

# Rhodesia: Royal Visit of King George VI & Queen Elizabeth, Presented to Native Chiefs / Royal Cypher

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**Form:** Circular. Mounted within a hollow, tapered, oval, silver frame with beaded border and loop to a ring for a long yellow ribbon wearing round the neck.

**By:** Percy Metcalfe / Royal Mint, London

**Date:** 1947

**Ref:** AM2: 285; Laidlaw: 0099b;

**Variations:**

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
51.9 mm x 62.0 mm	Silver	59.9 gm	\$1,200

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Mounted medal showing conjoined crowned and robed busts of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, left. Signed: "P.M." King's shoulder close to the rim. No legend.

**Reverse:** Mounted medal showing the Royal cypher: "GRE" with imperial crown above. Legend above: "ROYAL VISIT", and below

**Notes:** The King and Queen and their two daughters, the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret toured Southern Africa in 1947. The purpose of the visit was to show Royal appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices that South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and other Commonwealth countries had made during the Second World War.

This medal was presented native chiefs during the royal tour of Southern Africa. It was given those chiefs in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Bechuanaland (Botswana), Basutoland (Lesotho) and Nyasaland (Malawi). A similar medal (Laidlaw 0099a) slightly different reverse was produced for chiefs in South Africa,

The same medal without the frame (Laidlaw 0099a) was presented to European dignitaries.

The obverse design is the same as the 1937 coronation medal but the dies have been re-made with a larger size

It is reported that about 250 of these special framed medals were made. The frame is slightly irregular and has no hallmarks for these reasons it seems unlikely to have been made by Crichton Brothers of London as has been recorded elsewhere, probably made by a jeweler in South Africa.

A similar medal was sold by Stack's Bowers Galleries, Lot 1056 New York International Sale 1/10/2011 for \$1,150