

Great Britain: Great Exhibition: Prince Albert / "EXHIBITOR"

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Form: Circular

By: W, Wyon

Date: 1851

Ref: BHM: 2463; Eimer: 1459; Laidlaw: 0910;

Variations:

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
44.4 mm	Copper-Bronze	61.5 gm	\$70

Edge: Plain. Thickness at rim 4.9 mm. This medal impressed: "UNITED KINGDOM. CLASS 22. NO. 522."

Obverse: Bare head of Prince Albert, left. Signed: "W WYON. R A." below the truncation. Legend: "H:R:H: PRINCE ALBERT PR
OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION."

Reverse: A globe with a dove perched above within a laurel wreath tied at the bottom. Continents identified: "AMERICA", "EUROPE", "ASIA", "AFRICA". On a scroll across: "EXHIBITOR". Legend above: "EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS." and below between tiny crowns: "MDCCCLI".

Notes: The Great Exhibition of 1851 was held inside an enormous structure of iron and glass known as the Crystal Palace specifically built for the event in Hyde Park, London. The exhibition ran for five months, from May to October 1851, during which six million visitors attended the gigantic trade show where the latest technology and displays of artefacts from around the world were on display.

The idea of the Great Exhibition originated with Henry Cole, an artist and inventor. He obtained the support of Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, and the two of them organised the event which, because of its huge success, became the forerunner of many such exhibitions in the second half of the 19th century.

South Africa was represented by sixty exhibitors from the colonies of the Cape and Natal. Agricultural products, fruit, wool, minerals, animal skins, elephant tusks, ostrich plumes and eggs, and sea elephant oil were on display. There were also displays of native culture.

This medal was presented to all the exhibitors.