

Great Britain: Chinese Junk Keying / Baron de Stassart

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Form: Circular

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Date: 1848

Ref: AM2: 13 (obv); BHM: 2320 (obv); Laidlaw: 0248e;

Variations:

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
44.5 mm	Bronzed White Metal	41.4 gm	\$150

Edge: Plain

Obverse: Port broadside view of the Junk Keying with no sails set. Five small boats in front. Signed on the exergue line: "HALLIDAY BIRM. (right)". Legend above: "CHINESE JUNK . KEYING / CAPTAIN KELLETT". In the exergue: "EXTREME BREADTH 16 FEET / BURDEN 750 TONS / DEPTH OF HOLD 16 FEET (in an arc)".

Reverse: Bareheaded bust of Baron de Stassart, left. "GN. JH. AN. BON. DET. DE STASSART DE NAMUR AUX ETATS GAUX. Signed: "BARBIER" below the truncation..

Notes: The Keying was a three-masted, 800-ton Foochow Chinese trading junk which sailed from China around the Cape of Good Hope to the United States and Britain between 1846 and 1848. The ship had been purchased in August 1846 in secret by British businessmen in Hong Kong, who defied a Chinese law prohibiting the sale of Chinese ships to foreigners. She was manned by 12 British and 30 Cantonese sailors under the command of Captain Charles Alfred Kellett. The Keying left Hong Kong in December 1846; rounded the Cape of Good Hope in March 1847; stopped at St Helena in April 1847; arrived in New York in July 1847; visited Boston in November 1847; arrived in Britain in April 1848.

Goswin Joseph Augustin, Baron de Stassart (1780 - 1854) was a Dutch-Belgian politician. During the revolution for Belgian independence from the Netherlands he defended the right of Belgium to form a separate state. He was appointed governor of the Belgian Province of Namur from 1830 to 1834.

The reverse of this medal is the same as the medal of Baron de Stassart by the Belgian medallist Charles Auguste Barbier. There is no known connection between Baron de Stassart and the Junk Keying.