold out earlier this year. Contains 1.177 ounces of 22-karat gold. 36.02 millimeters, 39.94 grams. Maximum worldwide mintage: 10,000. Obverse: Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation, seated in King Edward's chair; inscription reads "Elizabeth II Dei Gra Reg Fid Def" ("Elizabeth II, By the Grace of God, Queen and Defender of the Faith"). Reverse: shield bearing the royal coat of arms ensigned by an open royal crown superimposed upon a double rose; inscription reads "Anniversary of the



### The Netherlands, 1989 silver ducat

First Dutch silver ducat to be struck in 173 years. Contains 28.25 grams of .873-fine silver. 40 millimeters. Obverse:



### West Germany, Zeiss commemorative

1988-dated coin marking the 100th anniversary of the death of Carl Zeiss, a pioneer in the field of optics. Obverse: portrait of Zeiss and an 1888 microscope from his optical workshop. Reverse: symbolic eagle of the Federal Republic of Germany and the denomination "10 Deutsche Mark." Edge inscription: "Optics for Science and Technology." Mintage: 8.35 million, 350,000 of which have a high-gloss finish. Marketing Services Department, Carl Zeiss Inc., One Zeiss Dr., Thornwood, N.Y. 10594.