

Great Britain: Great Exhibition: Prince Albert / Crystal Palace

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Form: Circular

By: J. Davis, Birmingham

Date: 1851

Ref: BHM: 2436 (similar); Laidlaw: 0322;

Variations:

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
34.5 mm	White Metal	11.3 gm	\$20

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Bare head of Prince Albert, right. Legend: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT." Signed: "J. DAVIS BIRM." at the

Reverse: View of the exhibition building. Legend above: "THE EXHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS / LONDON 1851". Below the building, the large exergue: "ORIGINATED BY H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT. / (line) / LENGTH 1848 FT., BREADTH 408 FT., / HEIGHT 100 FT., OCCUPIES 18 ACRES, / GLASS SURFACE 9000 000 FT. / DESIGNED BY / JOS. PAXTON ESQ: F.L.S."

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.